



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

TUESDAY,
APRIL 25, 2023

IN THIS ISSUE:

Education Development Charges could be coming to the TVDSB Region

Southwestern Public Health's 2023 Budget Focuses on Promotion, Protection & Prevention

Ride the Whistlestop Trail: An Ode to Cycling, Past & Present

Tender & Contract Awards Update

Elgin County Planning Updates



EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT CHARGES COULD BE COMING TO THE TVDSB REGION

Ben Puzanov, Manager of Planning for the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB) presented Elgin County Council with information pertaining to potential Education Development Charges (EDCs) coming to the region.

Due to rapid residential growth in TVDSB's catchment area, Mr. Puzanov raised the importance of growth paying for growth. He suggested that EDCs could be a potential resource for local school boards to purchase land for new schools.

EDCs would be payable at the building permit stage by developers and/or builders of residential developments and collected by the respective local Municipality.

Over the next year, the TVDSB plans to engage with a consultant to complete a background study to present to its trustees.

For a full copy of this presentation, please access the April 25th agenda package.



SOUTHWESTERN PUBLIC HEALTH'S 2023 BUDGET FOCUSES ON PROMOTION, PROTECTION & PREVENTION

Southwestern Public Health's (SWPH) Chief Executive Officer, Cynthia St. John, began her presentation to Elgin County Council by stressing the importance of how a healthy community is a vibrant community and an economically sound community.

With their strategic direction set out for them, SWPH is working towards catching up on their programs and services post-pandemic. Ms. St. John provided Council with various statistics collected both qualitatively and anecdotally for the Elgin-St. Thomas and Oxford region on issues such as the increase in opioid use, rising teen pregnancy rates, and the high rate of substance abuse by youth.

To respond to these rising concerns, SWPH's 2023 budget will be future-focused and tailored to the unique needs of small urban and large rural communities. Their budget saw an increase of 4.5% over 2022 and encourages the need to "move the needle" on our community health status.

For a full copy of this presentation, please access the April 25th agenda package.



RIDE THE WHISTLESTOP TRAIL: AN ODE TO CYCLING, PAST & PRESENT

The Elgin County Museum, in partnership with Elgin County Tourism, Railway City Tourism, and the St. Thomas Public Library, have created a cycling event entitled "Ride the Whistlestop Trail!" at the Elgin County Heritage Centre on May 27, 2023, in support of its current exhibition: Cycling: An Unspoken History; Selections from the Rick Wolfe Collection.

Participants are invited to partake in the cycling-related fun at the Elgin County Heritage Centre. For more information about this event and to register to ride the Whistlestop Trail from St. Thomas to Port Stanley (or vice versa), please click [here](#).

TENDER & CONTRACT AWARDS UPDATE

County Council was presented two (2) tender awards and one (1) single source contract award for three project across the County. Council approved the following companies for these awards. All amounts listed below are exclusive of H.S.T.

- Hornblower Earthboring Inc. - Culvert Rehabilitations on various roads at a total price of \$1,115,300.00 inclusive of a \$50,000 contingency allowance.
- Weathertech Restoration Services Inc. - Bridge and Culvert Repairs on seventeen (17) structures at a total price of \$1,604,951.50 inclusive of a \$250,000 contingency allowance.
- D&D Trucking and Construction Service Inc. was selected to complete Granular Road Shouldering on various roads at a total price of \$502,500.00.
- Guild Electric Limited - Installation of Wavetronix Radar Intersection Detection Systems and Universal Power Supply Systems at seven (7) traffic signal-controlled intersections

ELGIN COUNTY PLANNING UPDATES

The General Manager of Engineering, Planning & Enterprise/Deputy CAO, Brian Lima, presented County Council with two (2) planning updates. The first was a creation of a No Stopping Zone on Belmont Road in Central Elgin due to receiving numerous concerns from members of the public. Council approved this to ensure sight lines are available to perform safe vehicular turning movements on Belmont Road and Borden Avenue.

The second update also pertains to the Municipality of Central Elgin and their amended Official Plan. The County of Elgin is the Approval Authority for all local Municipalities. At its April 25, 2023 meeting, County Council adopted Central Elgin's amended Official Plan.

For a copy of both of these reports, please access the April 25th agenda package.

For the complete April 25, 2023, County Council Agenda Package, please visit the Elgin County [website](#).