

ELGIN COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES

February 22, 2022

Elgin County Council met this 22nd day of February 2022. The meeting was held in a hybrid in-person/electronic format with Councillors and staff participating as indicated below.

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

Staff Present: Julie Gonyou, Chief Administrative Officer (Council Chambers)
Brian Lima, General Manager of Engineering, Planning & Enterprise/Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (Council Chambers)
Brian Masschaele, Director of Community & Cultural Services (Council Chambers)
Michele Harris, Director of Homes and Seniors Services (electronic)
Stephen Gibson, County Solicitor (electronic)
Nick Loeb, Senior Counsel (electronic)
Katherine Thompson, Manager of Administrative Services/Deputy Clerk (Council Chambers)
Kate Burns Gallagher, Manager of Economic Development & Tourism (electronic)
Jeff VanRybroeck, Manager of Emergency Management (electronic)
Jenna Fentie, Legislative Services Coordinator (Council Chambers)
Natalie Marlowe, Library Coordinator (Council Chambers)
Séanin Steele, Digital Services Librarian (Council Chambers)

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting convened at 9:00 a.m. with Warden French in the chair.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by: Councillor Mennill
Seconded by: Councillor Ketchabaw

RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the meeting held on February 8, 2022 be adopted.

- Motion Carried.

3. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None.

4. PRESENTING PETITIONS, PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS

4.1 Elgin County Broadband Assessment and Proposed Solutions – Keith Ponton, Director, IBI Group

Keith Ponton, Director, IBI Group provided an overview of technical and funding options for enhancing broadband service to Elgin County and outlined options for County Council's consideration.

Moved by: Councillor Jones
Seconded by: Councillor McPhail

RESOLVED THAT the presentation titled “Elgin County Broadband Assessment and Proposed Solutions” from the IBI Group be received and filed.

- Motion Carried.

5. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Moved by: Councillor Martyn
Seconded by: Councillor Giguère

RESOLVED THAT we do now move into Committee of the Whole Council.

- Motion Carried.

6. REPORTS OF COUNCIL, OUTSIDE BOARDS AND STAFF

6.1 Internet Connectivity – IBI Group Final Report and Committee Recommendations – Deputy Warden Marks, Connectivity Committee Chair

Deputy Warden Marks, Connectivity Committee Chair, presented a report detailing the options included within the final report prepared by IBI Group Inc. titled “Internet Connectivity and Broadband Analysis, Assessment, and Proposed Solutions”.

Moved by: Deputy Warden Marks
Seconded by: Councillor McPhail

RESOLVED THAT the report titled “Internet Connectivity – IBI Group Final Report and Committee Recommendations” from Deputy Warden Marks dated February 17, 2022 be received and filed for information; and

THAT Elgin County Council support the Connectivity Committee’s recommendation to leverage existing staff resources and the Connectivity Committee to support IBI Group’s Option #1 – Advocacy, Strategic Purchasing and ISP Coordination to facilitate and advocate for investment in broadband infrastructure (senior government/private sector).

- Motion Carried.

6.2 Terrace Lodge Redevelopment Fundraising Report and Proposed Amendments – Councillor Giguère

Councillor Giguère, Chair of the Terrace Lodge Redevelopment Fundraising Committee, presented the Committee’s 2021 Annual Report and requested that County Council amend the Terms of Reference in order to allow for voting members from each of Elgin’s Local Partner Municipalities.

Moved by: Councillor Purcell
Seconded by: Councillor McPhail

RESOLVED THAT the report titled “Terrace Lodge Redevelopment Fundraising Report and Proposed Amendments to Terms of Reference” dated February 14, 2022 from Councillor Giguère be received and filed for information; and

THAT the 2021 Fundraising Report from the Terrace Lodge Redevelopment Fundraising Committee be approved for distribution; and

THAT Council approve amendments to the Terrace Lodge Redevelopment Fundraising Committee Terms of Reference to allow for a voting member from each of Elgin’s Local Municipal Partners and to maintain quorum at five (5).

- Motion Carried.

6.3 **A Path Forward on Library Fines: Next Steps – Digital Services Librarian and Library Coordinator**

The Digital Services Librarian and the Library Coordinator provided a presentation outlining the results of the Fine Free Public Survey and provided next steps for the implementation of the Elgin County Library fine-free framework.

Moved by: Councillor Mennill
Seconded by: Councillor Martyn

RESOLVED THAT the results of the public consultation process and “A Path Forward on Library Fines at Elgin County Library” survey and report authorized by Elgin County Council at the September 28, 2021 meeting be received and filed for information; and

THAT Elgin County Council hereby authorizes Elgin County Library to proceed on a path forward for the elimination of Elgin County Library fines as outlined in the fine-free framework received by County Council on September 28, 2021, and that all overdue fines be eliminated effective December 31, 2024 subject to a progress report and impact analysis for Council’s consideration in 2023; and

THAT the February 22, 2022 presentation titled “A Path Forward on Library Fines: Next Steps” from the Digital Services Librarian and Library Coordinator be received and filed for information.

- Motion Carried.

6.4 **Approval of the Southwold Official Plan File No. SO OP22-01, Applicant: Township of Southwold – General Manager of Engineering, Planning & Enterprise/Deputy CAO**

The General Manager of Engineering, Planning & Enterprise/Deputy CAO provided a report with information necessary for County Council to consider granting approval to the Township of Southwold Official Plan.

Moved by: Councillor Jones
Seconded by: Councillor Purcell

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the County of Elgin repeals the Official Plan of the Township of Southwold as adopted by By-law No. 2011-13 and all subsequent amendments thereto; and

THAT the Council of the Corporation of the County of Elgin modifies and approves the Official Plan of the Township of Southwold as adopted by By-law No. 2021-68; and

THAT staff be directed to provide notice of this decision in accordance with the Planning Act.

- Motion Carried.

6.5 **Small Business Enterprise Centre Update – General Manager of Engineering, Planning & Enterprise/Deputy CAO**

The General Manager of Engineering, Planning & Enterprise/Deputy CAO presented the report outlining the activities of the Small Business Enterprise Centre during the period of April 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021.

Moved by: Deputy Warden Marks
Seconded by: Councillor Martyn

RESOLVED THAT the report titled “Small Business Enterprise Centre Update” dated February 11, 2022 from the General Manager of Engineering, Planning & Enterprise/Deputy CAO be received and filed as information.

- Motion Carried.

6.6 **2022 South Central Ontario Region Economic Development Corporation Board of Director Appointments – General Manager of Engineering, Planning & Enterprise/Deputy CAO**

The General Manager of Engineering, Planning & Enterprise/Deputy CAO presented the report recommending that Warden French and Deputy Warden Marks be appointed to the South Central Ontario Region Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors, and that the Manager of Economic Development and Tourism and the General Manager of Engineering, Planning & Enterprise/Deputy CAO be appointed to the Advisory Group for 2022.

Moved by: Councillor Ketchabaw

Seconded by: Councillor Purcell

RESOLVED THAT the report titled “2022 South Central Ontario Region Economic Development Corporation Board of Director Appointments” dated February 10, 2022 from the Manager of Economic Development and Tourism and the General Manager of Engineering, Planning & Enterprise/Deputy CAO be received and filed; and

THAT County Council appoint Warden French and Deputy Warden Marks to the South Central Ontario Region Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors for 2022; and

THAT County Council appoints the General Manager of Engineering, Planning & Enterprise/Deputy CAO and the Manager of Economic Development and Tourism to the South Central Ontario Region Economic Development Corporation Resource Advisory Group for 2022.

- Motion Carried.

6.7 **Currie Road Pedestrian Crossing Construction – Tender Award – General Manager of Engineering, Planning & Enterprise/Deputy CAO**

The General Manager of Engineering, Planning & Enterprise/Deputy CAO presented the report recommending that Armstrong Paving and Materials Group Ltd. be selected for the Currie Road Pedestrian Crossing Construction Project.

Moved by: Deputy Warden Marks

Seconded by: Councillor Giguère

RESOLVED THAT Armstrong Paving and Materials Group Ltd. be selected for the Currie Road Pedestrian Crossing Construction Project, Contract No. 2022-T04 at a total price of \$130,135.70 exclusive of H.S.T.; and

THAT the Warden and Chief Administrative Officer be directed and authorized to sign the contract.

- Motion Carried.

6.8 **Hamlet of Richmond Reconstruction – Tender Award – General Manager of Engineering, Planning & Enterprise/Deputy CAO**

The General Manager of Engineering, Planning & Enterprise/Deputy CAO presented the report recommending that Cassidy Construction London Ltd. be selected for the Hamlet of Richmond Reconstruction Project.

Moved by: Councillor Jones

Seconded by: Councillor Ketchabaw

RESOLVED THAT Cassidy Construction London Ltd. be selected for the Hamlet of Richmond Reconstruction Project, Contract No. 2022-T03 at a total price of \$2,802,639.00 exclusive of H.S.T.; and

THAT the Warden and Chief Administrative Officer be directed and authorized to sign the contract.

- Motion Carried.

6.9 **Transfer Payment Agreement for the Community Paramedicine for Long-Term Care Program – Chief Administrative Officer**

The Chief Administrative Officer presented the report notifying Council that the Government of Ontario will provide funding of up to \$4,480,300 towards the implementation of a Community Paramedicine for Long-Term Care Program in Elgin County.

Moved by: Councillor Mennill
Seconded by: Councillor Martyn

RESOLVED THAT the Warden and Chief Administrative Officer be authorized and directed to enter into the Transfer Payment Agreement to receive \$4,480,300 from the Ministry of Long-Term Care for the implementation of the Community Paramedicine for Long-Term Care Program; and

THAT By-Law 22-13 to authorize the Warden and Chief Administrative Officer to execute the Transfer Payment Agreement on behalf of Elgin County be enacted.

- Motion Carried.

7. **COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE**

7.1 **Items for Consideration**

7.1.1 Elgin Federation of Agriculture with a letter requesting Elgin County Council maintain the Farm Class Tax rate at 0.23.

Moved by: Councillor Purcell
Seconded by: Councillor Ketchabaw

RESOLVED THAT the correspondence from the Elgin Federation of Agriculture be received and filed.

- Motion Carried.

7.1.2 Susanne M. Schlotzhauer with a letter outlining concerns regarding the Draft Plan of Subdivision Application 8341, Sandytown Road, Straffordville ON for the Municipality of Bayham.

Moved by: Councillor Jones
Seconded by: Councillor Ketchabaw

RESOLVED THAT the correspondence from Susanne M. Schlotzhauer be received and filed.

- Motion Carried.

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

7.2.1 The Municipality of Central Elgin with a letter to the Premier of Ontario reaffirming concerns about joint and several liability.

7.2.2 Women's Institute (WI) Press Release: Women's Organization Celebrates 125 Years of Supporting and Inspiring Women.

7.2.3 Betsy McClure, Program Coordinator with the Elgin Clean Water Program 2021 Annual Report.

7.2.4 Oxford County with a resolution supporting equitable representation on the Thames Valley District School Board of Trustees that balances rural interests with the geography of Thames Valley.

7.2.5 Jeff Yurek, MPP Elgin-Middlesex-London with a letter congratulating Warden French on the County's third funding installment of the Municipal Modernization Program.

Moved by: Councillor Martyn
Seconded by: Deputy Warden Marks

RESOLVED THAT Correspondence Items #7.2.1- 7.2.5 be received and filed.

- Motion Carried.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Statements/Inquiries by Members

None.

8.2 Notice of Motion

None.

8.3 Matters of Urgency

None.

9. CLOSED MEETING ITEMS

Moved by: Councillor Mennill
Seconded by: Councillor Giguère

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

In-Camera Item #1

(f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose; (k) a position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality or local board – Telecommunications.

In-Camera Item #2

(b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees – Organizational Update.

- Motion Carried.

Council recessed at 10:05 a.m. and reconvened at 10:12 a.m.

10. MOTION TO RISE AND REPORT

Moved by: Councillor Mennill
Seconded by: Deputy Warden Marks

RESOLVED THAT we do now rise and report.

- Motion Carried.

In-Camera Item #1 – Telecommunications

Moved by: Councillor Jones
Seconded by: Councillor Ketchabaw

RESOLVED THAT staff proceed as directed.

- Motion Carried.

In-Camera Item #2 – Organizational Update

Moved by: Councillor McPhail
Seconded by: Councillor Giguère

RESOLVED THAT staff proceed as directed.

- Motion Carried.

11. REPORTS OF COUNCIL, OUTSIDE BOARDS AND STAFF – CONTINUED

11.1 Elgin (County)/Rogers - Telecommunications Equipment Consent and Road User Agreement – Senior Counsel

The Senior Counsel presented the report seeking approval and authorization for the execution of a proposed Telecommunications Equipment Consent and Road User Agreement (“Telecommunication Agreement”) between Elgin (County) and Rogers Telecommunications Inc.

Moved by: Councillor Purcell
Seconded by: Councillor Jones

RESOLVED THAT the report titled “Elgin (County)/Rogers - Telecommunications Equipment Consent and Road User Agreement” dated February 15, 2022 from the Senior Counsel be received and filed; and

THAT County Council approve and authorize the Warden and Chief Administrative Officer to execute a proposed Telecommunication Equipment Consent and Road User Agreement as between Elgin (County) and Rogers Telecommunications Inc.

- Motion Carried.

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

Moved by: Councillor Martyn
Seconded by: Councillor Mennill

RESOLVED THAT we do now adopt recommendations of the Committee Of The Whole.

- Motion Carried.

13. CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

12.1 By-Law No. 22-13 – Approve Transfer Payment Agreement

BEING a By-Law to Approve a Transfer Payment Agreement with Her Majesty the Queen in Right of the Province of Ontario as Represented by the Minister of Long-Term Care to Fund the Implementation of a Community Paramedicine for Long-Term Care Program, and Further Thereto, to Authorize the Warden and Chief Administrative to execute the said Transfer Payment Agreement on behalf of Elgin County.

Moved by: Deputy Warden Marks
Seconded by: Councillor Jones

RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 22-13 be now read a first, second and third time and finally passed.

- Motion Carried.

12.4 **By-Law No. 22-14 – 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 February 22, 2022 Meeting.

Moved by: Councillor Martyn
Seconded by: Councillor Jones

RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 22-14 be now read a first, second and third time and finally passed.

- Motion Carried.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Councillor Purcell
Seconded by: Deputy Warden Marks

RESOLVED THAT we do now adjourn at 11:21 a.m. to meet again on March 8, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

- Motion Carried.

Julie Gonyou,
Chief Administrative Officer.

Mary French,
Warden.