

**MINUTES  
COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF HURON**

Hybrid Meeting  
February 21, 2024

The Council of the County of Huron met in a hybrid meeting setting on Wednesday, February 21, 2024. All members of Council were present.

**1. Warden Glen McNeil called the meeting to order at 9:12 AM.**

**2. Approval of Agenda:**

Moved by: Councillor D. Harding and Seconded by: Councillor A. McLellan

THAT:

The Council Day 2 agenda for February 21, 2024 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

**3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest: None.**

**4. Minutes of Previous Meetings:**

Moved by: Councillor G. Finch and Seconded by: Councillor T. Bazinet

THAT:

The minutes of the Council Day 1 meeting of February 7, 2024, minutes of Special Budget Meeting of February 14, 2024, and minutes of Simplifying Accessibility Information Session of February 15, 2024 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

**5. Delegations/Petitions/Presentations:**

5.1. Presentation to Recognize the Award - Bright Ideas Competition, Economic Developers Council of Ontario

Presentation to Brittany Wise recognizing the achievement of winning the award in the Bright Ideas Competition with the Economic Developers Council of Ontario. Brittany Wise and her teammate Brenna Carroll, Economic Development Officer for Township of Southgate won the 2023 Competition on the topic: Public Sector Best Practices for Encouraging Small Business Transitions.

5.2. Population & Housing Projections (presented by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd.)

Moved by: Councillor T. Bazinet and Seconded by: Councillor M. Anderson

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron approves the report by Jamie Cook and Adam Fischer, Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., titled Huron County Population and Housing Projections Study, dated February 2024, as presented;

AND FURTHER THAT:

The report be circulated to the local municipalities for information.

CARRIED

**6. Councillor's Comments:**

Councillor T. Bazinet informed the Council of the Farm and Agriculture Show taking place at the Goderich Memorial Arena today and tomorrow, extending an invitation to all to attend.

Councillor B. MacLellan raised queries regarding the procedure for participating in hybrid meetings while on vacation. It was stated that the benefit of the technology allows for members to participate if they wish. Additionally, he inquired about the discussion on the

Homes for the Aged review. CAO Wark responded, stating that the report will be presented in April.

**7. Consent Agenda - Items 7.1 through 7.5:**

Items listed under the Consent Agenda are considered routine and may require discussion but no action on the part of Council. Consent Agenda items are received in one motion. Council members may request that one or more items be removed for further action.

Moved by: Councillor J. Heffer and Seconded by: Councillor J. Dietrich

THAT:

Items 7.1 through 7.5 be approved with the actions as noted.

CARRIED

**8. Social and Property Services:**

8.1. Placement Agreement for Students (presented by Cheryl Patience)

Moved by: Councillor J. Becker and Seconded by: Councillor A. McLellan

THAT:

The County of the Council of Huron receives the report by Cheryl Patience, Manager of Ontario Works and Children's Services, dated February 21, 2024, titled Placement Agreements for Students: for information;

AND FURTHER THAT:

A by-law be drafted delegating the authority to the Warden and/or Clerk to sign the required agreements with educational institutions when facilitating student placements within Huron County's Social and Property Services Department.

CARRIED

8.2. Recommendation to Award Tender CS2024-01 Child Care and Early Years' Plan (presented by Cheryl Patience)

Moved by: Councillor P. Heffer and Seconded by: Councillor G. Finch

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron receives the report by Cheryl Patience, Manager of Ontario Works and Children's Services, dated February 21, 2024 titled Recommendation to Award Tender CS2024-01 Child Care and Early Years' Plan, as presented for information;

AND FURTHER THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron approves entering into an Agreement with Optimus SBR, Inc. for the provision of services to complete the Five Year Child Care and Early Years' Plan for Huron County;

AND FURTHER THAT:

A by-law be drafted authorizing the Warden and Clerk to execute the Agreement and any other required documents to be ratified February 21, 2024;

AND FURTHER THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron authorizes delegated signing authority to the Director of Social and Property Services, Barbara Hall for any amendments to this agreement.

CARRIED

**9. Homes for the Aged:**

9.1. Heartland and Highland Apartment Age in Place Increase (presented by Connie Townsend)

Moved by: Councillor B. Vanstone and Seconded by: Councillor G. Finch

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron receives the report by Connie Townsend, Director of Homes for the Aged, dated February 21, 2024, titled Heartland and Highland Apartment Age In Place Program Increase, as presented for information;

AND FURTHER THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron approves the proposed monthly increase to the Age in Place program, to \$334.50 for a one bedroom apartment (one person) and to \$522.10 for a two bedroom apartment (2 people) for Heartland and Highland Apartments, effective May 2024;

AND FURTHER THAT:

The Tariff for Fees bylaw be amended by adding the Age in Place fees as presented.  
CARRIED

9.2. One Time Funding for the purchase of Diagnostic Equipment - Local Priorities Funding (presented by Connie Townsend )

Moved by: Councillor J. Becker and Seconded by: Councillor J. Ginn

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron receive the report by Connie Townsend, Director of Homes for the Aged, dated February 21, 2024, titled One Time Funding for the purchase of Diagnostic Equipment - Local Priorities Funding as presented;

AND FURTHER THAT;

The Council of the County of Huron approves entering into a contract for the One Time Funding for the purchase of Diagnostic Equipment - Local Priorities Funding for Huronview and Huronlea from Ontario Health West;

AND FURTHER THAT;

A by-law be drafted for February 21, 2024 authorizing the Clerk to execute the contract and any required documents for the One Time Funding for the purchase of Diagnostic Equipment - Local Priorities Funding for Huronview and Huronlea from Ontario Health West.

CARRIED

**10. Emergency Services:**

10.1. EMS Cross Border Billing Agreement (presented by Jeff Horseman)

Moved by: Councillor L. Noel and Seconded by: Councillor J. Heffer

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron receives the report by Jeff Horseman, Director Emergency Services, dated February 21st, 2024, titled EMS Cross Border Billing Agreement, as presented for information;

AND FURTHER THAT:

A by-law be drafted authorizing the Warden and Clerk to execute the agreement and all other required documents for the EMS Cross Border Billing Agreement.

CARRIED

**11. Public Works:**

11.1. Recommendation to Award Tender HC 24-901: Wingham Patrol Yard Phase 2 – Operations Building (presented by Imran Khalid)

Moved by: Councillor P. Heffer and Seconded by: Councillor D. Harding

THAT:

The County of Huron Council receive and approve the report dated February 21, 2024 by Imran Khalid, Director of Public Works titled Recommendation to Award Tender HC 24-901: Wingham Patrol Yard Phase 2 – Operations Building by Imran Khalid;

AND FURTHER THAT:

The County accept the tender for HC 24-901 Wingham Patrol Yard Phase 2- Operations Building submitted by Elgin Contracting & Restoration Ltd. in the amount of \$6,275,540 (inclusive of provisional items, contingency allowance, and net applicable tax), based on the anticipated scope of work;

AND FURTHER THAT:

The County approve an additional \$81,408 (inclusive of net applicable taxes) for contract administration and site inspections as well as \$61,057 for building furnishings;

AND FURTHER THAT:

A by-law be prepared authorizing the Warden and Clerk to execute the contracts and all

other required documents with Elgin Contracting & Restoration Ltd. for tender HC 24-901;  
AND FURTHER THAT:  
Project HC-24-901 be funded with \$6,356,948 through debentures for the construction and  
contract administration component; and \$61,057 from the reserves for building furnishings.  
CARRIED

**12. Economic Development:**

12.1 Ukrainian Pathways Report (presented by Mark Nonkes)

Moved by: Councillor J. Ginn and Seconded by: Councillor B. MacLellan  
THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron receives the report from Mark Nonkes, Immigration  
Partnership Manager, dated February 21, 2024, titled Ukraine Newcomer Immigration  
Pathways, as presented for information.  
CARRIED

12.2 Amendment Agreement for RED-09808 Contract - Workforce Project (presented by  
Vicki Lass)

Moved by: Councillor P. Klopp and Seconded by: Councillor G. Finch  
THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron approve the report dated February 21, 2024 by Vicki  
Lass, Director of Economic Development titled Amendment Agreement for RED-09808  
Contract - Workforce Project

AND FURTHER THAT:

A by-law be drafted authorizing the Warden and Clerk to execute the amendment to RED-  
09808 - Workforce Project agreement which would extend the funding agreement to  
March 2025;

AND FURTHER THAT:

The Warden and Clerk be delegated the authority to execute any amending agreements to  
the RED- Workforce Project that do not have any financial impact on the County of Huron.  
CARRIED

**13. Administration, Policies and Other Issues:**

13.1. Gibbons Build Advocacy Update (presented by Meighan Wark)

Moved by: Councillor J. Ginn and Seconded by: Councillor T. Bazinet  
THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron receive the report dated February 21, 2024 by  
Meighan Wark, Chief Administrative Officer titled Gibbons Build Advocacy Update for  
information purposes.

CARRIED

**14. Correspondence:**

Moved by: Councillor L. Noel and Seconded by: Councillor P. Heffer  
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.

**16. Notice of Motion:** None.

**17. By-laws:**

Moved by: Councillor G. Finch and Seconded by: Councillor B. MacLellan  
THAT:

By-law No. 2024-010, being a By-law of the Corporation of the County of Huron to authorize entering into a 2-year agreement for the Digital Operational Management Software called MESH with Go Evo and Delegation of Authority.

By-law No. 2024-011, being a By-law of the Corporation of the County of Huron to authorize entering into an agreement for the provision of services to complete the Five Year Child Care and Early Years' Plan for Huron County with Optimus SBR Inc. and Delegation of Authority.

By-law No. 2024-012, being a By-law of the Corporation of the County of Huron to authorize entering into a contract with Ontario Health West for One Time Funding for the Purchase of Diagnostic Equipment - Local Priorities Fund for Huronview and Huronlea.

By-law No. 2024-013, being a By-law of the Corporation of the County of Huron to authorize entering into an Amending Agreement with Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs on behalf of His Majesty the King in Right of Ontario for the Rural Economic Development (RED) Program – 09808 for the provision of Workforce Project.

Be introduced, be given a first, second and third reading, be passed, signed by the Warden and Clerk, and the Seal of the Corporation affixed thereto, in accordance with Part 14 of the Procedural By-Law for the County of Huron.

CARRIED

**18. Closed to the Public Session:** None.

**19. Upcoming Meetings:**

Council Day 1 - Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 9:00 AM in the Council Chambers, Goderich - Hybrid Meeting

Economic Development Board Meeting - Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 9:00 AM at 57 Napier Street, Goderich - Hybrid Meeting

Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee - Monday, March 18, 2024 at 9:00 AM - Virtual Meeting

Council Day 2 - Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 9:00 AM in the Council Chambers, Goderich - Hybrid Meeting

Library Board Meeting - Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 9:00 AM at 57 Napier Street, Goderich - Hybrid Meeting

**20. Confirmatory By-law:**

Moved by: Councillor B. Vanstone and Seconded by: Councillor P. Heffer  
THAT:

By-law No. 2024-014, 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, be passed, signed by the Warden and Clerk, and the Seal of the Corporation affixed thereto, in accordance with Part 14 of the Procedural By-Law for the County of Huron.

CARRIED

**21. Adjournment:**

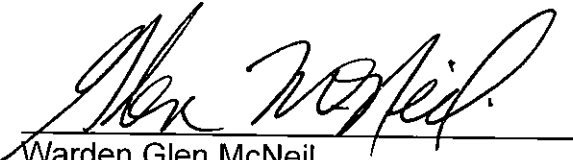
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Moved by: Councillor J. Dietrich and Seconded by: Councillor J. Heffer

THAT:

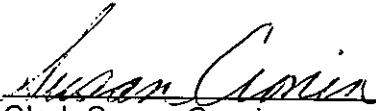
The Council of the Corporation of the County of Huron do hereby adjourn at 10:24 AM to meet again on Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 9:00 AM or at the call of the Warden and the Clerk.

CARRIED



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Warden Glen McNeil



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Clerk Susan Cronin