

County Council Summary

January 26th, 2022

Below you will find highlights of the County of Renfrew County Council meeting from January 26th, 2022.

Please note that this summary does not constitute the official record of the meeting and approved minutes should be consulted for that purpose.

The full agenda can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3fQk9WE>

Meeting YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/7d4hAQS8uks>

Warden's Address

Watch the Warden's Address



<https://youtu.be/7d4hAQS8uks?t=813>

here:

Key highlights

During the month of January, Warden Robinson attended 26 meetings regarding County business, including but not limited to:

- On January 5th and 6th, Warden Robinson attended the Inaugural Meeting of the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus where she was acclaimed as Chair for 2022.
- On January 7th, a special meeting of County Council was held where Warden Robinson announced that the 2022 Ontario Winter Games would be postponed until 2023
- On January 17th, County Council approved the budget for 2022, which only a modest increase of 1.6%
- On January 23rd, Warden Robinson attended the virtual Rural Housing Affordability Roundtable with Premier Doug Ford and MMASH Minister Steve Clark along with members of AMO and ROMA.
- On January 23rd – 25th, Warden Robinson attended the virtual Rural Ontario Municipal Association conference, where the County of Renfrew participated in four delegations:
 - Councillor James Brose and Director of Development & Property Craig Kelley and Director of Community Services Laura LePine presented to the Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, to discuss working with the province to find more innovative and efficient ways of addressing the critical shortage of attainable and affordable housing in rural Ontario;
 - Councillor Tom Peckett along with the Director of Public Works and Engineering Department Lee Perkins, presented to Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure, to ask the Province to expand the eligibility criteria and access to the Provincial Gas Tax Fund; providing greater flexibility in the guidelines for the ICIP Program; and continue to increase funding under the Ontario Community infrastructure Fund (OCIF) and improving this fund by removing restrictions that limits funding to only core infrastructure;
 - Councillor Bob Sweet and Manager of Forestry and GIS Jason Davis met with the Honourable Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation, to request that the Province consider future county funding applications for the completion of the Ottawa Valley Recreational Trail as a multi-use, active transportation trail;

- Councilors Michael Donohue and Jennifer Murphy, along with Director of Corporate Services, Jeff Foss, met with the Honourable Christine Elliott, Minister of Health, to discuss the municipal role in public health and its funding.
- Warden Robinson is continuing to work with MPP John Yakabuski to get RC VTAC back in front of Minister Elliott in the month of February.
 - This is of crucial importance to our residents and our commitment to obtaining annual funding remains steadfast.
- On behalf of Council, Warden Robinson would like to express sincere condolences to Councilor Debbie Grills, Mayor of Head Clara and Maria, on the passing of her husband Bob on New Year's Day. I also wish to express our condolences to former Bonnechere Valley Mayor and County Councilor, Zig Mintha, on the passing of his wife Shirley.

Delegations

- A presentation was received by Mr. Joe McBrearty, President and Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Nuclear Laboratories Chalk River, to provide an update on Advanced Nuclear Materials and Research Centre and Health Research
- A presentation was received by Ms. Susan Chase, Specialist in Digital, IT Strategy, Smart City and Innovation, Perry Group Consulting Ltd. to overview the Digital Strategy Discovery Review prepared for the County of Renfrew.

COVID-19 Update

- With the rise in the Omicron variant and renewed restrictions from the Province of Ontario, the County of Renfrew has had to take a step back from in-person meetings for the months of January and February for everyone's safety.
 - Committees and County Council will continue to meet virtually.
 - Continuing to staff our facilities and provide services to our community will be our top priority in the weeks and months ahead.
 - All departments and divisions are working remotely when possible, limiting face-to-face interactions and continuing to adhere to all PPE and hand hygiene guidelines in the workplace.
 - For further details regarding each department/division, please reference Item #5 in the Administration and Finance Committee section of the [report](#).

Finance & Administration Committee

Presented by: Jennifer Murphy, Chair

- Municipal elections will be held on October 24, 2022 and the new Council takes office on November 15, 2022.
 - Local municipalities can hold their inaugural meeting anytime after November 15, but would have to revise their Procedural By-law to affect a change.

- The Inaugural meeting of County Council will be scheduled after the local municipalities advise when their inaugural meeting will be held to swear in their Councillors.
- MIS Municipal Insurance Services advising that our annual renewal premium for the County of Renfrew for 2022 is \$703,467, which is an increase of 11% or \$70,908 more than 2021
 - The driving factors behind our premium increases are a 10% increase in our liability rates, 4% increase in auto rates and a 12% increase in property insurance rates. Cyber insurance has also increased significantly over the past year due to the increase in the number and size of claims therefore, our premium is up 45% or \$12,800 over 2021.
- A resolution was passed approving the 2022 membership fee to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) in the amount of \$9,564.56 including HST.
- A resolution was passed approving the 2022 membership fee to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) in the amount of \$21,521.42 including HST.
- A resolution was passed approving that County Council support the seven recommendations contained within the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) submission.
 - AMO is asking municipal councils to lend their support to the seven recommendations contained within the AMO submission from October 2019 entitled “Towards a Reasonable Balance: Addressing growing municipal liability and insurance costs”

Community Services Committee

Presented by: James Brose, Chair

- Since the termination of the federal financial benefits on October 23, 2021, there has been a province-wide surge in social assistance applications.
 - The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) has been in the process of transitioning new Ontario Works applications to a centralized intake process; however, due to the high volume they have had to divert a significant number of applications back to municipal offices to ensure that financial supports are delivered in a timely manner.

Development & Property Committee

Presented by: Robert Sweet, Chair

- As referenced in the Strategic Review of Planning Services, and as proposed to County Council in 2021, the Planning Division increased with the addition of a Junior Planner.
 - Laura Jamieson is the successful applicant and started her employment with the County on January 4th. Laura has already started working on general inquiry responses and the comprehensive zoning by-law update projects.
- In the Real Estate Division, Erica Etmanskie joins our team effective January 31, 2022, filling the vacant position of Supervisor of Technical Services.
 - Erica comes to us with experience in project management, real estate, contract preparation and knowledge of Municipal and Provincial regulations. We look forward to working with Erica as we proceed with multiple new projects, including the new Renfrew County Housing Corporation units in Pembroke.
- For the period January – December 2021, the County of Renfrew opened 200 severance applications compared to 106 applications in 2020.
 - In total 783 new lots received draft or final approval compared to 391 in 2020.

- Two new subdivision applications have been received that propose to create an additional 322 lots.
- A total of 254 formal requests for general inquiries (planning checklists) were received and staff responded to 229 other inquiries.
- Special projects completed include Official Plan Amendment 31, Town of Petawawa Zoning By-law update, and the Cannabis Study.
- Harvest Timber Sales for 2022 were advertised and opened on December 2, 2021.
 - The total estimated revenue based on volume estimates included in the tender for 2022 is \$306,419.80 (Actual revenue is calculated based on weighed actual volume harvested).
 - DPF 05-22 (Ruby Tract) was not awarded because the bid received was significantly below market value according to prices received for similar forest types on Renfrew County Forests over the last five years.
- Nine municipalities have requested that the County prepare the update to their local comprehensive zoning by-laws. Staff have already started working with the first cohort to update the by-laws.
- A resolution was passed authorizing the Warden to send a formal letter of support for the Pembroke and Area Airport and the Arnprior Airport.
 - This topic was debated by Council members and impacts on economic development for the County were discussed.
- A resolution was passed approving the membership of the County of Renfrew in the Canadian Association of Nuclear Host Communities (CANHC).
 - The association represents the interests of nuclear host communities in interactions with upper tier governments and with the owners and operators of nuclear facilities and the broader nuclear industry. The CANHC unites the voices of municipalities and is the national representative of the wishes and interests of municipalities in this very mature, complex, expanding and diversifying scientific and business sector.
- A by-law was passed authorizing the County of Renfrew to enter into a Contribution Agreement with the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation for their review as a condition of the successful Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) grant for the rehabilitation of the Algonquin Trail.

Health Committee

Presented by: Michael Donohue, Chair

- Paramedic Services is facing staffing challenges at a time when our Service is most urgently needed. To assist with a solution;
 - We have developed an alternative care path for the diversion of non-acute patients from emergency rooms to be cared for in their own homes. The patient would be cared for by Community Paramedics whenever possible, acting as an extension to primary care. Paramedics can identify and bridge gaps in the healthcare system to be accessible, proactive, and responsive to community needs.
 - For paramedics in Eastern Ontario, the Regional Paramedic Program of Eastern Ontario (RPPEO)'s Medical Director, associate medical directors and base hospital physicians provide medical oversight. Working with the RPPEO and Paramedic partners, we will develop a plan

- to develop safe, alternative pathways to care, including in person or virtual wellness checks and the RCVTAC with primary care physicians able to advise Paramedics.
- Paramedic Services saw unprecedented demand for COVID-19 testing throughout the month of December.
 - In response to community demand the schedule was amended to create more capacity for testing. The provincial revisions to testing eligibility in late December has subsequently decreased demand.
 - Resources will be realigned to provide the optimal level of service where and when it is required.
 - All partners collaborated to increase capacity for delivery of vaccines.
 - Vaccines are currently being delivered to the in-home vulnerable population.
 - The Vaccine Team will continue to assist with pediatric and adult mass clinics and are preparing for fourth doses for long-term care.
 - A rotating roster of Paramedics have been working in the Arnprior Regional Health Emergency Department since late December. The program has been well received by both Paramedics who are happy to provide support to a partner agency and emergency staff, for assistance to relieve emergency department pressures during surge periods.
 - A Service Agreement between Arnprior Regional Health and the County of Renfrew Paramedic Service has been signed.
 - We are pleased to report that Chief Michael Nolan has been awarded the Colleges Ontario Premier's Award on behalf of Algonquin College.
 - The Premier's Award was presented to Chief Nolan on November 18th during a virtual ceremony to recognize the outstanding contributions made by Ontario college graduates who are working to make important social and economic contributions to Ontario and abroad.
 - Effective January 28, 2022, third dose boosters will be mandatory for all staff, volunteers, students, and essential caregivers (ECGs) at our two long-term care homes.
 - Residents will be offered a fourth dose booster of vaccine in the upcoming weeks upon reaching three months post third dose date. Consent collections are well underway.
 - A by-law was passed to enter into agreements with MediSystem Pharmacy for the provision of Pharmacy Services to Bonnechere Manor and Miramichi Lodge for the period of April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2027.
 - We would like to thank Aikenhead's PharmaChoice Pharmacy for their service to Bonnechere Manor, which is scheduled to end March 31, 2022.
 - The new Pharmacy Services Agreements individually for each County of Renfrew Long-Term Care Home: Bonnechere Manor and MediSystem Pharmacy; Miramichi Lodge and MediSystem Pharmacy; would be for the term commencing April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2027.

Operations Committee

Presented by: Tom Peckett, Chair

- WSP Canada is undertaking the design for rehabilitation of B022 (Indian River Bridge). The investigations and preliminary design for the bridge have been completed. The Preliminary Design Report has recommended closure of the bridge for the duration of construction for the rehabilitation project.

- Based on the overall project benefits, staff have directed WSP Canada to proceed with detailed design under a road closed scenario.
- Rehabilitation in the form of superstructure replacement is proceeding for B057 (Mount St. Patrick Bridge).
 - A Cultural Heritage Assessment has been completed for the bridge which has identified that the bridge does have heritage significance to the cultural heritage landscape of Mount St. Patrick. As such, the replaced superstructure will have similar looks and dimensions to the existing bridge while still meeting modern code requirements.
 - HP Engineering, the Design Consultant for the bridge, has been directed by staff to continue with detailed design under these requirements.
- A resolution was passed recommending that \$250,000 be allocated to the Winter Control Reserve.
- A resolution was passed to direct staff to facilitate a delegation of a consultant to attend the March meeting of County Council to provide an overview on development charges for the County of Renfrew.
- A by-law was passed to amend By-law 142-21 to include the acquisition of Part 10 on Plan 49R-19917 from Krzys Chmiel and Lina Farias in the amount of \$976.08
 - By-law 142-21 was passed at the November 8, 2021 meeting of Council. Staff were made aware that Part 10 of 49R-19917 was inadvertently omitted from the By-law for the purchase and dedication as part of public highway.

Additional Information

Paul Moreau, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk

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