

For Immediate Release

Tuesday, July 13, 2021

Council Connect: Highlights from the July 13, 2021 meetings of Council

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

Committee of the Whole

Parking Ticket Appeal Committee: Council approved the establishment of a Parking Ticket Appeal Committee comprised of three staff to hear and consider parking ticket appeals. Traffic enforcement and ticket processing are currently conducted by the Tecumseh OPP. New legislation has been passed and when proclaimed, it is anticipated that the OPP will no longer process tickets issued under the Town's Traffic By-Law. The Committee will provide a simple and convenient process to allow persons inclined to challenging the parking ticket to appeal tickets issued under the Traffic By-Law locally, prior to the legal option of taking the ticket to trial. The process will reduce time in administering trial requests, issuing notices of convictions, collection of set fines, as well as Officer's time in court and legal fees for attending trial. A by-law to create the Committee will be prepared for Council's consideration and adoption at a forthcoming Regular Meeting of Council.

Purchasing By-Law and Policy Update: Council received a report on recommended updates to the Purchasing By-Law (2017-63) and policy. The current by-law was approved in 2017 with a complete periodic review planned for 2022. In advance of the complete review, Administration has proposed updates for specific items following legislation changes since 2017, including changes in contract approval authority, changes in exemptions to the by-law and policy, updates to staff responsibilities as well as changes to evaluation of bids and awards.

Regular Meeting of Council

2020 Strategic Priorities Report Out: Council received a Report Out on the accomplishments of the 2019-2022 Strategic Priorities in 2020. Strategic Priorities are identified by Council at the beginning of each term, reviewed periodically for updates and incorporated into all municipal work-plans. The final report on accomplishments for 2020 is available online at: www.tecumseh.ca/strategicpriorities.

Town Owned Vacant Land: Council received a report on a request to purchase greenspace lands on Tecumseh Road abutting Optimist Park. The lands for Optimist Park, and surrounding it, were acquired by the former Village of St. Clair Beach to allow for future expansion of, and access to, Optimist Park. Administration reviewed the request to purchase the lands and recommended that the lands not be declared surplus for sale. Considerations included that the land was valuable for access in the future; it could adversely affect full optimization of future improvements to the complex that includes the library and the park in the future; selling it may create interest from other owners to purchase; and, it would set a precedent on the sale. Council declined the request to make the lands surplus with no sale authorized.

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Noise By-Law Exemption: Council approved two noise by-law exemptions for Sunday, July 18 and Saturday, August 7 at St. Charbel Antonin Maronite Catholic Church at 5700 Outer Drive. The exemptions were required for two weddings/receptions at the site on each date and are for the hours of 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. The approval is granted on the conditions that the events be held in accordance with Ontario's Roadmap to Reopening and the applicants must notify adjacent residents. The OPP will monitor for complaints and noise outside the designated hours.

High Water Rescue Vehicle: Council approved the purchase of a High Water Rescue Vehicle (HWRV) for \$130,678 (USD) plus HST from Acela Inc. This vehicle is equipped to carry people or equipment while operating in depths that exceed operational ability for normal highway vehicles. Typically, HWRVs have the ability to go through water depths of 900mm (36 inches). With the maximum depths of inland flooding in Town (based on the 100 year lake level) at approximately 1,200 mm (48 inches), the Town conducted research to find a HWRV that would accommodate the increased depths the Town could experience. Acela Inc. produces a HWRV which can operate in depths of 1,250 mm (50 inches) which would provide safe access to properties in Tecumseh in the event of a flooding emergency. The vehicle is designed to carry 17 people with space for wheelchairs and includes a power lift gate to aid in loading and unloading. There are no Canadian manufacturers for this type of vehicle and it will take approximately four to five months to complete production. At the January 12, 2021 Regular Meeting of Council, funding was authorized for the purchase.

11977 Tecumseh Road: Council approved two grants totalling \$23,750 under the Tecumseh Road Community Improvement Plan for Building Façade (\$15,000) and Parking (\$8,750) Improvements at 11977 Tecumseh Road operating as Kona Sushi. Council further adopted a by-law for an encroachment agreement to allow for an outdoor patio on the eastern side of the building abutting Shawnee Road.

3075 Manning Road: Council adopted a site plan control by-law for 3075 Manning Road to accommodate a second drive thru lane at the Tim Horton's. The property is located just south of County Road 42.

1441 Shawnee Road: Council authorized the holding of a public meeting on July 27, 2021 to consider a Zoning By-Law amendment for 1441 Shawnee Road. The owner of the property previously received provisional consent to sever the property on the condition that the property be rezoned to facilitate the construction of a semi-detached residential dwelling on the newly created lot fronting onto Brouillette. The retained lot that fronts onto Shawnee is rezoned to establish a new minimum lot area.

Zoning By-Law Amendment: Council adopted an amendment to St. Clair Beach Zoning By-Law 2065 for portions of property on Tecumseh Road to be re-designated Community Facility and rezoned to an institutional zone. These amendments will accommodate the new North Shore Elementary School and follows a public meeting on June 22, 2021.

Tecumseh Road On-Street Parking: Council approved the implementation of on-street parking on both sides of Tecumseh Road from Shawnee Road to Bedell Street within the Community Improvement Area and authorized \$30,000 from the Road Lifecycle Reserve for the work. The decision follows a motion from



Council directing Administration to look at the feasibility of adding on-street parking on Tecumseh Road to replace 26 off-street parking spaces from Municipal Lot #2 which were lost when Council declined to renew the lease with the property owner. Dillon Consulting Inc. examined the reconfiguration of travel lanes by converting one eastbound and one westbound lane between Shawnee Road and Bedell Street until the full reconstruction of Tecumseh Road is completed as part of the Community Improvement Plan Streetscape project. The examination identified 64 on-street spaces (37 on the north side and 27 on the south side of Tecumseh) with traffic signal modifications required for the intersections at Lesperance and Shawnee. Dillon further recommended turning the eastbound right lane on Tecumseh Road at Shawnee into a right turn lane and terminating this lane at the Shawnee Intersection. This interim parking configuration will result in a total of 126 parking spaces in the Tecumseh Road corridor, up from 89 previously. With this decision, Administration will put together the design and tender a contract for the work with expected implementation later this year. Full details on the changes will be shared publicly before work gets underway.

Source Protection Annual Progress Report: Council heard from the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) regarding progress on the Essex Region Source Protection Plan in 2020. 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 2020 Source Protection Annual Progress Report outlines that achievement on SPP objectives this reporting period received the top rating of 'Progressing Well/On Target' as the majority of the SPP policies have been implemented and/or are in progress and on target to be fully implemented within the timeframe specified in the SPP.

Rail Safety and Improvement Program: Council approved the preparation of a by-law to execute an agreement with Transport Canada for funds awarded under the Rail Safety Implementation Program (RSIP). The Town applied to the program in July 2020 to cover costs of improvements to the VIA Rail/Lesperance Road rail crossing. In May 2021, Transport Canada announced \$21 million in funding for rail safety improvements across Canada which includes works in Tecumseh. Council also authorized a change in project scope to include enhancements to the streetscape along the west side of Lesperance from the tracks to First Street. Overall project costs, including enhancements, are estimated at \$2M, with just over \$1M in funding for the rail project from the RSIP.

Mobile Food Vendors: Council passed a motion directing Administration to research regulations on licensing and operation of mobile food vendors and to draft a regulatory framework for consideration at an upcoming Policies and Priorities Committee Meeting.

The next Regular Meeting of Council is Tuesday, July 27, 2021. 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, July 22, 2021.



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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