

For Immediate Release April 28, 2020

## Council Connect: Highlights from the April 28, 2020 Regular Meeting of Council

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

**COVID-19 Financial Impact:** Council received a report on the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Town. It was the first update to Council on the ongoing situation and additional updates will be provided as measures continue. The report outlines the impact to the 2020 budget which will be experienced in three ways: lost revenue, non-budgeted expenditures incurred and expenditure containment.

- Lost revenue includes: rentals; recreation programs; building permits; transit fares; interest and, penalties. Some of these revenues may be at risk dependent on the extent and duration of social distancing measures in place.
- Non-budget expenditures includes: increased cleaning and sanitizing; additional by-law enforcement; costs to facilitate work from home arrangements; and, employee self-isolation. Other factors that are difficult to calculate include additional hours to complete tasks due to safety protocols like one person per Town vehicle, training and travel times for redeployment and time and resources invested in planning and response. Total non-budgeted expenditures to date is approximately \$30,000.
- Expenditure containment: there have been some opportunities for cost containment through hiring freezes and program/event cancellation however this is limited as a significant portion of the tax levy supports costs for essential services. Savings in these areas include student positions, savings from professional development and seminar cancellations, gasoline and utilities.

Further reporting will provide updates on the Town's capital works projects, personnel and programs in late May.

**Arena/Rink Repairs:** Council approved awarding the approximately \$43,000 contract to replace the Rink B Brine Line to Buildweller Contractors (\$17,000) and CIMCO Refrigeration (\$16,000). Buildweller will conduct the concrete work for the line repair and CIMCO will conduct the mechanical welding work on the line. The work will be completed during the arena closure for COVID-19. Leaks in the brine line were discovered in March when the ice surface was removed.

**CIP Grant:** Council approved \$10,000 for parking area improvements for the property located at 12133-12137 Tecumseh Road (corner of Tecumseh Road and St. Anne Street), currently occupied by the Job Shoppe staffing agency and other small general/professional office uses.

**Annual West Nile Virus Mosquito Larvicide Program:** Council directed that correspondence be drafted supporting a permit application to the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) authorizing the application of larvicide in water bodies in Town such as catch basins and ditches found to contain mosquito species known to transmit the West Nile Virus. Since 2003, the Windsor Essex County Health Unit (WECHU) has conducted a surveillance program for the West Nile Virus in Essex County. As the virus has been found in Essex County, the WECHU has determined that larviciding in mosquito breeding sites is prudent for this year. They have contracted Pesalto Environmental Health Services to conduct this work. The permit application to the MECP is the first step to conduct this work and when the permit is received, further information on timeline and materials to be applied will be shared with regional municipalities.

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**Road Needs Study:** Council adopted the Town of Tecumseh Road Needs Study 2019 and authorized Administration to utilize the recommendations in the report for completion of the Public Works and Environmental Services Capital Works Plan. The Road Needs Study was completed by Dillon Consulting and StreetScan Canada ULC who undertook a detailed assessment and inventory of the Town's road system by means of utilizing new automated road scanning technology. The study identifies needed improvements for roads which are deficient or expected to become deficient within five years. Total length of roads in Town is 180 km and approximately 82% of the Town's Roads are in Fairly Good to Excellent Condition.

**Service Line Warranties of Canada:** Council approved a 1-year renewal of the agreement with Service Line Warranties of Canada (SLWC) which was executed in 2016. SLWC advised the Town that they will continue their marketing campaign this year with letters to go out to residents who have not purchased a warranty from SLWC. 327 property owners have purchased a warranty from SLWC to date. SLWC provides residents the opportunity for a low cost warranty program that will help repair, replace, or restore water and sewer lines from the home to the property line, which is often perceived as the municipality's responsibility.

**Additional Waste Collection:** Council approved a motion to allow for an additional two bags of garbage per household per week throughout the Town during the next month to May 28, 2020. The motion was brought forward to assist residents who have seen an increase in their household waste either as a result of spring cleaning or being home more. The Town will allow two additional bags placed next to hard sided containers (where required), be tied, be less than 27 kg (50 lbs), and not contain sharp objects/batteries/or other hazardous waste. Renovation materials are not collectable and will not be picked up. Residents conducting home renovations with waste are encouraged to either hold onto the materials until the transfer station reopens or take the materials to the indoor landfill on Deziel Drive in Windsor. WDS reserves the right to reject waste for operator safety or unacceptable materials and will leave these at the curb. Bulk items like furniture or mattresses will continue to be collected however white goods like washing machines must still be registered for pick-up. Residents are encouraged to refer to their Collection Calendar page 2 for full details on the regular waste program.

**Electronic Meetings:** Council approved a motion directing Administration to amend By-Law 2020-13 to allow Boards and Committees to meet electronically during a declared Emergency. The Town's Board and Committee meetings were cancelled as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The next Regular Meeting of Council is Tuesday, May 12, 2020. The meeting is scheduled to be held electronically. The live stream will be available on our website at [www.tecumseh.ca](http://www.tecumseh.ca). The agenda for the Regular meeting will be made available on Thursday, May 7, 2020.

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

-30-

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