

For Immediate Release June 9, 2020

Council Connect: Highlights from the June 9, 2020 Regular Meeting of Council

Tecumseh Town Council met electronically this evening and here are the highlights:

COVID-19 Financial Relief: Council received a report outlining the extension of financial relief measures due to the COVID-19 pandemic to July 31, 2020. The financial measures being extended to the end of July include: waiving late payment penalty/interest charges associated with property taxation; waiving “non-sufficient funds” charges on property tax payments; extending the Dog Tag/Licence fee of \$20 and the Kennel License fee of \$100; and waiving transit fares for Tecumseh Transit. Additionally, the Treasurer will request that Essex Powerlines agree to waive late payment penalty/interest charges associated with water/wastewater billing.

Cancellation of Summer Events: Council received a report from the Parks and Recreation Department recommending the cancellation of upcoming recreational events due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and provincial orders restricting public gatherings. The events slated for cancellation are: the Summer Concert Series, Canada Day Celebrations, Outdoor Movie Nights and the End of Summer Celebration. Administration will be promoting a Virtual Canada Day 2020 Celebration hosted by the Government of Canada through Canadian Heritage. The Virtual celebration is a live broadcast that will include performances from across Canada. A link will be placed on the Town’s website for residents to join the festivities from the safety of their own home.

Committee of Adjustment and Public Consultation: Council received a report on the commencement of electronic meetings of the Committee of Adjustment. Since the pandemic began in-person meetings have been replaced to a large extent by electronic meetings. Early this spring, the Province passed a regulation permitting municipalities to change their rules of procedure to permit e-meetings during a declared emergency for Council and its appointed committees and boards, Town Council has amended its rules of procedure accordingly and meets regularly via ZOOM over the internet. Similarly, the Tecumseh Police Services Board and the Tecumseh BIA have begun to hold e-meetings. Administration has worked to develop a process to begin holding Committee of Adjustment meetings through electronic means and the first meeting is scheduled for June 29, 2020. Consent to sever land and minor variance applications are heard and determined by the Town’s Committee of Adjustment. Minor variance requests primarily facilitate minor developments (minor building additions, pool installations, heating/cooling units) that are typically of interest to the immediate neighbourhood of the property involved. The meetings of the Committee of Adjustment are public meetings and measures are in place to permit the public to participate electronically. Administration continues to work through a process to facilitate public meetings of Council for other planning application types, such as zoning and Official Plan amendments.

Tecumseh Road Sanitary Sewer Replacement: Council received an update on the construction schedule and public notification strategy for the Tecumseh Road sanitary sewer replacement project from Lesperance Road to Southfield Drive. The approximately \$1.5 million tender was awarded to D’Amore Construction at the March 24, 2020 Regular Meeting of Council. As a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions on public gatherings, the original plan to hold a Public Information Centre to provide details on the upcoming work is not feasible. Instead, notices will be mailed to adjacent landowners in advance of construction with links to an



online presentation to provide an overview of the project. Advance notification boards will be placed on Tecumseh Road for drivers advising of road impacts. Ongoing road closure details will be shared electronically. The project is expected to begin in mid-July and see substantial completion by the end of November 2020 weather permitting.

2020-2024 Public Works and Environmental Services 5 Year Plan: Council approved the addition of the Manning Road Pump Station-Fish Pond Inlet Erosion Repair project to the 2020-2024 Public Works and Environmental Services (PWES) 5 Year Plan and authorized the approximately \$100,000 cost for the work to be paid from the Storm Lifecycle Reserve. The fish habitat area was incorporated into the pump station reconstruction project in 2012 and due to high lake levels and strong winds, the east bank has eroded. Continued erosion could potentially undermine the stability of the fence and walkway causing safety risks to pedestrians. Dillon Consulting will undertake the detailed design, contract administration and on site services for the work which is expected to begin following the July 15 in-water work restrictions.

Source Protection Annual Progress Report: Council heard from the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) on the Progress on the Essex Region Source Protection Plan in 2019. The Essex Region Source Protection Plan (SPP) is a local watershed-based plan for the protection of drinking water supplies. The Essex Region SPP was developed by a local Source Protection Committee in consultation with municipalities, community groups and residents and came into effect on October 1, 2015. The SPP contains policies to ensure that identified risks are prohibited, or managed in a way that protects our drinking water. An annual report is mandated by the Plan and the 2019 Source Protection Annual Progress Report outlines that overall significant progress is being made in Tecumseh to protect our drinking water at its source.

The next Regular Meeting of Council is Tuesday, June 23, 2020. The meeting is scheduled to be held electronically. The live stream will be available on our website at www.tecumseh.ca. The agenda for the Regular meeting will be made available on Thursday, June 18, 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).

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