

For Immediate Release October 27, 2020

Council Connect: Highlights from the October 27, 2020 meetings of Council

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

Human Resources Service Delivery Review: Council received a presentation from Pesce and Associates, the Consultant who conducted a Human Resources Service Delivery Review for the Town this summer. The review was funded through the provincial Municipal Modernization Fund and looked at the existing Human Resources function and if improvements were required. The consultant conducted interviews with members of the Senior Management Team, Managers and Union leadership and surveyed all staff. Council authorized the phased-in implementation of the recommendations in the report subject to 2021 Budget Deliberations. The recommendations contained in the report called for a reorganization of the Human Resources function within Administration with enhancements in staffing capacity, service modernization, process and technology updates.

Community Safety and Well Being Plan: Council heard from Leonardo Gill, Project Manager with the City of Windsor, on the Regional Community Safety and Well Being Plan. The presentation outlined the process for development of the plan, key considerations and next steps for consultation and engagement. The presentation to municipal councils is the first step in the consultation process. Public consultation is expected to begin in February 2021 with a report provided to area municipal councils expected in Fall 2021.

Olinda Farms Farm Lease: Council authorized the execution of a two-year lease for Olinda Farms to farm the Town's 18 acres on the south side of Baseline Road. This follows the previous agreement with Olinda Farms executed for 2020 that provided for a two-year renewal at the end of this year. The two-year agreement will commence January 1, 2021 and extend to December 31, 2022.

Budget Variance: Council approved the Budget Variance Report for amounts at August 31, 2020. Council further authorized the Director Financial Services to apply to the Safe Restart Agreement—Municipal Operating Fund Stream Phase 2 for additional funding, provided financial analysis satisfies program eligibility criteria.

The Town continues to operate under a local state of emergency and both the COVID-19 pandemic and risk of overland flooding due to high lake levels have impacted the Town's operations and budgets to date. It is expected that these impacts will continue to the end of this year and likely into 2021. The Town has continued to maintain essential services for residents with some non-essential services stopped or reduced in an effort to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and contain costs in an effort to reduce the financial burden on Tecumseh taxpayers.

The \$587,994 Tecumseh received through the federal-provincial Safe Restart Agreement Phase 1 program was reflected in the variance report. The Town also received additional federal and provincial grant funding through the Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) program and the provincial Summer Jobs Program. The 2020 August Budget Variance year-end projections carry a greater degree of estimation than would typically be seen under more normal conditions due to the ongoing expenses related to the local emergency.

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Based on those underlying assumptions and incorporating the funding received from the federal and provincial governments, the 2020 August Variance analysis projects a year-end surplus of \$1,326,000 (Tax supported \$1,099,000 surplus and Rate Supported surplus of \$227,000).

Mediation with Windsor Utilities Commission: Council approved the Minutes of Settlement from the mediation and arbitration process between the Town and the Windsor Utilities Commission with respect to the Bulk Water Supply Agreement. Council further authorized the Town solicitor to advise the mediator/arbitrator to give effect to the Minutes of Settlement and further authorized the Clerk and Mayor to execute the Minutes of Settlement in advance of submission to the mediator/arbitrator.

The Town purchases water from Windsor Utilities Commission based on a 50-year Bulk Water Supply Agreement executed in 2004 between the Town, WUC and the City of Windsor. This agreement established the initial cost per cubic meter and included provisions for annual and 10-year anniversary rate increases. The Town and WUC were unable to agree to a rate adjustment in 2016 and agreed to engage a mediator/arbitrator to mediate a resolution respecting the rate adjustment.

The mediated process resulted in agreement on a \$0.03 per cubic metre increase effective from 2017 as the first 10-year anniversary rate increase. The Minutes of Settlement provide interpretive guidelines to assist negotiations going forward, elimination of the summer levy, agreement on a base rate for future adjustments and a memorandum of understanding for the Permanent Joint Staff Liaison Committee.

1062 Sylvestre Drive: Council adopted a by-law authorizing the execution of a site plan control agreement for 1062 Sylvestre Drive. The owner of the property plans to build a Subaru dealership on the 1.73-hectare parcel of land situated southwest of the County Road/Sylvestre Drive fly-off ramp with associated parking, landscaping, display areas and on-site services/works.

Public Utilities Upgrades and Resident Consultation: Council approved a motion relating to utility work in the municipal right-of-way. The motion outlined a request that all Public Utilities working the right-of-way:

- deliver project contact information to residents in advance of the work;
- deliver notice of planned outage to service at least two business days, and up to 7 days preferred, prior to the planned outage;
- supply on-site utility markings when locates are requested through Ontario One Call for the municipal right-of-way in order to reduce the instances of unplanned outages;
- conduct a survey of private sprinkler installations prior to construction; and,
- advise residents of their landscaping restoration plan including timelines for reinstatement and contact information.

Regulations Regarding Storage and Parking of Commercial and Recreational Vehicles/Trailers in Residents' Zones: Council approved a motion directing Town Administration to consider regulations for the parking of Commercial and Recreational Vehicles/Trailers within the municipal right-of-way, in driveways and in the minimum side yard of a private property as part of the review of the Town's Zoning By-law.

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Short-Term Rentals: Council approved a motion directing Administration to undertake a regulatory review for both the short-term, owner-absent rental and the home-sharing short-term rental categories.

The next Regular Meeting of Council is Tuesday, November 10, 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, November 5, 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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