

For Immediate Release July 14, 2020

## Council Connect: Highlights from the July 14, 2020 Regular Meeting of Council

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

**2019 Strategic Priorities Report Out:** Council received a Report Out on the accomplishments of the 2019-2022 Strategic Priorities in 2019. 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 2019 is available online at: [www.tecumseh.ca/strategicpriorities](http://www.tecumseh.ca/strategicpriorities).

**Reopening Town Hall:** Council received a report on the plans to reopen Town Hall for front line services following the closure in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The process to reopen Town Hall will begin on July 20, 2020 when the Town will offer in-person drop-in services from 1 to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays. Appointment-based in-person services will also be available. Reopening will be staged to take into consideration employee/visitor public health and safety measures as well as accommodate the timeline for the completion of the Town Hall renovation project. The reopening will not preclude continued on-line, drop box and phone service delivery and those seeking out Town services are strongly encouraged to continue to utilize online, phone and drop box options. Additional information is available on the Town's website at [www.tecumseh.ca](http://www.tecumseh.ca)

**Dog Control Services:** Council approved the two year renewal of the agreement between the Town and Phillip A. Byrne for dog control services. The new agreement will terminate on December 31, 2022 and the cost of services is \$11,900 plus HST each year. Mr. Byrne has provided dog control services to the Town for the last four years and his current contract was set to expire at the end of this year.

**2019 Year-End Variance:** Financial Services reported a 2019 Year-End tax-supported surplus of \$913,981, which will be transferred as follows: \$855,181 operating fund surplus to the Infrastructure Reserve and \$58,800 capital fund surplus to the Infrastructure Reserve. The surplus is a result of reduced electricity and insurance costs, reduced salary and wages in 2019, an increase in construction permit revenue and a number of road contracts coming in under budget. The Infrastructure Reserve is used to fund new capital projects with the funds held in an interest bearing account until required for capital projects.

**Hotel Dieu Grace Healthcare Letter of Intent:** Council authorized the execution of the Letter Of Intent between Hotel Dieu Grace Healthcare (HDGH) and the Town to construct a Cardiac Wellness, Stroke and Pulmonary Rehabilitation Satellite Facility within the proposed Multi-Use Sportsplex. The letter is the result of meetings with HDGH to formulate proposed terms for a capital contribution and operational agreement for the facility.

**3455 North Talbot Road:** Council received a report on the proposal to hold a public meeting on the zoning application for 3455 North Talbot Road to amend the Sandwich South Zoning By-law 85-18 from "Industrial Zone M-1" to site specific "Business Park Zone". The change will allow for general/business offices, professional offices, a union hall, restaurants, craft industries/specialty workshops and retail sales as permitted uses for the site. The meeting will be scheduled once Council formally approves the holding of virtual public meetings. A report on the holding of virtual meetings is expected at the next or subsequent Regular Meeting of Council.

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**Community Mediation:** Council received a presentation from Family Services Windsor-Essex and St. Clair College's School of Community Studies on their "Community Mediation Program" and authorized entering into a one-year Pilot Community Mediation Program. Community Mediation Windsor-Essex (CMWE) is a free service offered through the Family Services Windsor-Essex Counselling and Advocacy Centre. The program would assist Town residents in resolving neighbourhood conflicts/disagreements that involve an issue that is not resolved by a Town by-law or regulation. The Town would use the services of CMWE under circumstances where it is believed that mediation would be of assistance in order to resolve points of conflict. The process would be fully reliant on the willingness of both neighbours to engage in the services. The Town would provide meeting space within Town facilities at no cost and meeting public health guidelines and regulations as per the COVID-19 pandemic. It is currently expected that the one-year pilot project would begin in September 2020. At the end of the pilot project period, the program would be evaluated in terms of the uptake and rate of success along with whether the service was deemed to have offered a valuable service to the Town and its residents.

**Portable Signs:** Council received a report on the temporary moratorium on fees and regulations governing portable signs during the COVID-19 emergency. This measure will provide relief for businesses seeking to undertake additional storefront advertising to boost economic recovery. The moratorium will include the waiving of fees, display time periods and the three-sign maximum for multiple tenant properties. The waiver will apply for the duration of the Town's declared state of local emergency related to COVID-19 and business owners will still be required to apply for a sign permit to ensure compliance with all other requirements of the Portable Sign By-Law. Once the state of local emergency is over, signs will need to be removed within 10 days.

**Sandwich South Zoning By-Law:** Council received a report on a proposed housekeeping zoning by-law amendment to Sandwich South Zoning By-Law 85-18 and authorized the holding of a public meeting once Council formally approves the holding of virtual public meetings.

There are currently three separate settlement areas in the Town's current Official Plans that collectively identify areas where long-term urban uses are to be established. Within each of these three settlement areas, future development lands are either within a Hamlet Development Designation (requiring further study and Official Plan amendments to determine and identify the ultimate preferred urban land uses) or a specific urban land use designation (such as the Maidstone Hamlet Residential designation). These future development lands in the three settlement areas continue to be zoned "Agricultural (A)" in the corresponding Zoning By-Law, recognizing the current use of the property for farming prior to their development and conversion to urban uses.

Although land being used for agricultural uses is a common and normal precursor to the process of urbanization, there are instances where the introduction of more intensive agricultural uses on these lands can frustrate the long-term objective for their conversion to urban uses. As such, it is prudent and appropriate to proceed with a housekeeping amendment to the Zoning By-law that would have the effect of placing the properties currently zoned Agricultural (A) Zone and that are within an identified settlement area into a restrictive Agricultural (A) Zone. This restrictive Agricultural (A) Zone would allow agricultural uses with the exception of livestock intensive agricultural uses, mushroom farms and greenhouse operations

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The next Regular Meeting of Council is Tuesday, July 28, 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 of Council will be made available on Thursday, July 23, 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)).

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