

**MINUTES
COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF HURON**

Virtual
November 25, 2020

The Council of the County of Huron met virtually on Wednesday, November 25, 2020. All members of Council were present. Councillor Bailey joined at 9:04 AM.

1. Warden Jim Ginn called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM.

2. Approval of Agenda:

Moved by: Councillor Finch and Seconded by: Councillor Harding

THAT:

The Council Day 2 agenda for November 25, 2020 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest:

There were no declarations stated.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

Moved by: Councillor McNeil and Seconded by: Councillor Dietrich

THAT:

The minutes of Council Day 1 meeting of November 4, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

5. Delegations/Petitions/Presentations: None.

6. Councillor's Issues:

Moved by: Councillor Finch and Seconded by: Councillor Watt

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron send correspondence to the provincial government requesting that local Public Health units be given the flexibility to determine the COVID-19 colour code category for their region.

DEFEATED

Moved by: Councillor Bailey and Seconded by: Councillor Watt

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron direct staff to prepare a report on the utilization of Huron County Economic Development funds to the Township of North Huron for the purpose of economic development staff person.

DEFEATED

Councillor MacLellan expressed concern regarding Illicit Cannabis Operations (Item 14.9 Correspondence from Norfolk County). Warden Ginn indicated that this issue will be discussed at an upcoming Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) meeting and that he will forward any information to Councillors. CAO Wark stated that discussion has occurred at the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus (WOWC) and that WOWC could take on an increasing advocacy position.

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Councillor McNeil congratulated Warden Ginn on his Homes for the Aged/Huronview Demonstration Farm presentation at the 2020 Virtual Municipal Agriculture, Economic Development and Planning Forum.

7. Consent Agenda – Items 7.1 through 7.8:

Moved by: Councillor Watt and Seconded by: Councillor Murdock

THAT:

Items 7.1 through 7.8 be approved with the actions as noted.

CARRIED

8. Social and Property Services:

8.1. Out of the Cold - Heart to Home (presented by Erin Schooley)

Moved by: Councillor Grace and Seconded by: Councillor Fergusson

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron receives the report by Erin Schooley, Homelessness Program Supervisor, dated November 25, 2020, titled Out of the Cold - Heart to Home, as presented for information.

CARRIED

8.2. 2020 Bad Debt Write-Off (presented by Christine Hoffman)

Moved by: Councillor Jewitt and Seconded by: Councillor Fisher

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron approves the report by Christine Hoffman, Housing Services Manager, dated November 25, 2020, titled 2020 Bad Debt Write-Off as presented for information;

AND FURTHER THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron approves the recommendation that the presented bad debts incurred by former tenants of the Huron County Housing Corporation be written off for the period of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

CARRIED

8.3 Residential Rent Freeze for 2021 (presented by Christine Hoffman)

Moved by: Councillor Finch and Seconded by: Councillor Fisher

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron receives the report by Christine Hoffman, Manager, Housing Services, dated November 25, 2020, titled Residential Rent Freeze for 2021, as presented for information.

CARRIED

9. Homes for the Aged:

9.1. 2020 CARF Accreditation Award – Homes for the Aged (presented by Connie Townsend)

Moved by: Councillor Heffer and Seconded by: Councillor Dietrich

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron receives the report by Connie Townsend, Director of Homes for the Aged, dated November 25, 2020, titled 2020 CARF Accreditation Award-Homes for the Aged, as presented for information.

CARRIED

- 9.2. Request for Sole Sourcing for Purchase of Resident Ceiling Lifts-Homes for the Aged (presented by Connie Townsend)

Moved by: Councillor Finch and Seconded by: Councillor Grace

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron receives the report by Connie Townsend, Director of Homes for the Aged and Angela Steadman, Administrator-Huronlea, dated November 25, 2020, titled 2020 Annual Report-Homes for the Aged, as presented for information.

CARRIED

10. Emergency Services:

- 10.1. Brussels Post Temporary Lease Agreement (presented by Jeff Horseman)

Emergency Medical Services Chief Jeff Horseman indicated that there was a typographical error in the agreement for the Brussels Post Temporary Lease Agreement – “Retroactive to October 2020” should read “October 1, 2021”.

Moved by: Councillor Klopp and Seconded by: Councillor MacLellan

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron receives the report by Jeff Horseman, Chief Emergency Services, dated November 25, 2020, titled Brussels Paramedic Post Temporary Lease Agreement, as presented for information;

AND FURTHER THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron agrees a temporary lease agreement proposed between the County of Huron and the Municipality of Huron East;

AND FURTHER THAT:

A by-law be drafted authorizing the Warden and Clerk to execute the lease agreement.

CARRIED

11. Public Works:

- 11.1. Traffic Calming (presented by Mike Hausser)

Moved by: Councillor Heffer and Seconded by: Councillor Bailey

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron receives the report by Mike Hausser, Manager of Public Works, dated November 25, 2020, titled Traffic Calming Initiatives, as presented for information.

CARRIED

12. Economic Development:

- 12.1. Economic Development Update - October 2020 (presented by Cody Joudry)

A staff report will be presented summarizing the 2020 Virtual Municipal Agriculture, Economic Development and Planning Forum. Warden Ginn congratulated the Economic Development staff on a job well done.

Moved by: Councillor MacLellan and Seconded by: Councillor McNeil

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron receives the report by Reanne Clark, Office Administrator, dated November 25, 2020, titled Economic Development Department October 2020 Update, as presented for information.

CARRIED

12.2. Market Housing Initiatives - Status Update (presented by Alexander Ripley)

Moved by: Councillor Fisher and Seconded by: Councillor Grace

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron receives the report by Alexander Ripley, Economic Development Officer, dated November 25, 2020, titled Market Housing Initiatives - Status Update, as presented for information.

CARRIED

12.3. A Fragile Recovery: Checking in on the Six Objectives (presented by Alexander Ripley)

Moved by: Councillor Dietrich and Seconded by: Councillor Murdock

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron receives the report by Alexander Ripley, Economic Development Officer, dated November 25, 2020, titled A Fragile Recovery: Checking in on the Six Objectives, as presented for information.

CARRIED

12.4. Economic Development Board Member Terms (presented by Cody Joudry)

Moved by: Councillor McNeil and Seconded by: Councillor Finch

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron receives the report by Cody Joudry, Director of Economic Development, dated November 25, 2020, titled Economic Development Board Member Terms, as presented for information;

AND FURTHER THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron approves the recommendation of the Huron County Economic Development Board to extend the terms of all non-elected official Board members by two years excluding Member Vanderloo;

AND FURTHER THAT:

These extended terms be added to the Striking Committee Appointment by-law on December 2, 2020.

CARRIED

13. Administration, Policies and Other Issues:

13.1. COVID-19 Financial Impact – Update (presented by Michael Blumhagen)

Moved by: Councillor Fergusson and Seconded by: Councillor Jewitt

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron receives the report by Michael Blumhagen, Treasurer and Director of Corporate Services, dated November 25, 2020, titled COVID-19 Financial Impact – Update, as presented for information.

CARRIED

13.2. Capital and Operating Projects – Deferral to 2021 (presented by Michael Blumhagen)

Moved by: Councillor Jewitt and Seconded by: Councillor Finch

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron receives the report by Michael Blumhagen, Treasurer and Director of Corporate Services, dated November 25, 2020, titled Capital and Operating Projects – Deferral to 2021, as presented for information;

AND FURTHER THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron approves the carryforward of the 2020 projects listed in Appendix A into the 2021 budget;

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AND FURTHER THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron approves transferring the 2020 Homes for the Aged surplus to the Homes for the Aged Reserve up to a maximum of \$201,480.

CARRIED

13.3. 2021 Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund Allocations (presented by Michael Blumhagen)

Moved by: Councillor Klopp and Seconded by: Councillor Fergusson

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron receives the report by Michael Blumhagen, Treasurer and Director of Corporate Services, dated November 25, 2020, titled 2021 Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund Allocations, as presented for information.

CARRIED

13.4. September 2020 Year-to-Date Financial Reporting (presented by Michael Blumhagen)

Moved by: Councillor Dietrich and Seconded by: Councillor Jewitt

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron receives the report by Michael Blumhagen, Treasurer and Director of Corporate Services, dated November 25, 2020, titled September 2020 Year-to-Date Financial Reporting, as presented for information.

CARRIED

13.5. 2021 Annual Accessibility Plan and 2021 Multi Year Plan Update (presented by Carol Leeming)

Moved by: Councillor Fisher and Seconded by: Councillor Finch

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron receives the report by Carol Leeming, Accessibility Coordinator dated November 25, 2020, titled 2021 Annual Accessibility Plan and 2021 Multi Year Accessibility Plan Update, as presented for information;

AND FURTHER THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron approves the 2021 Annual Accessibility Plan and 2021 Multi Year Plan Update for the County of Huron as required under the AODA;

AND FURTHER THAT:

A copy be posted on the Huron County website as directed in the Integrated Accessibility Standard under the AODA and forwarded to all municipalities in Huron County.

CARRIED

13.6. Updates to User Fees and Service Charges (presented by Susan Cronin)

Moved by: Councillor Finch and Seconded by: Councillor MacLellan

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron approves the report by Susan Cronin, County Clerk, dated November 25, 2020, titled Updates to User Fees and Service Charges;

AND FURTHER THAT:

A by-law be prepared with the proposed amendments for the December 16, 2020 regular meeting of County Council Day 2.

CARRIED

14. Correspondence:

Moved by: Councillor Harding and Seconded by: Councillor McNeil

THAT:

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The Council of the County of Huron supports the Township of Howick resolution (Item 14.17) regarding Amendments to the Tile Drain Loan Program.

CARRIED

Moved by: Councillor McNeil and Seconded by: Councillor Dietrich

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron supports the Huron Domestic Assault Review Team (Item 14.2) request to participate in recognizing the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, December 6, 2020.

CARRIED

Moved by: Councillor MacLellan and Seconded by: Councillor Grace

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron supports the County of Norfolk resolution (Item 14.9) regarding Illicit Cannabis Operations.

CARRIED

Moved by: Councillor Watt and Seconded by: Councillor Murdock

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron accepts correspondence not specifically dealt with, for information.

CARRIED

15. New/Unfinished Business:

In the interest of being accountable and transparent, where a member of Council or staff would like to present an item of business in this section, it is recommended that they contact the Chief Administrative Officer in advance so that the item can be placed on the published agenda.

CAO Wark thanked Warden Ginn for his strong leadership over the past four years.

Council recessed at 10:28 AM and resumed at 10:35 AM.

15.1. Homelessness Task Force Request for Support (presented by Meighan Wark)

Moved by: Councillor Finch and Seconded by: Councillor Bailey

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron endorse the following motion:

Whereas the County of Huron has established a Huron County Homelessness Task Force to address the rapidly increasing issue of homelessness in the County.

That the County of Huron, due to the substantial increase in chronic homelessness not only in Huron County but across Ontario and Canada, requests the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada to identify Homelessness a "Provincial" and "National Crisis" across the Province of Ontario and Canada.

AND FURTHER THAT the Province of Ontario and Government of Canada acknowledge that lack of resources to support addiction and mental health programs to be a leading cause of homelessness.

AND FURTHER THAT the County of Huron requests the Province of Ontario and Government of Canada to provide further financial support for housing and homelessness programs as well as increase funding to mental health and addiction services.

CARRIED

15.2. Councillor Request - Plan of Subdivision Public Meeting, Municipality of Bluewater (presented by Sandra Weber)

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A member of Council is required to attend a joint public meeting of the County of Huron and the Municipality of Bluewater for a Plan of Subdivision application. The subject lands currently contain a plan of subdivision registered in 1996. The purpose of this application is to create a new plan of subdivision with 10 lots and 7 blocks. The application proposes ten single detached units, three multiple attached dwellings with three units each and one multiple attached dwelling with four units for a total of 23 dwelling units, in addition to a block for a commercial winery. The public meeting for this application is scheduled for Monday, January 18th, 2021 at 6:30 PM. At this point, the meeting is proposed to be a virtual meeting but may be subject to change as per public health protocols; the date may change subject to local Council approving the draft 2021 meeting schedule.

Moved by: Councillor Klopp Seconded by: Councillor McNeil

THAT:

Councillor Ginn be appointed to represent County Council at the public meeting for Plan of Subdivision File 40T20004, Municipality of Bluewater.

CARRIED

15.3. Councillor Request - Plan of Subdivision Public Meeting, Town of Goderich (presented by Sandra Weber)

A member of Council is required to attend a joint public meeting of the County of Huron and the Town of Goderich for a Plan of Subdivision application. The application proposes five single detached units and six semi detached units on a total of eight infill lots. The public meeting for this application is scheduled for Monday, January 11th, 2021 at 4:30 pm. At this point, the meeting is proposed to be a virtual meeting but may be subject to change as per public health protocols; the date may change subject to local Council approving the draft 2021 meeting schedule.

Moved by: Councillor Fisher and Seconded by: Councillor McNeil

THAT:

Councillor MacLellan be appointed to represent County Council at the public meeting for Plan of Subdivision File 40T20005, Town of Goderich.

CARRIED

15.4. Extension of Draft Plan Approval – Plan of Subdivision File 40T1200001 Applicant: Jose Maria Fernando Medina (Jeff Medina) Lots 5 & 6, Concession 1, Wingham Ward, Township of North Huron (presented by Monica Walker-Bolton)

The applicant has requested a 1 year extension to Draft Plan of Subdivision approval. The approved draft plan is proposed in three Phases: Phase 1 includes approximately 250 units of residential development with low and medium densities; Phase 2 and 3 include lots and blocks of land for a potential of approximately 214 residential units. The Plan of Subdivision was given draft approval with conditions by the County of Huron on July 2, 2014. In 2017, A2A Development Inc. requested an extension of draft approval, which was granted by the County for a 2-year extension with the addition of a condition that Phase 1 of the subdivision be registered within the extension period. In June of 2019 a further extension was granted for a six month period. In January of 2020 a further extension of 1 year was granted. As this is a new applicant representing the 600+ owners since the last extension, he is requesting a further extension of the draft plan approval, which lapses January 2, 2021. The effect of extending draft plan approval would be to provide additional time for the applicant to satisfy all conditions, before the subsequent lapse date.

The Township of North Huron and the Planning Department recommend a 6 month extension to draft plan approval until July 2, 2021.

Moved by: Councillor Bailey and Seconded by: Councillor Watt

THAT:

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The Council of the County of Huron approves the recommendation of Monica Walker-Bolton, Planner, to extend draft plan approval of Plan of Subdivision File 40T1200001 for a period of 6 months until July 2, 2021;

AND FURTHER THAT:

The condition requiring Phase 1 of the Draft Plan to be registered by January 2, 2020 be extended for a period of 6 months until July 2, 2021, as a minor change to the condition;

AND FURTHER THAT:

The following condition be considered a minor change and added as a condition to the Draft Plan approval: Securities outlined in a subdivision agreement with the Township of North Huron be paid to the satisfaction of the Township of North Huron.

CARRIED

CAO Wark stated that due to COVID-19, we were unable to do the Council/Staff gift exchange/donation program that is usually in December. As an alternative, staff will be sending a list of options that Council/staff may consider in lieu of the gift exchange that would support Huron County charities. Everyone is encouraged to shop local.

16. Notice of Motion: None.

17. By-laws:

By-law No. 2020-070, being a By-law of the Corporation of the County of Huron to enter into a Mutual Assistance Agreement.

Moved by: Councillor Murdock and Seconded by: Councillor Fergusson

THAT:

Leave be given to introduce the following By-Law:

By-law No. 2020-070, being a By-law of the Corporation of the County of Huron to enter into a Mutual Assistance Agreement.

CARRIED

Moved by: Councillor Finch and Seconded by: Councillor Heffer

THAT:

By-law No. 2020-070, be given a first and second reading;

AND FURTHER THAT:

By-law No. 2020-070, as read a first and second time, be passed.

CARRIED

Moved by: Councillor Finch and Seconded by: Councillor Fisher

THAT:

By-law No. 2020-70, be given a third reading in accordance with Part 14 of the Procedural By-law for the County of Huron, Section 1, Subsection 2;

AND FURTHER THAT:

By-law No. 2020-070, as read a third time, be passed, signed by the Warden and the Clerk, and the Seal of the Corporation affixed thereto.

CARRIED

18. Closed to the Public Session:

Moved by: Councillor Murdock and Seconded by: Councillor McNeil

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron do now go into a Closed to the Public Session at 10:53 AM under Section 239 of the Municipal Act, 2001 as amended, to discuss an item that relates to:

1) Labour relations or employee negotiations - SEIU Homes;

- 2) Labour relations or employee negotiations - IUOE Homes;
- 3) Labour relations or employee negotiations - ONA Homes;
- 4) Litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local Board - Planning and Development AG4 designation;

AND FURTHER THAT:

CAO Meighan Wark (Items 1, 2, 3 & 4), Clerk Susan Cronin (Items 1, 2, 3 & 4), Treasurer and Director of Corporate Services (Items 1, 2, 3 & 4), Director of Homes for the Aged Connie Townsend (Items 1, 2 & 3), Director of Human Resources Lara Vanstone (Items 1, 2 & 3), Human Resources Manager Jane Anderson (Items 1, 2 & 3), and Director of Planning and Development Sandra Weber (Item 4), remain in attendance.

CARRIED

Moved by: Councillor Harding and Seconded by: Councillor Dietrich

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron rise from the Closed to the Public Session at 11:12 AM.

CARRIED

- Reporting out of Closed Session – CAO Wark stated that the purpose of going into closed session was to discuss three items on labour relations or employee negotiations; and to discuss Litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local Board - Planning and Development AG4 designation.

Moved by: Councillor Bailey and Seconded by: Councillor Murdock

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron directs staff to proceed as per direction given in Closed to the Public Session of November 25, 2020.

CARRIED

19. Arrangement of Committee/Board Meetings:

As per the County's COVID-19 response protocols, all Council and Committee meetings are being held virtually.

- Inaugural Council (Election of Warden) - Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 9:00 AM - Virtual Meeting.
- Huron County Library Board - Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at 9:00 AM - Virtual Meeting.
- Huron County Economic Development Board - Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at 5:00 PM – Virtual Meeting.
- Council Day 2 - Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 9:00 AM - Virtual Meeting.

20. Confirmatory By-law:

Moved by: Councillor Fisher and Seconded by: Councillor Watt

THAT:

By-Law No. 2020-071 being a By-law of the Corporation of the County of Huron to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Huron, be introduced, be given a first, second and third reading in accordance with Part 14 of the Procedural By-law for the County of Huron, Section 1, Subsection 2;

AND FURTHER THAT:

By-law No. 2020-071, as read a third time; be passed, signed by the Warden and the Clerk, and the Seal of the Corporation affixed thereto.

CARRIED

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21. Adjournment:

Moved by: Councillor Dietrich and Seconded by: Councillor Heffer

THAT:

The Council of the Corporation of the County of Huron do hereby adjourn at 11:15 AM to meet again on Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 9:00 AM or at the call of the Warden and the Clerk.

CARRIED

Warden Jim Ginn

Clerk Susan Cronin