

MINUTES
LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL

May 3, 2023

Lambton County Council was in session in Council Chambers, Wyoming, Ontario, at 9:15 a.m. on the above date. Warden in the Chair; Roll called; All members present. The following members attended virtually: A. Broad, and J. Field (Alternate Member to B. Loosley).

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that this land on which we are gathered today is part of the ancestral land of the Chippewa, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples, referred to collectively as the Anishinaabeg. It is through the connection of the Anishinaabeg with the spirit of the land, water and air that we recognize their unique cultures, traditions, and values. Together as treaty people, we have a shared responsibility to act with respect for the environment that sustains all life, protecting the future for those generations to come.

Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest: None.

In-Camera

#1: Case/Atkinson: That the Warden declare that County Council go in-camera to review the Lambton County Council (Closed Session) minutes dated April 5, 2023, pursuant to s. 239 (2)(d) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

Carried.
Time: 9:18 a.m.

Open Session

The Warden declared that County Council go back into Open Session. Council then reconvened at 9:30 a.m.

Rise and Report Motions of the In-Camera Session

The Clerk noted that County Council met in camera to adopt the Lambton County Council (Closed Session) Minutes dated April 5, 2023.

Delegations

#2: Dennis/Case: That we invite the delegations within the Bar to speak to County Council.

Carried.

No One Stands Alone

Debb Pitel, Founder of No One Stands Alone spoke to County Council in regards to funding as a non-profit in support of mental health. A booklet of mental health agencies is compiled and made available to communities for those that need help with mental health and don't know where to turn. Presently, No One Stands Alone relies on the generosity of sponsorships and donations to produce such booklets so Ms. Pitel is requesting financial assistance to continue to provide this resource.

#3: Bradley/Dennis: That Ms. Pitel be invited to reach out to, and work with, the Public Health Services Division with respect to her No One Stands Alone work, and that the Public Health Services Division return to Council on or before Council's July 5th, 2023, meeting with a report updating Council on its communications and works with Ms. Pitel.
Carried.

Minutes of Council (Open Session)

The Lambton County Council (Open Session) minutes dated April 5, 2023, were presented.

#4: Miller/Sage: That the Lambton County Council (Open Session) minutes dated April 5, 2023, be accepted as presented.
Carried.

Correspondence to Receive and File

#5: Ferguson/Case: That County Council support the resolution in correspondence CC 04-02-23 as follows:

Be it resolved that the Lanark County Council recognizes the issues of violence in rural communities as serious to health and wellness of local families; and

Be it further resolved that the Lanark County Council recognizes the rural Renfrew County Coroner's Inquest as important to all rural communities; and

Based on the statistics of 4815 crisis calls and service provision to 527 women and children in our local community, the Lanark County Council declares IPV (intimate partner violence)/VAW (violence against women) an epidemic as per recommendation #1 of the Renfrew County Coroner's jury recommendations; and

That this resolution be circulated to all municipalities in Ontario, local MPs and MPPs, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and the Ministry of the Attorney General, Ministry of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity, and the Federal Ministry of Women and Gender Equality.

Carried.

CC 05-11-23 A resolution dated April 5, 2023 from Sasha Helmkey, Clerk, Township of Clearview supporting the correspondence/resolution from the Township of Lucan Biddulph regarding Barriers for Women in Politics stating:

Whereas, the Township of Clearview values equality and inclusivity in all areas of life, including politics;

Whereas, women have historically been underrepresented in politics, and continue to face barriers and discrimination in their pursuit of elected office;

Whereas, misogyny and harassment have been identified as significant challenges for women in politics, both in Canada and around the world;

Whereas, the Township of Clearview believes that all individuals have the right to participate in a political environment that is free from discrimination, harassment, and misogyny;

Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Township of Clearview expresses its support for women in politics and their right to participate in a political environment that is free from misogyny and harassment, and where everyone feels equal.

Be It Further Resolved, that the Township of Clearview commits to taking steps to ensure that our political environment is inclusive and welcoming to all individuals, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or other identity factors.

Be It Further Resolved, that the Township of Clearview encourages other municipalities in Ontario and across Canada to join us in supporting women in politics and promoting gender equality in all areas of society.

Be It Further Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to all Ontario Municipalities for endorsement and the Premier of Ontario, to express the Township of Clearview's commitment to this issue and encourage action at the provincial level to create legislation to ensure equality, safety, and security.

#6: Cook/Case: That correspondence CC 05-11-23 be received and filed.

Carried.

#7: Hand/Veen: That County Council endorse the resolution in correspondence CC 05-12-23 as follows:

Whereas escalating insurance costs are one of this Council's Advocacy Priorities in the 2022-2023 Intergovernmental Action Plan;

And Whereas at the January 12, 2023 Corporate Services Committee meeting, staff presented Report CR 23-008 that highlighted the City's annual insurance premiums have increased from \$782,331 to \$1,281, 512 from 2020 to 2023, representing an accumulated increase of 64% over this period;

And Whereas the annual increases to the City of Owen Sound's insurance premiums have been one of the most significant constraints in limiting yearly tax levy increases over the past four years;

Now Therefore Be it Resolved That City Council directs staff to send a letter to all other municipalities in Ontario supporting the Municipality of Chatham-Kent calling for action to reduce insurance costs;

And That the City Manager have staff participate in any group that may be formed through the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) or directly with other municipalities to support this effort;

And Further That this resolution be forwarded to the AMO, Minister of Finance, Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Steve Clark, Attorney General, Doug Downey, MPP for Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound, Rick Byers, Premier Doug Ford, and MPP Marit Stiles, Leader of the Ontario Democratic Party and Leader of the Opposition.

Carried.

Correspondence from Member Municipalities

CC 05-10-23 A letter dated April 20, 2023 from Amy Burkhart, City Clerk, The Corporation of the City of Sarnia regarding a resolution adopted April 17, 2023 by Sarnia City Council as follows:

That Sarnia City Council refer the request from No One Stands Alone regarding the Need for Mental Health Help to Lambton County Council for consideration.

#8: Bradley/White: That correspondence CC 05-10-23 be received and filed.

Carried.

Board of Health (Lambton Public Health)

Correspondence to Receive and File

CC 05-05-23 A letter from Douglas Lawrance, Chair, Board of Health, Northwestern Health Unit regarding a resolution passed at their March 3, 2023 Board of Health meeting calling on the Government of Canada to amend the Food and Drug Act to make it mandatory that all alcohol beverage containers have enhanced alcohol labels.

CC 05-06-23 A letter from Councillor Kathryn Wilson, Chair, Board of Health Chair, Peterborough Public Health, dated March 3, 2023, entitled Medical Officer of Health Urges Province to Explore Improvements to Ontario Building Code to Improve Indoor Air Quality. Peterborough Public Health implores Ontario's Minister of Health to thoroughly examine the Ontario Building Code and to identify opportunities to make changes to the Code that can be implemented to improve indoor air quality and provide increased protection for residents of Ontario.

CC 05-07-23 A letter from Councillor Kathryn Wilson, Chair, Board of Health Chair, Peterborough Public Health, dated March 8, 2023, entitled Medical Officer of Health Urges Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development to Explore Improvements to Ontario Building Code to Improve Indoor Air Quality. Peterborough Public Health implores Ontario's Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development to thoroughly examine the Ontario Building Code and to identify opportunities to make changes to the Code that can be implemented to improve indoor air quality and provide increased protection for residents of Ontario.

CC 05-08-23 A letter from Andrea Horwath, Mayor, City of Hamilton, dated April 3, 2023, supporting the call to the province for sufficient, stable and sustained funding for local public health agencies.

CC 05-09-23 A letter from René Lapierre, Chair, Board of Health, Public Health Sudbury & Districts, dated April 11, 2023, regarding its support of the Ontario Government's decision to increase of Ontario's minimum wage in the fall of 2023. The Board is urging Ontario's government to consider the living wage rate calculations for Ontarians, with the understanding that an adequate income aligned with a living wage can contribute to increased physical and mental health outcomes of Ontarians and reduce costs associated with premature morbidity and mortality.

#9: Case/Miller: That correspondence CC 05-05-23, CC 05-06-23, CC 05-07-23, CC 05-08-23 and CC 05-09-23 be received and filed.

Carried.

Information Reports

#10: Cook/Veen: That the following Information Reports from the Board of Health be received and filed:

- a) Information Report dated May 3, 2023 regarding Rabies Prevention and Control Program Update.
- b) Information Report dated May 3, 2023 regarding Clinical and Family Services Activity.
- c) Information Report dated May 3, 2023 regarding Health Promotion – 2023 First Quarter Activity Report.

Carried.

Items Not Requiring a Motion

#11: Hand/White: That the following Items not Requiring a Motion be received and filed:

- a) Creative County minutes dated November 24, 2022.
- b) Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership Board minutes dated January 24 and February 21, 2023.

Carried.

Reports Requiring a Motion

INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIVISION

Report dated May 3, 2023 Regarding Bill 97 and Provincial Policy Statement (2023) Preliminary Summary

#12: Ferguson/White: That County Council not support the proposed Provincial Policy Statement until the complete document (including Natural Heritage) is provided and requests more time to review and respond.

Carried.

#13: Hand/White: That County Council does not support the severance of rural agricultural lands for residential lots and views this policy as ineffective, compared to the option to expand settlement areas within our rural communities.

#14: Ferguson/Bradley: That motion #13 of this day's minutes be tabled.

Carried.

#15: Bradley/Dennis: That County Council invite Monte McNaughton M.P.P. and Bob Bailey M.P.P to attend Council to address Council on Provincial planning priorities and other related County-Provincial matters, and if the Members of Provincial Parliament are not available when Council ordinarily meets, that the Warden call a special meeting to accommodate the Member of Provincial Parliament's schedule(s).

Carried.

SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION

Report dated May 3, 2023 Regarding Homelessness Prevention Program Investment Plan 2023 to 2024

#16: White/McRoberts:

- a) That staff be authorized to submit the proposed Homelessness Prevention Program Investment Plan for the 2023-24 fiscal year as follows:

	Planned Financial Commitments by Quarter				
Operating	Q1 Apr-Jun	Q2 July-Sept	Q3 Oct-Dec	Q4 Jan-Mar	Total
Community Outreach & Support Services	162,062	162,062	162,062	215,562	\$701,750
Emergency Shelter Solutions	87,250	87,250	87,250	118,750	\$380,500
Housing Assistance	561,747	561,747	561,747	561,747	\$2,246,986
Supportive Housing	501,396	501,396	501,396	501,396	\$2,005,584
Total Operating	1,312,455	1,312,455	1,312,455	1,397,455	\$5,334,820
Administration Fees	28,078	84,234	84,234	84,234	\$280,780
Grand Total	1,340,533	1,396,689	1,396,689	1,481,689	\$5,615,600

- b) That staff be authorized to re-allocate program funds between the program components in response to local needs, the updated County of Lambton Housing and Homelessness Plan, and to ensure full utilization of allocations.

Carried.

#17: Bradley/McRoberts: That the County strike an advisory committee of individuals who attended the County's recent Homelessness Summit to work with the County in implementing the recommendations arising from the summit.

Carried.

Committee Minutes

Mr. I. Veen presented the Committee A.M. minutes (including Board of Health) dated April 20, 2023.

#18: Veen/Sageman: That the Committee A.M. minutes (including Board of Health) dated April 20, 2023 be accepted as presented.

Carried.

Mr. D. Ferguson presented the Committee P.M. minutes dated April 20, 2023.

#19: Ferguson/Atkinson: That the Committee P.M. minutes dated April 20, 2023 be accepted as presented.

Carried.

Notice of Motion

CSX Transportation Rail Crossing at Broadway Street in St. Clair Township

#20: Agar/Case: That Council endorse the following resolution:

WHEREAS that portion of the railway at the intersection of Broadway Street and McDonald Street in St. Clair Township, Ontario, remains in place notwithstanding CSX Transportation's longstanding discontinued use thereof as evidenced by CSX Transportation's removal of adjoining rail tracks between French Line and Holt Line;

AND WHEREAS The Corporation of the Township of St. Clair has received numerous complaints about the Crossing and specifically the need for school busses to continue to stop at the Crossing (despite it not being actively used for some time) and the current condition of the Crossing's railway signal lights;

AND WHEREAS The Corporation of the Township of St. Clair is seeking support in requesting that CSX Transportation officially discontinue the rail line in the area;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council for the Corporation of the County of Lambton support The Corporation of the Township of St. Clair regarding the proposed removal – and discontinuance – of the inactive railway and railway signal lights at the Crossing;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be circulated to CSX Transportation and the Canadian Minister of Transportation, the Hon. Omar Alghabra.

Carried.

By-Laws

#21: Hand/Ferguson: That By-Laws #15 to #19 of 2023, as circulated, be taken as read a first and second time.

Carried.

#22: Ferguson/Hand: That By-Laws #15 to #19 of 2023, as circulated, be taken as read a third time and finally passed.

Carried.

Adjournment

#23: Dennis/Veen: That the Warden declare the meeting adjourned and that the next regular meeting be held on Wednesday, June 7, 2023.

Carried.

Time: 10:34 a.m.

Kevin Marriott
Warden

Ryan Beauchamp
Deputy Clerk