

ELGIN COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES

April 9, 2019

Council Present: Warden Duncan McPhail
Deputy Warden Grant Jones
Councillor Bob Purcell
Councillor Sally Martyn
Councillor Tom Marks
Councillor Mary French
Councillor Dave Mennill
Councillor Dominique Giguère
Councillor Ed Ketchabaw

Absent: None

Staff Present: Julie Gonyou, Chief Administrative Officer
Rob Bryce, Director of Human Resources
Jim Bundschuh, Director of Financial Services
Brian Lima, Director of Engineering Services
Michele Harris, Director of Homes and Seniors Services
Brian Masschaele, Director of Community and Cultural Services
Steve Gibson, County Solicitor
Alan Smith, General Manager of Economic Development
Jenna Fentie, Legislative Services Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

Elgin County Council met this 9th day of April, 2019 in the Council Chambers, at the County Administration Building, St. Thomas at 9:00 a.m. with Warden McPhail in the chair.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by: Councillor Marks
Seconded by: Councillor Ketchabaw

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on March 26, 2019 be adopted.

- Motion Carried.

3. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None.

4. PRESENTING PETITIONS, PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS

4.1 Budgets for General Programs and Related Services 2019 – Southwestern Public Health

David Mayberry, Board Member, Cynthia St. John, Chief Executive Officer, and Monica Nusink, Director of Finance, CFO, from Southwestern Public Health provided a presentation outlining the 2019 budgets for general programs and related services.

Moved by: Councillor Ketchabaw
Seconded by: Councillor Purcell

Resolved that the presentation titled “Budgets for General Programs and Related Services 2019” from Southwestern Public Health be received and filed.

- Motion Carried.

5. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Moved by: Councillor Marks
Seconded by: Councillor Mennill

Resolved that we do now move into Committee of the Whole Council.

- Motion Carried.

6. REPORTS OF COUNCIL, OUTSIDE BOARDS AND STAFF

6.1 Warden Activity Report – March 2019 – Warden

The Warden presented a list of events attended in March 2019.

Moved by: Councillor Jones
Seconded by: Councillor French

Resolved that the report titled “Warden Activity Report – March 2019” from the Warden, dated April 1, 2019 be received and filed.

- Motion Carried.

6.2 County Road Speed Limit Adjustment – Director of Engineering Services

The Director of Engineering Services presented a report that summarizes the provincial legislated authority municipalities have in designating speed zone limits, and details the hierarchy and engineering evaluation rationale and implications when considering posted speed limit adjustments.

Moved by: Councillor Purcell
Seconded by: Councillor French

Resolved that the report titled “County Road Speed Limit Adjustment”, from the Director of Engineering Services, dated March 29, 2019 be received and filed.

- Motion Carried.

6.3 Homes – Foot Care Services – Director of Homes and Seniors Services

The Director of Homes and Seniors Services presented a report recommending that Council award the contract for foot care services at the three (3) Long-Term Care Homes to Closing the Gap Healthcare.

Moved by: Councillor Jones
Seconded by: Councillor Martyn

Resolved that the contract for Foot Care Services be awarded to Closing the Gap Healthcare for a one year term with the option to extend for an additional two (2) one year terms; and that the Warden and Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to sign the contract.

- Motion Carried.

Council recessed at 10:02 a.m. and reconvened at 10:12 a.m.

6.4 **Homes – Multi-Sector Service Accountability Agreement – Schedule G – Form of Compliance Declaration – Director of Homes and Seniors Services**

The Director of Homes and Seniors Services presented the report recommending that Council authorize staff to sign the Multi-Sector Service Accountability Agreement Declaration of Compliance – Schedule G, as required annually by the South West Local Health Integration Network (SWLHIN).

Moved by: Councillor French
Seconded by: Councillor Giguère

Resolved that Council authorize staff to sign the “Multi-Sector Service Accountability Agreement Declaration of Compliance – Schedule G” for April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019.

- Motion Carried.

6.5 **Long-Term Care Homes Admissions – Advocacy Report – Director of Homes & Seniors Services & Chief Administrative Officer**

The Director of Homes and Seniors Services presented the report requesting that staff be directed to send letters to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care and Member of Provincial Parliament to advocate for the addition of a “municipal resident” admissions category, giving priority status to Elgin County residents.

Moved by: Councillor Martyn
Seconded by: Councillor Purcell

Resolved that the report titled “Long-Term Care Homes Admissions – Advocacy Report” from the Director of Homes and Seniors Services and Chief Administrative Officer dated March 31, 2019 be received and filed; and, that staff be directed to send letters to the Minister of Health and Long Term Care and Member of Provincial Parliament advocating for the addition of a new category for admissions “municipal resident” which will give priority status to local residents.

- Motion Carried.

6.6 **Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program: Rural and Northern Communities Funding Stream Application Notification – Chief Administrative Officer & Director of Engineering Services**

The Chief Administrative Officer presented the report summarizing the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) application recently submitted by Elgin County.

Moved by: Councillor Mennill
Seconded by: Councillor Jones

Resolved that the report titled “Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program: Rural and Northern Communities Funding Stream Application Notification” from the Chief Administrative Officer and Director of Engineering Services dated March 26, 2019 be received and filed.

- Motion Carried.

6.7 **Municipal Funding Review – January to April 2019 – Chief Administrative Officer & Director of Financial Services**

The Chief Administrative Officer presented the report outlining the five (5) separate government funds that Elgin County has received so far in 2019: Improving Service Delivery and Efficiency funding, Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF), the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF), Cannabis Funding, and the Federal Gas Tax Fund.

Moved by: Councillor Jones
Seconded by: Councillor Purcell

Resolved that the report titled “Municipal Funding Review January – April 2019” from the Chief Administrative Officer and Director of Financial Services, dated April 2, 2019 be received and filed.

- Motion Carried.

6.8 **Port Bruce Bridge Project Update – Supplemental Report – Chief Administrative Officer**

The Chief Administrative Officer presented a report detailing the timeline of events and the key decision making milestones following the collapse of the Port Bruce Bridge.

Moved by: Councillor French
Seconded by: Councillor Giguère

Resolved that the report titled “Port Bruce Bridge Project Update – Supplemental Report” from the Chief Administrative Officer, dated April 2, 2019 be received and filed.

- Motion Carried.

7. **COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE**

7.1 **Items for Consideration**

1. Christopher Wilkinson, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer, Catfish Creek Conservation Authority with a letter of concern regarding the speed limit on Springwater Road at the Springwater Conservation Area, with the County of Elgin CAO's response.

Moved by: Councillor Purcell
Seconded by: Councillor Jones

Resolved that the Director of Engineering Services be directed to complete an engineering study including an assessment of whether the section of Springwater Road identified by General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer, Catfish Creek Conservation Authority in his letter dated March 21, 2019 qualifies as a Community Safety Zone with a reduced speed limit; and that the Director of Engineering Services report back to County Council immediately upon completion of the assessment.

- Motion Carried.

7.2 **Items for Information (Consent Agenda)**

1. Renato Discenza, Chief Executive Officer, South West LHIN with a memorandum regarding the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care Christine Elliott's appointment of a new Ontario Health Agency Board of Directors and the revocation of Order in Council (OIC) appointments for the current South West LHIN Board.
2. Honourable Jeff Yurek, MPP with a news release regarding the announcement of a one-time funding to improve service delivery and efficiency.
3. Susan Mark, Superintendent of Facility Services and Capital Planning, Thames Valley District School Board with a notice of facility collaboration and co-build opportunities.

4. The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, P.C., M.P., Minister of Infrastructure and Communities announcing that the Government of Canada will provide an additional \$2.2 billion to the Gas Tax Fund.
5. Carolyn Gloude, Awards Officer, Ontario Arts Council with a response to the nomination submitted on behalf of St. Thomas-Elgin Public Art Centre.
6. International Plowing Match 2019 Scholarship Poster.

Moved by: Councillor Purcell
Seconded by: Councillor Mennill

Resolved that Correspondence Items #1 – 6 be received and filed.

- Motion Carried.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Statements/Inquiries by Members

- 8.1.1 Councillor Ketchabaw thanked Warden McPhail and Chief Administrative Officer Gonyou for providing a presentation “County Services 2019 and Beyond” to Bayham Council recently. Councillor Ketchabaw reinforced that this was a worthwhile visit and Bayham would appreciate additional presentations if time permits. Councillor Jones reinforced Councillor Ketchabaw’s sentiments, noting that his local Councillors, in particular the two new members, have a better understanding of County Services.
- 8.1.2 Councillor Marks acknowledged the productive and worthwhile meeting that took place with Minister Yurek and Minister Clark at the Elgin County Administration Building on Saturday, April 6, 2019. This meeting included Mayors and Deputy Mayors from Elgin County, representatives from Middlesex County (Thames Centre), Mayors from the City of St. Thomas and City of London and some support personnel.

Moved by: Councillor Martyn
Seconded by: Councillor Marks

Resolved that the Warden be directed to send thank you letters to Minister Yurek and Minister Clark for organizing and attending the meeting on April 6, 2019 and to the Premier commending him for having Ministers who are so accessible and responsive to local needs.

- Motion Carried.

Warden McPhail vacated the Chair. Deputy Warden Jones assumed the Chair.

- 8.1.3 Warden McPhail read a prepared statement in which he raised concerns as to inaccurate statements made by Councillor Martyn during the course of a public meeting related to a proposed local development.

The concerns expressed by Warden McPhail related to comments attributed to him by Councillor Martyn and as reported in the Aylmer Express relating to a desire on his part to increase the speed of all County Roads.

Warden McPhail compared the minutes of the previous Council meeting within which he had raised the issue of the speed limit on County roads with the comments attributed to Councillor Martyn in the Aylmer Express report as evidence of such alleged misinformation (see articles attached).

Warden McPhail cautioned Councillors to be vigilant in the statements being attributed to fellow Councillors within local meetings and/or comments to the media.

Councillor Martyn responded that she felt she had been misquoted but otherwise apologized to Warden McPhail for any misunderstanding on her part that led to the concerns identified by Warden McPhail.

Warden McPhail resumed the Chair.

8.2 **Notice of Motion**

None.

8.3 **Matters of Urgency**

8.3.1 The Warden suggested that when Council next reviews the Procedural By-law that it be amended to include the addition of a line for “New Business” in the Council Meeting Agenda.

8.3.2 The Warden noted that our current Flag Policy does not include information about Community Flags and asked that County Council consider directing the Chief Administrative Officer to draft a Community Flag Policy for Council’s consideration.

Moved by: Councillor Marks
Seconded by: Councillor Giguère

Resolved that the Chief Administrative Officer be directed to draft a Community Flag Policy for Council’s consideration at a future meeting.

- Motion Carried.

9. **CLOSED MEETING ITEMS**

Moved by: Councillor Marks
Seconded by: Councillor Jones

Resolved that we do now proceed into closed meeting session in accordance with the Municipal Act to discuss matters under Municipal Act Section 239 (2):

In-Camera Item #1

(a) the security of the property of the municipality or local board – Mervin Riddell Lease

In-Camera Item #2

(a) the security of the property of the municipality or local board – Clinical Associates Lease

In-Camera Item #3

(d) labour relations or employee negotiations – ONA Negotiations (VERBAL)

In-Camera Item #4

(b) a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board – CASO Trail Update

In-Camera Item #5

(c) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees

- Motion Carried.

10. RECESS

None.

11. MOTION TO RISE AND REPORT

Moved by: Councillor Purcell
Seconded by: Councillor Ketchabaw

Resolved that we do now rise and report following consideration of additional closed meeting items.

- Motion Carried.

ADDITIONAL CLOSED MEETING ITEMS

Moved by: Councillor Giguère
Seconded by: Councillor Mennill

Resolved that we do now consider two additional items for closed meeting session in accordance with the Municipal Act to discuss matters under the Municipal Act Section 239 (2): including Port Bruce Bridge Mitigation Measures and Southwestern Public Health.

- Motion Carried.

Moved by: Councillor Purcell
Seconded by: Councillor Ketchabaw

Resolved that we do now proceed into closed meeting session in accordance with the Municipal Act to discuss matters under Municipal Act Section 239 (2):

- Motion Carried.

In-Camera Item #6

(e) litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board. – Port Bruce Bridge Mitigation Measures

In-Camera Item #7

(c) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees – (verbal) - Southwestern Public Health

MOTION TO RISE AND REPORT

Moved by: Councillor Jones
Seconded by: Councillor Martyn

Resolved that we do now rise and report.

- Motion Carried.

In-Camera Item # 1 – Mervin Riddell Lease

Moved by: Councillor Jones
Seconded by: Councillor French

Resolved that staff proceed as directed.

- Motion Carried.

In-Camera Item #2 – Clinical Associates Lease

Moved by: Councillor Martyn
Seconded by: Councillor Purcell

Resolved that staff proceed as directed.

- Motion Carried.

In-Camera Item #3 – ONA Negotiations (VERBAL)

Moved by: Councillor Marks
Seconded by: Councillor Jones

Resolved that the verbal report from the Director of Human Resources be received.

- Motion Carried.

In-Camera Item #4 – CASO Trail Update

Moved by: Councillor Ketchabaw
Seconded by: Councillor Mennill

Resolved that staff proceed as directed.

- Motion Carried.

In-Camera Item #5 (VERBAL)

Moved by: Councillor Marks
Seconded by: Councillor Ketchabaw

Resolved that the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.

- Motion Carried.

In-Camera Item #6 - Port Bruce Bridge Mitigation Measures

Moved by: Councillor Mennill
Seconded by: Councillor Martyn

Resolved that the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.

- Motion Carried.

In-Camera Item #7 - Southwestern Public Health

Moved by: Councillor Marks
Seconded by: Councillor Purcell

Resolved that staff proceed as directed.

- Motion Carried.

ADDITIONAL ITEM OF URGENCY

Moved by: Councillor French
Seconded by: Councillor Jones

Resolved that we do now consider an additional item of urgency from the Chief Administrative Officer regarding the development of a Community Safety Plan.

- Motion Carried.

Moved by: Councillor Purcell
Seconded by: Councillor Jones

Resolved that Council authorizes staff to work in collaboration with Elgin County constituent municipalities and the City of St. Thomas to determine next steps in developing a joint Community Safety and Well-being Plan; and that staff be directed to report back to County Council as new information is available.

- Motion Carried.

12. MOTION TO ADOPT RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Moved by: Councillor Mennill
Seconded by: Councillor Giguère

Resolved that we do now adopt recommendations of the Committee Of The Whole.

- Motion Carried.

13. CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

13.1 By-law 19-10 – Non-Union Economic Adjustment

BEING a By-law to Establish a Pay Schedule for Employees Covered by the Job Evaluation Scale.

Moved by: Councillor Marks
Seconded by: Councillor French

Resolved that By-law No. 19-10 be now read a first, second and third time and finally passed.

- Motion Carried.

13.2 By-law 19-11 – Confirming all Actions and Proceedings

BEING a By-law to Confirm Proceedings of the Municipal Council of the Corporation of the County of Elgin at the April 9, 2019 Meeting.

Moved by: Councillor Mennill
Seconded by: Councillor Giguère

Resolved that By-Law No. 19-11 be now read a first, second and third time and finally passed.

- Motion Carried.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Councillor Martyn
Seconded by: Councillor Marks

Resolved that we do now adjourn at 12:52 p.m. to meet again on April 23, 2019 at the County Administration Building Council Chambers at 9:00 a.m.

- Motion Carried.

Julie Gonyou,
Chief Administrative Officer.

Duncan McPhail,
Warden.

Traffic hazards, biggest resident concern

The east side of Port Stanley is already a dangerous place to live because of speeding and other traffic hazards, residents told a public hearing held by Central Elgin councillors Tuesday, March, on a proposed new subdivision in their area.

Domus Developments plans single-family and semi-detached houses, townhouses and apartment blocks on 30 acres of vacant land, much of which is currently farmed, west of East Road and south of Hill Street.

The complaints from residents didn't seem to centre so much on the proposed development as the existing dangers.

Margie Gardiner, a Sunset Bluffs homeowner, was worried

about what she termed a "high-density" development with the apartment blocks, which alone could add almost 200 residential units to the area.

Cars were already speeding down East Road, she said, ignoring speed limits.

"People (driving) don't care, which is really a situation when you want to walk or bicycle."

The speed limit on East Road should be reduced, especially with the addition of the proposed new homes, she asserted.

Central Elgin Mayor Sally Martyn said, "You should call the current (Elgin) Warden," Duncan McPhail, mayor of West Elgin, who wanted the maximum speed limit on the

fastest county roads, including a portion of East Road, increased to 90 kilometres per hour from 80.

"I certainly disagree with him, and told him so," she said.

Tony Brooks of 372 Larry St. said he resided near the village water tower at the intersection of East Road and Dexter Line for 20 years, joined recently by 110 new houses added there.

Councillors had to keep in mind the needs of longtime village residents, he said, not just the additional property tax new development would bring in.

"We don't want it ruined by reckless development," he said. "I think there's too much.

"There's too many building, as much as it looks nice," he added about a conceptual drawing of the new subdivision.

He called on Central Elgin to assume jurisdiction over East Road.

"There is no traffic calming measures in that whole neighbourhood."

He said about the new homes around him, "The people who drive through there don't have the common sense that God gave a screwdriver."

He scoffed at recent traffic studies and their estimate of traffic volume on East Road.

"I don't know when they track it. There's way more traffic than they say."

On schooldays, he asserted, four buses a day picked up children at Hill Street and East Road. "There's been so many close calls in that area."

Mark Evans, who said he resided across East Road where new apartment blocks in the Domus subdivision would be built, stated "Six storeys is too high."

A concept photo shown by the developer at the meeting looked just three or three-and-a-half storeys tall, he noted, not six.

He, too, had worries about traffic, having participated in a study last year with the village's community policing committee.

He had sat near the road with a radar device measuring vehicle speeds, he said. Drivers were definitely going 10 or 20 kilometres per hour over the limit.

"So it's obviously not just people from Toronto," he said.

Jim Ziegler, a Hill Street resident, said someone from Elgin County should have been at the meeting.

"Someone's going to die there," he added about the intersection of East Road and Hill Street.

He was a retired St. Thomas Police officer, and recalled helping with joint traffic enforcement blitzes in the East Road area. His radar gun registered far more speeders there than he would ever see on the edges of St. Thomas, he said.

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OPEN HOUSE

APRIL 5: 8-5PM & APRIL 6: 9-1 PM



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increases its grants

commended funding of \$3 per household, he said.

A different calculation could be used, he said, but the one he had used had been adopted by council a year ago.

Warden McPhail, who wasn't on council last term, said many of the grant recipients were organizations made up of volunteers.

"I don't think they would be able to exist without our assistance, especially the fair boards," he conjectured.

The fairs and other events and programs supported by the grants were integral to the success of the county as a whole, he said.

Mayor Martyn said one criteria for applications was the ability of a group or event to become financially self-sustaining, but she didn't believe some of them, like 4H and the annual Seniors Picnic in St. Thomas, ever could be.

Warden McPhail said given the investment, "Our return on it is huge."

Mayor Mennill said he wasn't alleging the applications weren't worthwhile, only that the total cost was jumping by \$8,000.

Municipal councils spent less time buying half-million dollar fire trucks than the county did in reviewing grants, said Central Elgin Deputy Mayor Tom Marks.

Aylmer Mayor Mary French

said her council was limiting grants to amounts received in the past, to encourage applicants to become more self-sufficient.

Warden McPhail said despite increases this year, the grants paid to fairs were still 40 percent less than they were at one time.

"Money is tight all over, but we have to balance that with supporting our communities."

Councillors then voted to approve the grants as proposed.

They were:

Shedden Agricultural Society requested \$4,500 for its fair, the same as last year, and will receive that;

Wallacetown Agricultural Society asked for \$10,000, up from the \$4,500 it got last year, and will receive \$8,386;

Rodney-Aldborough Agricultural Society asked for \$6,000 this year, received \$4,500 last year, and will get what it requested;

Aylmer and East Elgin Agricultural Society asked for \$7,500, the same as last year, and will get that;

Elgin 4H Association asked for \$2,000, the same as last

year, and will get that;

Tillsonburg and District Multi-Service Centre asked for \$4,780 this year, received \$4,764 last year, and will get what it asked for;

Quad County Support Services asked for \$2,000, the same as last year, and will get that;

Seniors Picnic asked for \$2,500, the same as last year, and will get that;

Second Stage Housing asked for \$20,000, received \$8,182 last year, and will get \$13,977;

Eat 2 Learn asked for \$5,000, the same as last year, and will get that;

Elgin County Plowmen's Association asked for \$200, the same as last year, and will get that;

Fanshawe College's Personal Support Worker Award asked for sponsorship of \$500, received \$1,500 last year, and will get what it requested;

STEAM Centre asked for \$5,000, a new grant, and will receive \$3,494.

In addition, \$3,500 was allocated for urgent grant requests that might come in through the year.

Warden seeks speed limit hike

by Rob Perry
of The Aylmer Express

Elgin Warden Duncan McPhail, mayor of West Elgin, wants to know why the maximum speed limit on county roads is only 80 kilometres per hour.

"I would love someone to tell me why we're the only county with an 80 kilometre per hour limit."

Elgin's neighbours all had a maximum of 90 kilometres per hour, he told county councillors at a meeting Tuesday, March 14.

He was driving to the meeting from his home in West Elgin that morning, and recalled thinking, "Wow, this is taking forever."

The chief administrative of-

ficer of Kent County, on a visit, had pointed out the irony of the lower speed limit versus Elgin's motto, "Progressive by Nature," Warden McPhail said.

Central Elgin Mayor Sally Martyn noted that her municipal council had just reduced the speed limit on many residential streets to a maximum of 40 kilometres per hour.

Warden McPhail said residential areas were one thing, but if someone had to travel from one end of Elgin to the other, "It's a long drive" at 80 kilometres per hour.

(The distance from Port Glasgow in West Elgin to Port Burwell in Bayham is over 90 kilometres.)

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came with that when voting as a councillor, and he didn't like it.

Deputy Mayor Dominique Giguère asked if Malahide councillors had the jurisdiction to make such a request.

Mayor David Mennill surveyed the council table for signs of support for Cr. Cerna's stand.

"Leave it as it is," said Cr. Mark Widner, and others agreed.