

**TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH-WEST OXFORD
COUNCIL MINUTES
(Web Conference/YouTube Live)
June 16, 2020**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor: David Mayberry
Councillors: Paul Buchner (Ward 1), Peter Ypma (Ward 2), Valerie Durston (Ward 3), George Way (Ward 4), Jim Pickard (Ward 5), Craig Gillis (Ward 6)

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Mary Ellen Greb, Chief Administrative Officer
Diane Larder, Treasurer
Julie Forth, Clerk
Jeff VanRybroeck, Fire Chief
Howard Leaver, Chief Building Official
Adam Prouse, Works Superintendent

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor David Mayberry and a quorum was present.

MOTION TO ACCEPT AGENDA

Resolution No. 1 Moved by Craig Gillis
Seconded by Paul Buchner

RESOLVED that the regular meeting agenda for the June 16th, 2020 meeting of council be approved.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

MINUTES

June 2nd, 2020 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Resolution No. 2 Moved by Jim Pickard
Seconded by Peter Ypma

RESOLVED that the regular minutes of the June 2nd, 2020 Council meeting be approved, as amended.

CAO 10-2020: Proposed Boundary Adjustment - Agricultural Land

Chief Administrative Officer Mary Ellen Greb provided Council with a report to seek their direction on how to proceed with the proposed Ingersoll/SWOX Boundary Adjustment. She commented on the proposed agreement which includes a phase in of property taxes for commercial and industrial taxes over five years and ten years for residential and agricultural properties. She advised that the Joint Boundary Adjustment Committee met this week to discuss a proposed tax freeze for agricultural properties; however, this was not supported by Ingersoll representatives.

CAO Greb provided a summary for Council on the impacts of the proposed boundary adjustment property tax phase it for residents within the adjustment area. She also commented that rather than a tax freeze or grandfathering clause, Council may give consideration to provide residents with a tax rebate. This would be an agreement outside of the proposed boundary adjustment agreement and would be between the property owners and the Township. She cautioned Council on this, as property owners of residential, commercial and industrial land may request a similar arrangement.

Each member of Council had an opportunity to provide their comments on the proposed boundary adjustment. Overall Council agreed that members within the proposed adjustment area have been kept informed of the negotiations over the last five years and Council has listened to their concerns. Councillor Way commented on the negotiations to date and noted that property owners may continue to farm for as long as they choose to. Eventually as the urban area grows the land will be developed. Councillor Gillis commented that he thinks the boundary adjustment committee has worked hard to get an agreement that is in the best interest of the Township and residents.

Mayor Mayberry commented that he appreciates the CAO bringing forward the report for Council's consideration and noted that this indicates that the Township was willing to give this some further thought. He noted that historically urban growth occurs in agricultural areas and the land is immediately adjacent to an urban area. Mayor Mayberry also commented that negotiations with the Town of Ingersoll have been civil and respectful and he has appreciated that.

Resolution No. 5 Moved by Jim Pickard
 Seconded by Paul Buchner

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council
receive Report CAO 10-2020 as information;

AND FURTHER THAT Council provide direction to
staff to proceed with preparing the draft boundary

adjustment agreement with the Town of Ingersoll in keeping with the proposed agreement made in principle in November, 2019.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

Correspondence from the Oxford County Federation of Agriculture - Ingersoll/SWOX Boundary Adjustment - June 12th, 2020

Provided and received for information.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Declaration: SWOX Zero Waste Facilities

Councillor Jim Pickard commented on the Environment and Energy Innovation Committee's recommendation to move forward with a transition to zero waste Township facilities. The committee proposed that the transition be in effect as of April 22nd, 2021, and confirmed that a sub committee will be established to provide guidance and direction on the transition. Councillor Pickard commented that the Committee thinks that this is the right thing to do to reduce to the amount of waste that goes into the landfill and to show leadership within the committee and other communities.

Resolution No. 6 Moved by Jim Pickard
 Seconded by George Way

WHEREAS as stated in the Oxford County Zero Waste Plan and according to a 2006 Natural Resources report, "every year approximately \$1 billion worth of recoverable materials are lost to landfills across Canada." In addition to resource and energy losses, significant benefits to Oxford's environment and economy can be found through better management of resources;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Township of South-West Oxford supported a recommendation from the Township's Environment and Energy Innovation Committee to transition all Township facilities to zero waste by April, 2021;

AND WHEREAS Council approved the establishment of the SWOX Zero Waste Committee to review and provide advice and recommendations to Council, staff,

hall and park committees, user groups and residents on the Township's transition to zero waste facilities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Township of South-West Oxford declare its commitment to transition to zero waste by April 22nd, 2021.

Discussion on the motion:

It was discussed that membership of the SWOX Zero Waste Committee is in the process of being confirmed. Staff is looking for recommendations for a member to represent the Township hall and parks committee and a Township user group.

The Committee will also provide advice and make recommendation on items to be considered through the annual budget process should facility improvements or specific equipment be required.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

County Council Resolution re: Oxford County Service Delivery Review

Mayor Mayberry explained that this has been provided to Council for information. The Oxford County CAOs are continuing to have discussions about the recommendations included in the service delivery review report.

SWIFT 2.0 Recommendations

Resolution No. 7 Moved by Craig Gillis
 Seconded by Paul Buchner

RESOLVED that the Council of the Township of the South-West Oxford provide direction to staff to send a letter to the County of Oxford in support of the County advocating for the region's fair share of CRTCs \$750M Broadband Fund and the region's fair share of Innovation, Science and Economic Development \$1.7B Universal Broadband Fund.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

SWIFT Update

Mayor Mayberry provided an update for Council on the request from the Western Wardens for funding from the Federal and Provincial levels of government for high speed internet. This will also require a commitment from the local level of 2% from the levy each year over the next two years. He advised that Oxford County RFP is out right now which will cost approximately \$8 million, with another \$5 million to be funded by the lower tier municipalities and the County. This is approximately 10% of the cost to have fibre throughout the County. There should be a response to the RFP by the end of July/early August to see what the providers will bid on.

In response to an inquiry from Councillor Ypma, Mayor Mayberry explained that the first round of funding from SWIFT will be based on bandwidth that can be provided. The minimum standard that has been established by the Federal Government, which they will fund, is 50 mbps download and 10 mbps upload. The second round of SWIFT funding will likely focus on the number of residents per km.

Consideration of shovel ready projects for possible funding opportunities (follow up from the June 2nd Council Meeting)

Council and staff provided comments on possible shovel ready projects, should funding become available including the following:

- Dodge Line;
- Another 7.5 km of Township roads have been rebuilt and are ready for asphalt;
- Bridge study;
- Keswick Road paving (Dereham to Plank Line)
- Prouse Road;
- Possible to rebuild some roads depending on the modeling for available funding;
- Build to full load road requirements (Salford Road/Clarke Road).

Date for the SWOX Housing Opportunities Committee Meeting (after June 24th)

Date has been set for Friday, June 26th 2020 @ 1:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

PLANNING & ZONING

RESOLVED that Hilltop Park Committee Minutes of the March 10th, 2020 meeting be received for information.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

STRATEGIC PLANNING

NEW BUSINESS

CLOSED SESSION - NONE

COUNCIL ROUND TABLE

Council members shared updates from their respective wards and community involvement. There is a meeting scheduled with the Tillsonburg Airport coming up on Thursday – Mayor Mayberry requested an update on the airport’s business plan. Councillor Pickard encouraged members of Council to sign up for the ROEDC’s newsletter. The Sweaburg Annual General Meeting is scheduled on Thursday this week. Councillor Way advised that the museum is planning to replace some memorial trees that have died this summer. Councillor Ypma provided an update from the Long Point Region Conservation Authority Board meeting – he advised that the Lake Erie water level is the highest on record. Councillor Buchner added that the Catfish Creek Conservation lands have experience similar problems regarding flooding this year. Councillor Gillis commented that there are a lot of people using the Thames River Trail - it is in good shape this year. He is also continuing discussions with residents regarding speeding in Beachville. Mayor Mayberry advised that he visited a couple of residents in Beachville within the last week to observe the traffic in the community. Township staff is continuing to participate regularly in Southwestern Public Health conference calls; the Community Control Group and the COVID Recovery Committee continue to meet weekly.

CONFIRMATORY BY-LAW

- By-Law No. 37-2020 - To confirm all actions and proceedings of Council (June 16th, 2020)

Resolution No. 15 Moved by Paul Buchner
 Seconded by George Way

RESOLVED that By-law 37-2020 being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of Council held Tuesday, June 16th, 2020 be read a first, second and third time this 16th day of June, 2020.

