



MINUTES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
(Infrastructure & Development Services/Public Health Services –
Emergency Medical Services/Cultural Services/Long-Term Care/Corporate
Services/Finance, Facilities and Acquisitions/Social Services)

January 21, 2026

A meeting was held at the County Building at 9:00 a.m. on the above date.

Present

Chair K. Marriott and Members J. Agar, G. Atkinson, A. Broad, T. Case, D. Cook, D. Ferguson, B. Hand, B. Loosley, S. Miller, I. Veen and B. White attended in person. Members M. Bradley and B. Dennis attended virtually. Various staff were present including the following General Managers: Mr. J. Cole, General Manager, Infrastructure and Development Services, Mr. K. Churchill, General Manager, Public Health Services, Mr. A. Meyer, General Manager, Cultural Services, Mr. M. Gorgey, General Manager, Long-Term Care, Ms. M. Fitzpatrick, General Manager, Social Services, Ms. K. Bettridge, County Treasurer, Mr. R. Beauchamp, County Solicitor and Deputy Clerk, and Mr. S. Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer.

Absent

D. Boushy and C. McRoberts.

Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

None.

APPOINTMENTS

Nominations

#1: Ferguson/Case: That Warden Kevin Marriott be nominated as Chair of the Committee of the Whole for a one-year term.

Carried.

#2: Case/Ferguson: That Deputy Warden Jeff Agar be nominated as Vice-Chair of the Committee of the Whole for a one-year term.

Carried.

Audit Committee

#3: Broad/Sage: That Councillors Doug Cook, Dave Ferguson, Steve Miller and Brad Loosley, along with the Warden, be appointed to the Audit Committee for a one-year term.

Carried.

County of Lambton Agricultural Advisory Committee

#4: Case/Agar: That Councillor Gary Atkinson be appointed to the County of Lambton Agricultural Advisory Committee for a one-year term.

Carried.

County of Lambton Accessibility Advisory Committee

#5: Veen/Loosley: That Councillor Doug Cook be nominated to the County of Lambton Accessibility Advisory Committee for a one-year term.

Carried.

Woodlands Hearings Board

#6: Broad/Loosley: That Councillor Dave Ferguson, along with the Warden and Deputy Warden, be appointed to the Woodlands Hearings Board for a one-year term.

Carried.

PRESENTATIONS

#7: Veen/Agar: That the presenters be invited within the Bar to speak to the Committee of the Whole.

Carried.

Matthew Slotwinski, Chief Executive Officer, and Adrienne Lee, Board Chair, Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership (SLEP), spoke to County Council and provided an update regarding SLEP's activities and plans.

Mark Perrin, Executive Director, Tourism Sarnia-Lambton (TSL), spoke to County Council and provided an update regarding TSL's activities and plans.

Katherine Albion, Executive Director, Western Sarnia-Lambton Research Park, spoke to County Council regarding mortgage refinancing options for The County of Lambton Community Development Corporation.

INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIVISION

Correspondence to Receive and File

DS 02-01-26 A resolution from the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa, dated November 18, 2025, regarding the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa's call on the Province of Ontario to ensure a gender-based perspective in the implementation of Bill 5 that being *Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025*, aiming to facilitate and accelerate resource development in Northern Ontario.

#8: Broad/White: That correspondence DS 02-01-26 be received and filed.

Carried.

Information Reports

#9: Agar/Miller: That the following Information Reports from the Infrastructure & Development Services Division be received and filed:

a) Information Report dated January 21, 2026 regarding City of Sarnia Funding Request - Planning Department.

b) Information Report dated January 21, 2026 regarding Upcoming 2026 Public works Conferences.

Carried.

Reports Requiring a Motion

Report dated January 21, 2026 Regarding Lambton County Land Stewardship Program Pilot

#10: Cook/Ferguson:

a) That the Lambton County Land Stewardship Program Pilot project be continued for 2026.

b) That the Lambton Tree Legacy Reserve be reallocated to fund the Lambton County Land Stewardship Program for 2026.

Carried.

Report dated January 21, 2026 Regarding Update Appointment By-Law for Building Inspectors

#11: Veen/Case: That Mr. Carson Braun be appointed as Building Inspector, and that Ms. Nicole Coles, Mr. Duane McKay, and Mr. Rob Vanoverbeke's appointment be rescinded, effective immediately, and that By-Law No. 17 of 2025 be updated to reflect such appointments and rescissions.

Carried.

CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION

Correspondence to Receive and File

MGA 02-02-26 A letter dated October 27, 2025 from Director, Culture Branch, Lorraine Dooley, Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming to the Lambton Heritage Museum, announcing approval of grant funds under the Community Museum Operating Grant and Equity program for the 2025-26 fiscal year. Such funding assists museums in communities across Ontario with acquiring, conserving, interpreting and exhibiting artifacts of public interest.

MGA 02-03-26 A letter dated October 27, 2025 from Director, Culture Branch, Lorraine Dooley, Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming to the Oil Museum of Canada, announcing approval of grant funds under the Community Museum Operating Grant and Equity program for the 2025-26 fiscal year. Such funding assists museums in communities across Ontario with acquiring, conserving, interpreting and exhibiting artifacts of public interest.

#12: Miller/Veen: That correspondence MGA 02-02-26 and MGA 02-03-26 be received and filed.

Carried.

Reports Requiring a Motion

Report dated January 21, 2026 Regarding Potential Consolidation of Port Lambton and Sombra Libraries

#13: White/Atkinson: That the County of Lambton direct staff to work with St. Clair Township staff to develop a funding plan which will address how an expansion at Sombra Library and the continuation of library service in Port Lambton Library could be funded.

Carried.

Report dated January 21, 2026 Regarding Museums, Gallery and Archives Collections Management October and November 2025

#14: Cook/Loosley: That the Museums, Gallery and Archives Collections Management October and November 2025 Report be accepted, and items recommended for acceptance be approved for inclusion in the respective permanent collections.

Carried.

Report dated January 21, 2026 Regarding Watford Library Redevelopment Plan

#15: Case/Sageman: That if the Township of Warwick consents to the redevelopment plan including the renovation and repair work that falls within its area of responsibility, such as the foundation, ceiling, walls, flooring and lighting, that the County proceed in redeveloping both levels of the library within its area of responsibility, including the service desk, shelving, furnishing and general improvements to the space to ensure the library's offerings better align with policy and best practice guidelines, and enhance the use of the library.

Carried.

LONG-TERM CARE DIVISION

Information Reports

Information Report dated January 21, 2026 Regarding Long-Term Care Occupancy for January to December 2025

#16: Hand/White: That the information report dated January 21, 2026 regarding Long-Term Care Occupancy for January to December 2025, be received and filed.

Carried.

CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION

Correspondence to Receive and File

CS 02-04-26 A resolution from Andrea Bolton, Deputy Clerk and Accessibility Coordinator, United Counties of Leeds and Grenville which calls for Bill 9, *Municipal Accountability Act*, 2025 to proceed at its third reading. If passed, Bill 9 would establish the creation of a new standardized Code of Conduct, consistent integrity commissioner inquiry process and mandatory training for council and certain local boards.

#17: Sageman/White: That correspondence CS 02-04-26 be received and filed.

Carried.

Reports Requiring a Motion

Report dated January 21, 2026 Regarding 2026 Services and Fees Schedule

#18: Veen/Atkinson:

- a) That the revised services fees and charges schedule set out in Schedule "A" attached hereto be approved and implemented effective February 4, 2026.
- b) That an appropriate By-Law be presented to County Council to implement the revised services fees and charges.

Carried.

FINANCE, FACILITIES AND ACQUISITIONS DIVISION

Reports Requiring a Motion

Report dated January 21, 2026 Regarding Annual Year-End Report on Reserves and Reserve Funds

#19: Case/Ferguson: That the attached Summary Report on Reserves and Reserve Funds and its recommendations be accepted as presented.

Carried.

SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION

Information Reports

#20: Agar/Broad: That the following Information Reports from the Social Services Division be received and filed:

- a) Information Report dated January 21, 2026 Regarding Affordable Housing Update.
- b) Information Report dated January 21, 2026 Regarding Housing and Homelessness Plan & Housing Needs Assessment.

Carried.

RECESS

The Chair declared a recess at 10:20 a.m.

Councillor Dennis left the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

RECONVENE

Committee of the Whole reconvened at 10:37 a.m.

Presentation of the 2026 County of Lambton Draft Budget

Mr. Stéphane Thiffault, Chief Administrative Officer, presented The Corporation of the County of Lambton's Draft 2026 Budget.

Time: 11:06 a.m.

IN-CAMERA

#21: Loosley/Sage: That the Chair declare the Committee go in-camera to discuss the following:

a) to receive a report regarding the acquisition of property in the Township of Dawn-Euphemia, pursuant to s. 239(2)(c) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

b) to receive a report and provide instructions regarding the potential acquisition of property related to the roundabout project at County Roads 8 and 22, pursuant to s. 239(2)(c) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

c) to receive a report and provide instructions regarding a request from Indwell Community Homes with respect to its development on George Street in the City of Sarnia, pursuant to s. 239(2)(k) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

d) to receive a report regarding acquisition of property in the City of Sarnia, pursuant to s. 239(2)(c) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

Carried.

#22: (Motion to be dealt with at the Lambton County Council (CLOSED SESSION) meeting dated February 4, 2026.)

Carried.

#23: (Motion to be dealt with at the Lambton County Council (CLOSED SESSION) meeting dated February 4, 2026.)

Carried.

#24: (Motion to be dealt with at the Lambton County Council (CLOSED SESSION) meeting dated February 4, 2026.)

Carried.

#25: (Motion to be dealt with in the Lambton County Council (CLOSED SESSION) minutes dated February 4, 2026.)

Carried.

#26: Hand/Loosley: That the Chair declare that the Committee go back into Open Session

Carried.

Time: 11:11 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

#27: Veen/Case: That the Chair declare the meeting adjourned with the next meeting to be held on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at the County Building, Wyoming, Ontario.

Carried.

Time: 11:13 a.m.

Kevin Marriott, Chair

Ryan Beauchamp, Deputy Clerk