

For Immediate Release January 28, 2020

Council Connect: Highlights from the January 28, 2020 meetings of Council

This evening, Council met as Committee of the Whole for Policies and Priorities as well as the Regular Council meeting.

Here are the highlights from the Meetings of Council this evening:

Committee of the Whole Meeting:

Procedural By-Law Review: Council considered amendments to the Procedural By-Law, which sets the rules and procedures by which Council conducts its business for the Town. The amendments to the by-law relate to *Bill 68 Modernizing Ontario's Municipal Act, 2017* (Bill 68) and pertain to: privacy measures for information, the order of business at meetings; delegation requests; and, prolonged absences of members of Council. An amending by-law will be brought to the next Regular Council meeting.

Alternate Members of County Council: Council approved the appointment of an alternate to County Council as outlined in Bill 68. Currently the Mayor and Deputy Mayor represent Tecumseh on County Council with the Mayor elected as Warden for this term. All of the other local municipalities have appointed an alternate. Councillor Jobin was chosen via random draw. A by-law will be brought to next Regular Council meeting to put this in place.

Code of Conduct: revisions to the Code of Conduct for Members of Council and Local Boards (including Committees) were received and approved by Council. In accordance with Bill 68, municipalities must establish a code of conduct to establish guidelines for ethical conduct of Members. The code of conduct is applied by an appointed Integrity Commissioner (IC). The Town has had a code of conduct since 2014 and it is reviewed from time to time. Under the current recommended changes as per Bill 68, the IC now applies certain sections of the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* for Council and the code of conduct also reflects changes to the manner in which the IC will conduct an investigation, based upon best practices.

Financial Management Policy: Council reviewed and adopted a Financial Management Policy for the Town, including financial goals and objectives, key principles and a policy framework for budget and financial planning, revenues, expenditures, reserve and reserve funds, asset management planning, debt, investment, and accounting, auditing & financial reporting.

Urban Hens: Council reviewed the by-law drafted to implement the Urban Hens two-year pilot project. The by-law will be considered for adoption at the next Regular Council meeting. Council also approved amending the 2020 Fees and Charges by-law to include the \$25.00 annual license fee. Applications for the program will be available by the end of February with communications posted on our website at www.tecumseh.ca.

.../2



- 2 -

Regular Council Meeting:

Property Taxes: Council received the year-end report on the 2019 Taxes Receivable which outlined the status of outstanding property taxes for all of Tecumseh. The number of properties in arrears has gone down since 2017 when there were 613 properties in arrears to 569 in 2019 and only one property currently at risk of tax sale in the first half of 2020. The sale date is set for April 22 and advertisements will begin mid-March unless the property is redeemed before that time. The Town has not had a tax sale since amalgamation.

Tecumseh Fire and Rescue Services 2019 Year-End Report: Council received the 2019 year-end report from the Tecumseh Fire and Rescue Services Department. The department handled 394 calls in 2019 including 99 rescue calls and 27 property fire calls. The department responded to 135 false alarms and continues to encourage property owners to check their alarm systems and C.O. monitors to ensure they are working properly to avoid false alarms. Council previously approved amendments to the Town's Fire Alarm By-Law to address issues with "at-fault" or false alarms. This change means that owners with a registered alarm will be allowed two at-fault (false) alarms before being subject to a false alarm fee. Following the two alarms, a fee of approximately \$463 per hour for the Fire Service response will be imposed. Unregistered alarms will be charged following the first at-fault alarm. Owners in Town who have a fire alarm that dials 9-1-1 are encouraged to check the settings to avoid any false alarms.

Lakewood Park Pier Deck: Council approved awarding the \$121,936 contract to replace the Lakewood pier deck to Facca Incorporated. The project is the result of a report from the design contractor on options to reduce the amount of annual maintenance on the wood structure. The deck will be replaced with concrete and full construction details, including a schedule, will be provided once the contract is finalized. Construction is expected to be complete by June 1, 2020 weather permitting.

The next Regular Meeting of Council is Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at the **Tecumseh Recreation Complex and Arena, 12021 McNorton Street** in the **Horwood Room**. The agenda will be made available on Thursday, February 6, 2020.

Information on this and all Town of Tecumseh news and events is available at www.tecumseh.ca, Twitter (@TownofTecumseh), and Facebook (www.facebook.com/townoftecumseh).

-30-

Media Contact:

Lesley Reeves, Manager Strategic Initiatives, 519-735-2184 Ext. 150

