



Essex County Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 17, 2020

7:00 PM

<https://video.isilive.ca/countyofessex/live.html>

Council:

- Gary McNamara, Warden, Mayor, Town of Tecumseh
- Joe Bachetti, Deputy Mayor, Town of Tecumseh
- Tracey Bailey, Deputy Mayor, Town of Lakeshore
- Tom Bain, Mayor, Town of Lakeshore
- Marc Bondy, Mayor, Town of LaSalle
- Aldo DiCarlo, Mayor, Town of Amherstburg
- Hilda MacDonald, Mayor, Municipality of Leamington
- Crystal Meloche, Deputy Mayor, Town of LaSalle
- Leo Meloche, Deputy Mayor, Town of Amherstburg
- Richard Meloche, Deputy Mayor, Town of Essex
- Nelson Santos, Deputy Warden, Mayor, Town of Kingsville
- Gord Queen, Deputy Mayor, Town of Kingsville
- Larry Snively, Mayor, Town of Essex
- Larry Verbeke, Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Leamington

Administration:

- Mary Birch, Director of Council & Community Services/Clerk
- Rob Maisonville, Chief Administrative Officer
- Jane Mustac, Director of Infrastructure Services/County Engineer
- Sandra Zwiers, Director of Financial Services/Treasurer
- Renée Trombley, Manager Communications and Organizational Development
- Katherine Hebert, Deputy Clerk
- Jeanie Diamond Francis, Community Services Coordinator
- Danielle Dunlop, Council and Community Services Administrative Assistant
- Rebecca Belanger, Manager of Planning Services

1. Closed Meeting

There was a Closed Meeting following the Regular Meeting scheduled for June 17, 2020.

2. Moment of Reflection

3. Singing of 'O Canada'

4. Recording of Attendance

Warden McNamara attended the meeting at the Council Chambers. All other members of Council participated in the meeting via video conferencing, from remote locations.

5. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There were no conflicts of pecuniary interest declared.

6. Adoption of Regular Meeting Minutes

June 3, 2020 - Essex County Council - Regular Meeting Minutes

114-2020

Moved By Tom Bain

Seconded By Aldo DiCarlo

That the minutes of the June 3, 2020 Regular Meeting of Essex County Council be adopted as presented.

Carried

7. County Warden's Welcome and Remarks

Warden McNamara welcomed the members of County Council, Administration and members of the public. He also welcomed the delegation who was present from Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT).

Warden McNamara delivered the following greetings:

I would like to begin by acknowledging the peaceful Black Lives Matter protests that have taken place in Windsor-Essex and around the world.

It was heartening to see so many people from so many different walks of life committed to listening and learning and working to eradicate anti-black racism in Canada.

The County of Essex believes that Black Lives Matter and acknowledges that systemic racism exists in this country.

We live in an inclusive, tolerant and prosperous part of the world and we are enriched by the multitude of cultures who call Windsor-Essex home.

But anti-black racism exists here just as it does across the province and country. We must all work together to address it, as individuals and institutions.

Our senior management team is currently having discussions about re-examining work practices for greater inclusion, such as staff hiring, retention and promotion of people of colour.

We also want to work with employees so they are better equipped, through training and engagement programs, to recognize any personal or systemic biases. This work will continue.

The County of Essex is committed to listening, learning and working with the black community and our local municipalities to address systemic anti-black racism.

We believe in a tolerant, inclusive society open and equitable to all and we will work together to make it a reality.

I would like to conclude my remarks this evening by thanking the residents of Essex County for their patience and continued vigilance in the battle against COVID-19.

I know it has not been easy and I know it is frustrating to watch as other communities reopen before we do.

I am confident we will soon move to Stage 2 because of the incredible turnout at our community COVID-19 testing facilities and because the province is moving to address the outbreaks that are affecting agricultural workers.

Of the nearly 5,000 people who were tested in our community clinics, only eight tested positive for COVID-19. Eight.

That number was so low because Windsor-Essex residents have diligently followed health guidelines and physical distancing protocols, including the wearing of masks in crowded public spaces.

We need to keep following those protocols to ensure the smooth and expeditious reopening of our economy and to keep ourselves and each other safe.

8. Delegations and Presentations

115-2020

Moved By Larry Verbeke

Seconded By Tracey Bailey

That Mr. Field be permitted to speak to Essex County Council regarding SWIFT.

Carried

8.1 South Western Integrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT)

Barry Field, Executive Director, SWIFT to provide County Council with an update on The SWIFT Project.

SWIFT

Barry Field, Executive Director, SWIFT to provide County Council with an update on The SWIFT Project.

Also see items 9.1.19 and 11.3.

Barry Field, Executive Director for SWIFT, discussed the recent announcement regarding the minimum \$12.8 million commitment to broadband for Essex County. It was reported that there were just over 500,000 under-served residents in the community and that the \$12.8 million represented 8% of the funds required and would service 24% of the population.

Mr. Field provided some background information for Council regarding SWIFT and the progress made in advancing connectivity though high-speed internet in other parts of Ontario. Mr. Field noted that funding was apportioned three ways, with 1/3 from Federal, 1/3 from Provincial and 1/3 from Private Sector sources. He explained that there were 41 Vendors of Record (VOR) to date across Ontario and that SWIFT would fund any technology that provided a 50/10 target, with preference given to scaleable technologies. He noted that all proposal evaluations and awards would be approved by the Project Committee, with evaluations being completed in approximately 6-weeks time, and successful bidders being announced in late fall. Mr. Field explained that 2023 was the funding deadline, therefore, the majority of the construction would take place in 2021 and 2022.

Richard Meloche expressed concern for areas that were marked on the map as having as sufficient internet access, but currently have poor connectivity.

Mr. Field advised that the numbers come from ISP self-reporting and any disagreements should be identified through the website (feedback forms) and would be investigated accordingly with all conflicting information investigated to determine if there was 50/10 connectivity in that location.

Mr. Field further noted that radio wave technology would also be accepted if it provided 50/10 service level and that there would be an extremely high standard for all proposals with levels of service being highly scrutinized.

Aldo DiCarlo inquired about Amherstburg being excluded from consideration, based on the map provided.

Mr. Field confirmed that the areas highlighted in blue on the presentation map were not included as they were already serviced. He also clarified that the installations would install the infrastructure up to the property line of each property within a designated area, with connection to residences and businesses being the cost of the owners.

116-2020

Moved By Joe Bachetti

Seconded By Marc Bondy

THAT Essex County Council receive the report as presented.

Carried

9. Communications

9.1 Correspondence

117-2020

Moved By Nelson Santos

Seconded By Leo Meloche

That the correspondence listed on the regular agenda for June 17, 2020, be received and any noted action approved.

Carried

9.1.1 Letters from Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing - Office of the Minister, The Honourable Steve Clark and Western Ontario Wardens Caucus (WOWC)

Call for Federal Action to Provide Immediate Funding for Reliable Broadband Access Across Ontario

Warden McNamara advised that the Western Ontario Warden's Caucus (WOWC) was seeking funding to continue implementing more highspeed broadband in the region. The Warden encouraged every Upper Tier and Lower Tier municipality within WOWC to reach out to the CRTC, and a

recommendation was moved to provide a letter of support on behalf of Council.

117-2020

Moved By Tracey Bailey

Seconded By Aldo DiCarlo

That a letter of support be prepared on behalf of Council, calling for Federal Action to Provide Immediate Funding for Reliable Broadband Access Across Ontario

Carried

9.1.2 Pathway to Potential

June 2020 Newsletter - Information Sharing

Newsletter - Information Sharing

9.1.3 Windsor Essex Economic Development Corporation (WEEDC)

June 3, 2020 - WE Can't Wait - Windsor Essex Can't Wait for a New Hospital Says Economic Development Agency as it Launches New Digital Campaign.

Windsor Essex Can't Wait for a New Hospital Says Economic Development Agency as it Launches New Digital Campaign.

9.1.4 Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce

June 9, 2020 - Member Information Update and Windsor-Essex Chamber & TWEPI Launch of #ShopYQG

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9.1.5 Provincially Significant Wetlands - Support for Resolution

Northumberland County

9.1.6 Support for Conservation Authorities - Resolution

Township of Puslinch

9.1.7 Farm Property Class Tax Rate Program - Resolution

Township of Puslinch

9.1.8 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) - Communication

June 1, 2020 - AMO COVID-19 Update – Federal Gas Tax Funding Accelerated, Pandemic Pay, ESA Changes, Additional Re-openings

AMO COVID-19 Update – Federal Gas Tax Funding Accelerated, Pandemic Pay, ESA Changes, Additional Re-openings

9.1.9 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) - Communication

June 3, 2020 - AMO COVID-19 Update – Broadband Funding Announcement, Emergency Extended, and Pandemic Pay Webinar

AMO COVID-19 Update – Broadband Funding Announcement, Emergency Extended, and Pandemic Pay Webinar

9.1.10 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) - Communication

June 3, 2020 - AMO Board of Directors Composition

AMO Board of Directors Composition

9.1.11 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) - News

June 4, 2020 - AMO Watchfile

AMO Watchfile

9.1.12 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) - Conference

June 5, 2020 - Request for AMO Conference Delegation Meetings Now Open!

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Please be advised that the Municipal Delegation Request Form for the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) 2020 Annual Conference is available online. The deadline to submit requests is Friday June 26, 2020.

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9.1.13 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) - Update

June 8, 2020 - COVID-19 Update - Regional Approach to Stage 2, Emergency Orders Extended, and Short-Term Rentals

COVID-19 Update - Regional Approach to Stage 2, Emergency Orders Extended, and Short-Term Rentals

9.1.14 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) - Conference

June 10, 2020 - AMO 2020 Conference: Program Update
AMO 2020 Conference: Program Update

9.1.15 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) - News

June 11, 2020 - AMO Watchfile
AMO Watchfile

9.1.16 Robert Peterson Family

A note of thanks for the kindness shown during their time of loss. (Bob Peterson, former member of Essex County Council).

9.1.17 St. Clair College

Thank you from John Fairley, Executive Director, St. Clair College Foundation, for the support to the 2019-2020 St. Clair College Foundation Scholarship Program.

9.1.18 GHD - Highway 3 Widening and Safety Enhancements (Agenda Revision)

June 16, 2020 - Notice of Online Public Information Centre, Transportation Environmental Study Report Review - Highway 3 Widening and Safety Enhancements - east of CR 23 easterly to east of CR 34.

9.1.19 Rick Nicholls, MPP (Agenda Revision)

June 17, 2020 - Media Release "Delivering High Speed Internet to More People in Southwestern Ontario - Expanding Broadband Access in Essex County".

9.2 Resolutions

9.2.1 Town of Essex (Agenda Revision)

June 17, 2020 - Correspondence from the Town of Essex seeking support for their resolution regarding the " Spread of COVID-19 in our Farm Worker Population".

Richard Meloche advised that the Council of the Town of Essex were seeking support for their resolution which requested help from the government in coordinating a plan of action with regard to testing and high case counts with agri-food workers.

Discussion took place regarding misinformation and also the need for support for the WECHU leadership and collaboration with stakeholders and other levels of government as decisions and action plans unfold.

Moved By Richard Meloche
Seconded By Larry Snively

That Essex County Council support the resolution from the Town of Essex.

Lost

10. Consent Agenda

There were no items for the Consent Agenda for June 17, 2020.

11. Reports and Questions

11.1 Planning Services Department Update

Report Number 2020-0617-PS-R01-RB, dated June 17, 2020, from Rebecca Belanger, Manager of Planning Services.

Rebecca Belanger, Manager of Planning Services, delivered an update from the Planning Services Department. She noted that COVID-10 had delayed planning applications, but there had been amended directives for processing applications and that they were to move forward with application review as of June 22, 2020. She advised that the Planning Department was busy with the review of

development applications and continued to be very busy with subdivision and condominium applications which were being submitted at a high rate. She further advised that, the department had been working closely with the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA), developing plans and reviewing policy as the flood plain mapping review was underway.

Nelson Santos inquired about the status of the regional flood hazard/vulnerability plan.

Ms. Belanger advised that the plan development was on schedule and an update for Essex County Council was forthcoming.

118-2020

Moved By Gord Queen

Seconded By Marc Bondy

That County Council receive Report #2020-0617-PS-R01-RB from the Manager of Planning Services, with regard to ongoing activities of the Planning Services Department.

Carried

11.2 Tender Summary - Construction of Roundabout Walker Rd. and South Talbot Road

Report Number 2020-0617-ISD-R020-JM, dated June 17, 2020, from Jane Mustac, Director of Infrastructure Services/County Engineer.

Jane Mustac presented information about the tender process for the roundabout construction on County Road 11 (Walker Road and South Talbot intersection). She explained that existing traffic lights were installed in 2011 to address the growing demand for controlled traffic in the area. She further explained that studies had shown that roundabouts provide fewer conflict points and reduced operating speeds and traffic delays, which improved the flow of traffic. She noted that the roundabout had been designed to account for wider truck traffic.

119-2020

Moved By Larry Snively

Seconded By Joe Bachetti

1. That the tender for Project #717-2020, being the Roundabout Construction – County Road 11 / South Talbot Road, be awarded

to J&J Lepera Infrastructure, for a total tender amount of \$2,489,000.00 Plus H.S.T.

2. That the Contract Administration and onsite inspection for Project #717-2020, being the Roundabout Construction – County Road 11 / South Talbot Road, be awarded to CIMA Canada Inc. in the amount of \$149,025.00 plus H.S.T.

Carried

11.3 Funding Request for Broadband Infrastructure in Southwestern Ontario

Report Number 2020-0617-ADM-R09-RM, dated June 17, 2020, from Robert Maisonville, Chief Administrative Officer.

Rob Maisonville presented the funding request for Broadband Infrastructure in Southwestern Ontario. He advised that the intent of the campaign was for Southwestern Ontario to obtain their fair share of the funding. He explained that the SWIFT 2.0 report outlined a plan for how to proceed in pursuing funding options. He noted that funding in the amount of \$250 million was expected for Southwestern Ontario and advised that Internet Service Providers (ISP's) had to initiate the application. He advised that municipalities should contact their ISP's to find out if they were applying since it was an application-based program and the ISP would receive the funds provided their application was approved.

Warden McNamara expressed the critical need for Southwestern Ontario to be given their fair share of available funding to enable the eventual goal of having fibre internet access available for every property in the region.

120-2020

Moved By Gord Queen

Seconded By Tom Bain

That this report be received for information; and

THAT consideration be given for the County of Essex to sign the letters requesting funding from the CRTC and ISED Broadband Programs.

Carried

11.4 2020/2021 Insurance Renewal Report (Agenda Revision)

Verbal Report from CAO, Robert Maisonville.

The previously indicated report from Sandra Zwiers is currently unavailable pending additional information from AON.

Robert Maisonville, CAO, provided a verbal update on the insurance renewal and advised that coverage renewal information was being impacted by the need for a new general liability insurance provider.

Mr. Maisonville requested that authority be delegated to the CAO to approve the insurance renewal, once a proposal was available, with an understanding that a formal report would be provided to Council at a later date.

121-2020

Moved By Marc Bondy

Seconded By Gord Queen

That County Council delegate authority to the CAO to approve, prior to the June 30, 2020 expiration date, the County of Essex Comprehensive Insurance Program for the period June 30, 2020 to June 30, 2021;

And further that Administration provide County Council with a formal report regarding the approved Comprehensive Insurance Program at July 15, 2020 regular meeting of County Council.

Carried

12. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business for June 17, 2020.

13. New Business

Warden McNamara further extended warmest greetings and best wishes to **Kenneth and Ina Newman** (parents of Dan Newman, Manager of Maintenance Operations for the County of Essex). He announced that Mr. and Mrs. Newman would be celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary on June 23, 2020. On behalf of all Council, the County of Essex, Administration and Citizens, he wished them many more years of happiness and good health.

13.1 County Road 34 Bridge

Larry Verbeke inquired about the status of the bridge repair on County Road 34 (east of Leamington).

Jane Mustac advised that the bridgework was moving along, with the exception of the ERCA requirements to make adjustments to maintain flow. She further advised of a temporary delay impacting the project, created by birds nesting in the work area. She explained that the Ministry of Natural Resources had advised that work was not be able to commence until the birds leave the area.

13.2 Support for Municipalities During Pandemic

Marc Bondy reconfirmed the support for Leamington and Kingsville from all municipalities and echoed the mantra that 'we are in this together'.

14. Adoption of By-Laws

122-2020

Moved By Tom Bain

Seconded By Leo Meloche

That By-law 2020-27, having been read a first, second and third time, be finally passed and enacted.

Carried

14.1 By-law Number 2020-27

Being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Essex. (June 17, 2020)

15. Notice of Motion

There were no notices of motion for June 17, 2020.

16. Adjournment

That the Essex County Council meeting for June 17, 2020 be adjourned at 9:20 PM.

126-2020

Moved By Gord Queen

Seconded By Marc Bondy

That the Essex County Council meeting for June 17, 2020 be adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Carried

Gary McNamara

Warden - County of Essex

Mary Birch

Director of Council and Community Services/Clerk