

# County Council Summary

**April 27, 2022**

*Below you will find highlights of the County of Renfrew County Council meeting from April 27, 2022.*

*Please note that this summary does not constitute the official record of the meeting and approved minutes should be consulted for that purpose.*

The [full agenda](#) can be found here.

[Meeting YouTube link](#)

## Warden's Address

### Key highlights

During the month of April, Warden Robinson attended 24 meetings regarding County business, including but not limited to:

- On April 1, she attended a virtual meeting with United Way Eastern Ontario to discuss the community service sector capacity with a focus on the implications of the human resource challenges they are all facing and working to address.
- On April 6, she attended an announcement virtually by the Honourable Helena Jaczek, Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency advising of a Government of Canada investment of \$68.5 million to support Indigenous and Regional Tourism Organizations (RTOs).
- On April 7, she participated in the Ottawa Valley Tourism Awards Judging. It has been the warden's pleasure to judge these awards the past three years.
- On April 14, she attended a virtual Town Hall meeting with the Ministry of Infrastructure on high-speed internet.
- Much of the warden's time was spent considering the process the county will undertake to find Mr. Moreau's replacement. On April 20, the CAO Recruitment Committee held its first meeting and she feels very confident that the committee has an excellent recruitment strategy moving forward.
- On April 28, she will participate in an embargoed technical briefing hosted by the Deputy Minister of Finance prior to the release of the *2022 Ontario Budget*.
- She has been asked to contribute to the creation of a mural on May 10. Algonquin College's [Inclusion & Diversity Circle](#) is leading an exciting project to add a mural in a street art/graffiti style to each campus to help address representation as a barrier to belonging at the College.
- The Silver Chain Challenge is on for 2022. She encourages all members of council and all residents to register for the challenge and start clocking their kilometres. It is an opportunity to improve our mental and physical health, be more active in our community and hopefully win bragging rights.
- She acknowledged National Administrative Professionals' Day on April 27. This is an opportunity to recognize the work of secretaries, administrative assistants, receptionists and other

administrative support professionals. Central to any business and in our case municipal government, these professionals keep an office organized and efficient.

- The warden noted Renfrew County is preparing to host the EOWC's May 12-13 meeting here at the County Administration building. It has been more than five years since we have had the opportunity to host the EOWC members. In trying to give them the visitors the best experience possible, the trip will include a shopping excursion in Laurentian Valley and Whitewater Region, golf in Laurentian Valley and dinner at Garrison Petawawa's Golf Club. She was happy to report that Col. John Vass, commander 4th Canadian Division Support Group, and staff will attend the dinner. She thanked Mr. Moreau and Ms. Gruntz for all their hard work in preparing for this event, as well as staff from the OVTA who will serve as tour guides.

## Delegations

- Jennifer Gardner, Communications Advisor and Micro Modular Reactor Project at Chalk River; Jos Dening, Managing Director, Global First Power. The presentation provided an update on the proposed Small Modular Reactor (SMR) demonstration project at the Chalk River Laboratories site. Ultra Safe Nuclear has designed a Micro Modular Reactor, which produces 15 megawatts of heat energy, and will be used for the project. The lifespan is anticipated at 20 years, after which time the reactor will be decommissioned and the site restored. Global First Power has applied for a Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission licence to prepare the site and an environmental assessment is underway. The project began in 2019 with Indigenous, public and stakeholder engagement and the SMR is expected to commence operations in 2026.

## Special meeting of County Council

- County Council met for a Special Meeting on April 20. At the meeting Gary Scanlon, managing director, Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., provided an in-depth review of Development Charges. Following the presentation County Council passed a resolution directing staff to continue to investigate opportunities associated with Development Charges and cost recovery alternatives to address growth issues in the County of Renfrew including an outline of the process moving forward; and this information will be provided through the Finance and Administration Committee. A copy of Mr. Scanlan's presentation was sent to all members of County Council and the CAOs of all lower-tier municipalities.

## CAO Recruitment Committee

### Presented by: Warden Debbie Robinson, Chair

- Paul Moreau has announced his intention to retire in late August/early September. As a result, a CAO Recruitment Committee has been struck. Warden Debbie Robinson will chair the committee with members Peter Emon, Jennifer Murphy and Robert Sweet.
  - For information, with the municipal election scheduled for October 24, 2022, the Municipal Act speaks to Restricted Acts of Council after Nomination Day it is hoped that a candidate will be selected prior to August 19, 2022.
  - County Council approved a resolution that the Human Resources Division lead the recruitment process for the County's CAO/Clerk position. While at the same time,

approving a resolution that an Internal/External Competition be used for the CAO/Clerk position recruitment process. While there might be several internal candidates for the CAO/Clerk position, the benefits of an external competition far outweigh seeking a replacement through a competition limited to only internal candidates. A \$50,000 budget for CAO recruitment to be taken from the Provision for Unallocated Funds Account was approved.

## Announcement

- County Council approved a resolution to continue flying the Ukrainian flag at the County Administration Buildings until the end of the current term of council, but provided the authority to the warden to altar the decision should the situation in Ukraine change or other circumstances arise requiring a change in direction. County Council originally passed a motion at the March session to fly the Ukrainian flag until April 30.

## Finance & Administration Committee

**Presented by: Jennifer Murphy, Chair**

- Tina Peplinskie, former journalist with the Pembroke Observer and News, has been hired as the County of Renfrew's new Media Relations and Social Media Coordinator. [See full media release here.](#)
- Provincial Offences Administration backlog as addressed. With 2,760 backlog charges from January to March 2022, it could take an estimated three years to clear the backlog at the current rate of dealing with charges.
- Council approved the establishment of an Ottawa Valley Ontario Health Team (OVOHT) reserve in the amount of \$65,000 for use of the OVOHT steering committee.
- Several by-laws were passed relating to the 2022 Tax Policy:
  - A by-law to set tax ratios for County and lower-tier purposes.
  - A by-law to set tax rate reductions for prescribed property subclasses for County and lower-tier purposes.
  - A by-law to establish the 2022 Tax Rates for County of Renfrew purposes.
- Council approved changes to Corporate Policies A-09 Misconduct in the Workplace, E-01 Hours of Work and Overtime, E-02 Statutory and Paid Holiday FT, E-03 Statutory and Paid Holiday Other than FT and E-04 Vacation.

## Community Services Committee

**Presented by: James Brose, Chair**

- The Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF) is a new investment by the Ontario government because of the COVID 19 pandemic. It provides assistance to individuals to help protect the health and safety of the province's most vulnerable people to meet their basic needs. This SSRF was first

announced on March 23, 2020. Since then, there have been four rounds of the SSRF. Since April 2020, the County of Renfrew has received \$6,688,196.

- County Council passed a resolution to authorize the Warden and Clerk to execute the amended Homelessness Prevention Program Transfer Payment Agreement between the County of Renfrew and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.
- County Council passed a resolution to approve the hiring of a contract Child Care Supervisor in Group 7 of the Salary Range (\$70,758 to \$80,748); with 100 per cent of the salary for the position coming from the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) funding.
- County Council approved the awarding of a contract for the replacement of windows in four (4) town home blocks at 1030-1106 Lea Street, Pembroke, as submitted by Valley Window and Door, Pembroke, Ontario in the amount of \$214,534 plus HST.

## Development & Property Committee

### Presented by: Robert Sweet, Chair

- Update on the Twinning with Renfrewshire, Scotland. Chair Robert Sweet, Director Craig Kelley, Manager of Economic Development Alastair Baird, and members of the Upper Ottawa Valley Chamber of Commerce (UOVCC) met to discuss opportunities as they relate to a Chamber Initiated Business Twinning Mission with Renfrewshire's Chamber of Commerce(s) in late 2022/early 2023.
- The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) and Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) chairs made a joint submission to Ontario's Standing Committee on General Government Policy on the Building Better Broadband Act and Getting Ontario Connected Act on March 30. Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO) staff appeared before the Standing Committee on March 30 to voice concerns on behalf of their members. The response was based on previous positions adopted by Council.
- Business Development Officer David Wybou participated in a meeting with members of the Canadian Nuclear Laboratories organizing team for CNL's annual Industry Day, which will take place Thursday, June 2 at CNL's new Logistics building at the entrance to the Chalk River Laboratories. Renfrew County businesses will have the opportunity to participate with a booth at no charge.
- The Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario) announced a new funding stream to be delivered via the Federal Government Tourism Relief Fund via the Regional Tourism Organization (RTO) network in Ontario. RTO 11, Ontario's Highlands Tourism Organization (OHTO), supports the County of Renfrew, as well as the Counties of Hastings, Lanark, Frontenac and Lennox and Addington, and will have \$3 million in funding to deliver across the region. OHTO and the Ottawa Valley Tourist Association (OVTA) have been anticipating this funding announcement and welcome the positive news to help our tourism sector rebuild and innovate in our recovery from COVID-19.
- Correspondence was sent to all lower-tier municipalities reminding of the 2014 appointment of Jason Davis as the County's Area Weed Inspector and requesting to be informed if the lower-tier municipalities have appointed their own local weed inspector.
- Information on secondary dwellings was reviewed. Secondary dwellings are a self-contained residential unit that has kitchen and bathroom facilities that is located on the same property as the primary dwelling. It can be lived in by the property owner, other family members, or rented out. Changes to the Planning Act and County of Renfrew Official Plan have made secondary

dwelling a new housing option for municipalities and property owners to consider. Municipalities are updating their zoning by-laws and developing provisions for allowing these housing units. [For more information on Secondary Dwellings visit page 212.](#)

- Two plans of subdivision received final approval. The Shames subdivision in the Town of Petawawa creates 14 lots. The Combermere Lodge subdivision and condominium in the Township of Madawaska Valley creates 44 new lots.
- On March 24, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing approved OPA No. 11 for the Township of Whitewater Region. The approval triggers an appeal period and if no appeals are received by the Ministry, then the decision is final.
- The County received an application to amend the Official Plan from the Township of Whitewater Region. The application proposes changes to the settlement boundary of Cobden and some of the land use designations in the area. Staff will be processing the application in accordance with the requirements of the Planning Act and a public meeting will be scheduled to be held at the municipal office of the Township of Whitewater Region in June.
- The County will assist the Township of Whitewater Region for an eight-week period while the Township Planner is on leave. The County will be primarily preparing notices required under the Planning Act. In addition, planning staff will be preparing consent reports and attended a Committee of Adjustment meeting on April 21.
- On March 30, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing issued a news release, on a plan to act on recommendations from the Housing Affordability Task Force and the Provincial-Municipal Housing Summit. Highlights include:
  - Working with municipalities to identify and enhance measures that will crack down on land speculation and protect home buyers.
  - Supporting municipalities with resources, tools and standards to provide timely review and adjudication processes by both extending legislated timelines for decisions while focusing the decision-making process.
  - Investing more than \$19 million to help the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) and the Landlord and Tenant Board to reduce their backlogs.
  - Making it easier to build more community housing by making better use of provincially owned lands for non-profit housing providers. To preserve the existing stock of community housing and modernize the system for those who depend on it.
  - The Province of Ontario will be consulting with the public and municipalities on how to develop recommendations on how to support gentle density for multi-generational and missing middle housing, as well as addressing housing needs in rural and northern communities.
- County Council passed a resolution directing staff to review the complement of Planning Division staff, along with a forecast of planning applications, including general inquiries and bring a report back to council. County Council approved the addition of one County Planner position in the Planning Division to be hired in Group 7 of the Salary Range. By way of background, the Planning Division Services is experiencing a significant increase in planning activity, much of it stemming from much more complicated files, updating of zoning by-laws, and an increase in the use of general inquiries. With the impending changes to planning policies by the Province of Ontario with the passing of Bill 109, there will be increased pressure on our staffing resources to review applications for rural severances, subdivisions, and to complete general inquiries within a much more limited period.

- County Council passed a resolution to authorize the Warden to send a letter to the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, calling for the inclusion of nuclear energy in the Green Bond Framework.
- County Council passed a resolution to authorize the Warden to send a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing in response to Bill 109, which intends to “support a plan to crack down on speculators who are driving up the cost of housing, protect homebuyers from predatory development practices, and create more housing options for homeowners and renters by accelerating development timelines to get more homes built faster” that addresses: i) concern regarding municipalities ability to achieve the proposed timelines without penalty; ii) the need for increased funding resources to assist with the need to add staff capacity to meet the new approval timelines; iii) clarity on timelines for agency feedback and concurrent provincial approvals; and, iv) increased resources to encourage post-secondary students to pursue a career in municipal planning.
- County Council passed a by-law to enter into a Program Services Agreement with Futurpreneur Canada to assist in the delivery of programs in the community. Futurpreneur Canada, a not-for-profit corporation established to support and provide business loans to entrepreneurs, has been a partner of Enterprise Renfrew County (ERC) for 11 years.
- County Council passed a by-law delegating authority to the Director of Development and Property to enter Planning Services Agreement(s) with local municipalities. Staff was directed to correspond with local municipalities for which the County provides local planning services that have not yet signed a Planning Services Agreement. The County provides planning services to 12 local municipalities regarding local approvals and processes.
- County Council authorized the Warden and the Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk to enter into a Lease Agreement with Rogers Communications Inc. for the installation of a telecommunication tower on the County of Renfrew owned forest property, the Ireland South Tract, at Lalande Road and Little Ireland Road in the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan. The revenue will be used by the Forestry Division and re-evaluated if the term is extended.

## Health Committee

### Presented by: Michael Donohue, Chair

- The County of Renfrew began the transition from COVID-19 testing clinics to Clinical Assessment Centres to continue the process of monitoring the transmission and contraction rates of the population. Operating in stationary and mobile teams, the Emergency Services Department is now performing COVID-19 rapid molecular testing through a nasopharyngeal (NP) swab and the use of ID Now equipment.
- Vaccine update: With the increase of the number of COVID-positive cases in the community, the province has requested the Paramedic Service begin preparation for delivery of fourth dose vaccinations. The Ministry of Health has updated COVID-19 Vaccine third dose booster recommendations. The Renfrew County and District Health Unit plans to move forward to support this increase in demand by continuing pop-up clinics in partnership with Emergency Services throughout the county.
- The week of April 10-16 was National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. The County of Renfrew acknowledged the vital service performed with bravery, patience and compassion by the men and women at Central Ambulance Communications Centre, during this week dedicated to them.

- Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021 came into force on April 11, 2022, which repeals and replaces the existing Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007 and revokes Ontario Regulation 79/10. This new Act will enhance resident quality of care and life in several key areas including residents' rights, hours of care, resident safety and wellbeing, caregivers, quality, development and redevelopment, emergency planning, accountability and palliative care.
- County Council passed a resolution to authorize the Warden and Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk to sign Schedule F – Declaration of Compliance for the period April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022, as part of the Multi-Sector Service Accountability Agreement (M-SAA) Amending Agreement between Ontario Health and Bonnechere Manor Senior/Adult Day Program for the continuation of 100 per cent funding.

## Operations Committee

### Presented by: Tom Peckett, Chair

- County Staff facilitated a virtual meeting with Laura Blease, Senior Policy Advisor, Environmental Policy Branch, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to discuss the On-Site and Excess Soil Management, Ontario Regulation 406/19. Eleven of our partner municipalities were in attendance.
- The committee directed staff to schedule a road tour for members of County Council in August. The tour would allow members of council to witness the wide expanse of projects undertaken annually on roads, bridges, and structure culverts throughout the County of Renfrew. Warden Debbie Robinson and CAO Paul Moreau visited several capital project sites in 2021 and found it to be a beneficial exercise.
- Design work is continuing for the rehabilitation of County Structure B005 (Scollard Bridge) by HP Engineering Incorporated. Three design alternatives were evaluated during the preliminary design.
- The tender for close-cut clearing along County Road 512 (Foymount Road), from Miller Road to Harrington Creek Bridge, in the Township of Bonnechere Valley, closed on April 7. County staff reached out to staff at Bell and Hydro One to advise that close-cut clearing is anticipated to be completed by June 2. Bell staff has advised that utility relocations could take up to one year to complete due to the large number of poles to be relocated and 83 requiring rock drilling.
- As the County of Renfrew proceeds with a Transportation Master Plan (TMP), an email has been sent to all local municipal Public Works staff and County representatives requesting they provide the Public Works staff with a timetable for an official decision on whether they wish to be included. As part of the Request for Proposal, local municipal TMPs will be included as provisional items, but the municipalities can withdraw without penalty.
- A resolution was passed that County Council pass a By-law to amend the existing Asset Management Plan to set target system average condition values at 68 for Bridge and Structural Culvert assets.
- A resolution was passed that County Council approve a contract as submitted by Coco Paving Inc., Kingston, Ontario for the rehabilitation of County Structure B057 (Mount St. Patrick Bridge) in the amount of \$686,698 plus HST.
- County Council approved a contract as submitted by 2274084 Ontario Ltd., a/o GMP Contracting Ltd., Markham, Ontario for the rehabilitation of County Structure B319 (Bucholtz Bridge) in the amount of \$835,495.47 plus HST.

- County Council approved a contract as submitted by Six Nations Aecon Joint Venture, Toronto, Ontario for close-cut clearing along County Road 512 (Foymount Road) from Miller Road to County Structure B257 (Harrington Creek Bridge) in the amount of \$151,477.44 plus HST.
- County Council approved a contract as submitted by Greenwood Paving (Pembroke) Ltd., Pembroke, Ontario for the rehabilitation of County Road 517 (Dafoe Road) in the amount of \$943,818.01 plus HST.
- County Council approved a contract as submitted by Greenwood Paving (Pembroke) Ltd., Pembroke, Ontario for the rehabilitation of County Road 65 (Centennial Lake Road) in the amount of \$1,143,330.89 plus HST.
- County Council approved a contract as submitted by Surgenor Chevrolet Buick GMC Cadillac, Ottawa, Ontario for the supply and delivery of eight light duty pick-up trucks in the amount of \$432,318 plus applicable taxes.
- County Council approved a contract as submitted by Provincial Road Markings Inc., Guelph, Ontario for Pavement Marking in the amount of \$657,003 plus HST.
- County Council passed a by-law to acquire Part 1 on Plan 49R-20034 in the geographic Township of Matawatchan in the Township of Greater Madawaska from Korey McKinnon for the sum of \$1.00; and further that Part 1 on Plan 49R-20034 be dedicated as part of the public highway upon registration of the transfer documents.
- In an addendum to the Operations Committee report, County Council approved a contract as submitted by Bonnechere Excavating Incorporated, Renfrew, Ontario for the rehabilitation of County Structure B203 (Petawawa River Bridge) in the amount of \$1,806,574 plus HST. Additional funds will be allocated from the Working Capital Reserve to finance the project above the original budget allocation.
- County Council passed a by-law approving the alterations to County Roads and Structures. For several of our 2022 capital projects, the work may include temporary or permanent changes, alterations or restrictions to the use of the highway, or to private entrances.

## **Additional Information**

**Paul Moreau, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk**

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