

County Council Summary

March 30, 2022

Below you will find highlights of the County of Renfrew Council meeting from March 30, 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](#)

Announcements

- On March 30, 2020, on behalf of the County of Renfrew, Warden Robinson signed with much trepidation a piece of paper that effectively put the County under a Declared State of Emergency. Exactly two years to the day, and after consultation with a number of people, the declaration was officially terminated. Warden Robinson indicated that at this point we may not have reason to celebrate, but it is time to begin bringing some normalcy back to our lives. As always, the County of Renfrew will continue to monitor the ever-changing landscape with the goal of doing what is required to keep our residents and staff safe while maintaining our essential services.
- Paul Moreau announced his retirement to County Council and plans to leave in late August/early September. Paul indicated “One of my greatest privileges has been to work with what I believe to be one of the highest performing teams ever at the County of Renfrew. You have shown unparalleled commitment to the delivery of services to the residents of the County and I have been proud to be a part of such an effective and professional team. Together, we have worked through a truly unprecedented time. We could not have anticipated the impacts of a worldwide pandemic and the impact it would have on the County and on our most vulnerable residents. Your response, commitment and willingness to continue to serve our community through this challenging time, demonstrates public service at its best.” Paul will certainly be missed by staff and elected officials.
- County Council passed a resolution to raise the Ukrainian flag at County Administration Buildings until April 30, 2022 to show support to Ukraine and the Ukrainian community

Warden’s Address

Key highlights

- During the month of March Warden Robinson attended 30 meetings regarding Council business.
- On March 1, she attended, on behalf of the EOWC, the virtual Ontario Food Summit with Premier Ford, the Honourable Lisa Thompson, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and Parliamentary Assistants, Randy Pettapiece and Toby Barrett. This was an opportunity to discuss food supply and security, as well as innovation through the value chains and the future of our agri-food supply chain as a whole. Our province’s farmers, food processors and grocery stores have been

working tirelessly to ensure Ontarians have food on their tables, and our province is committed to continuing to support their efforts.

- On March 8, she had the privilege of being the keynote speaker at the Upper Ottawa Valley Chamber of Commerce International Women's Day event. At the meeting, she encouraged anyone who wants to have a positive impact on his or her community to consider putting their name on a ballot, and if anyone is interested in learning about municipal politics and what it entails, to speak to any of the 17 accomplished leaders who sit on County Council who would be happy to share their experiences.
- On March 10, she attended a virtual Garrison Petawawa Business Lunch, along with some of our economic development staff. It was an opportunity for us to highlight our economic development and tourism work as well as focus on the excellent relationship the County of Renfrew has with Garrison Petawawa.
- On March 11, she traveled to Napanee to chair her very first in-person meeting of the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus. This is the EOWC's annual priority setting session. With the assistance of John Mathieson from Strategy Corp, they narrowed it down from thirteen to three priorities: Affordable and Attainable Housing; Ontario Health Team Governance / Structure; and Health Care Human Resources / Family Physicians. Warden Robinson also sits on AMO's Health Task Force and she has asked to present to the task force members on the EOWC's two health-related priorities at our June meeting. As chair of the EOWC, she sees it as her responsibility to bring issues of concern from the caucus to AMO if they have province-wide implications and certainly OHTs and health care human resources fit that description.
- On March 24 and 25, she attended the AMO Board of Directors and Committee of the Whole Meetings.

Delegations

- Ms. Susan Chase, Specialist in Digital IT Strategy, Smart City and Innovation, Perry Group Consulting Ltd. to overview the Digital Strategy Discovery Review prepared for the County of Renfrew.

Finance & Administration Committee

Presented by: Brian Hunt, Vice-Chair

- At the request of our local municipalities during our 2021 Tax Policy Working Group meeting, the County of Renfrew was asked to take the lead on coordinating a third-party organization on a fee for service basis for appeals for assessment changes, which resulted in Municipal Tax Equity Consultants Inc. being selected by the group. As part of the 2022 Budget, County Council approved the costs associated with Municipal Tax Equity Consultants Inc. providing the County of Renfrew and our local municipalities with the following services:

MTE Services	Budget
Assessment Roll Audit Study	\$10,500
Assessment Audit Follow Up and Remediation Efforts	\$8,000
ABM Workshop and Knowledge Transfer	\$2,500

MTE Services	Budget
Ad Hoc Program Design Support	\$1,200
Total (Exclusive of HST and Disbursements)	\$22,200

The County entered into a service agreement with Municipal Tax Equity Consultants Inc. to begin their review of our assessment roll. Any resulting assessment appeals would be considered on a cost-share basis with our local municipalities.

- A virtual Tax Policy Working Group meeting was held on Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. and all the local municipal treasurers were invited to attend. This virtual meeting also included a meeting of the Renfrew County Clerk-Treasurers Association (RCCTA) Finance Sub-Committee. A Tax Policy Working Group Report and Taxation By-laws will be provided at the April meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee and April session of County Council, which will include all recommendations from the March Tax Policy Working Group meeting.
- County Council repealed Corporate COVID-19 Vaccination Policy.
- The County of Renfrew endorsed Councillor Glenn Doncaster to stand for election on FCM’s Board of Directors and or appointments to Standing Committees for the period starting in June 2022 and ending June 2023.

Community Services Committee

Presented by: James Brose, Chair

- County Council adopted a By-law to execute the Contribution Agreement between the County of Renfrew and the Renfrew County Housing Corporation for funding from the Province of Ontario to build affordable, supportive housing in the Renfrew County catchment area. The intent is to build a complex that will house a minimum of six 2-bedroom housing units on the Renfrew County Housing Corporation (RCHC) property located on Lea Street in Pembroke.
- County By-law No. 49-17 was amended to change policies LHCC-01 Anaphylaxis Policy, LHCC-13 Compliance and Contravention Policy, LHCC-17 COVID-19 Immunizations Disclosure Policy, and include the addition of a new policy, LHCC-18 Pet and Animal Policy, to the Licensed Home Child Care Policies and Procedures.
- County Council approved that the Warden sign the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Fair Share Petition to the federal government. Warden Robinson, as the Chair of the Eastern Ontario Wardens’ Caucus, also signed, a request from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to sign a petition being sent to the federal government to pay their fair share, extend homelessness prevention funding to all of Ontario’s communities, and fully and expeditiously implement the commitment to create a URN Indigenous Housing Strategy, including joining Ontario in investing heavily in off-reserve Indigenous communities.
- County Council approved the Homelessness Prevention Program Investment Plan.

Development & Property Committee

Presented by: Cathy Regier, Vice-Chair

- County Council passed a revised Tariff of Fees By-law. The revised by-law had included the addition of a fee for General Inquiries, however that fee proposal was deferred to the Development & Property Committee to be dealt with as part of the 2023 budget deliberations.
- Staff are working with farmers' markets and municipalities in Arnprior, Renfrew, Whitewater Region, Bonnechere Valley, Madawaska Valley and Deep River in order to establish live, in-person Taste of the Valley Events for 2022. Most farmers' markets were open last year and market vendors as well as the general public are anxious to again enjoy what the various Taste of the Valley events around the County have to offer. Final dates and Taste of the Valley host municipalities are still to be confirmed but planning and coordination is on-going with past Taste of the Valley host municipalities and organizations.
- Nominations are open for the Ottawa Valley Tourism Awards in the following categories:
 - Tourism Champion (individual)
 - Business of Distinction (business)
 - Special Event (event).

Municipalities are encouraged to nominate local individuals, tourism businesses and events who have gone above and beyond to help grow tourism in the Ottawa Valley during 2021. Nominations will be accepted until Friday, April 1, 2022 and the awards will be announced during the Ottawa Valley Tourist Association (OVTA) Annual General Meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday, April 26, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. via Zoom
- At the February 22, 2022 OVTA Board meeting, the Board agreed to send a letter to the Honourable Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries and to the Tourism Industry Association of Ontario (TIAO) expressing concerns over rising costs for the TODS program and its impact to businesses. Staff have also requested similar letters of support from the County partners within the Ontario's Highlands regions, including Frontenac, Hastings, Haliburton, Lanark and Lennox and Addington.
- County Council approved that the Warden sign a petition to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) in collaboration with the Town of Deep River in their support of the Near Surface Disposal Facility (NSDF). County Council recommend that the Warden sign a petition to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) in collaboration with the Town of Deep River in their support of the Near Surface Disposal Facility (NSDF). The petition was also sent to the Renfrew County local municipalities and the City of Pembroke for their support.
- County Council approved the Warden to send a letter to the Hon. Greg Rickford, Minister of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry requesting that the Province's Registry Office permit the use of compiled plans, instead of very costly surveys, to transfer the remaining Canadian Pacific (CP) lands running through Crown Land to the County of Renfrew and the Township of Papineau-Cameron; A copy of this letter will be sent to MPP John Yakabuski, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke and MPP Vic Fedeli, Nipissing.
- County Council passed a By-law to enter into a Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA) with the Province of Ontario for the financial and program support of Enterprise Renfrew County provided that the terms of the 2022-2023 agreement maintain the integrity and commitments of previous TPAs.
- County Council passed a Transfer Payment Agreement for funds to be received from OMAFRA for an economic development program that will be formally announced in the very near future.
- County Council direct staff to cancel RFP-DP-2022-01 (Design-Build of an Affordable Multi-Residential Housing Project), AND THAT County Council direct staff to issue a Request of Proposal (RFP) for Architectural Services for the Construction of an Affordable Multi-Residential Housing Project in the City of Pembroke.

Health Committee

Presented by: Michael Donohue, Chair

- County Council approved Policy G-010 Vaccination Policy for the Long-Term Care Homes (Bonnechere Manor and Miramichi Lodge). Dr. Robert Cushman, Acting Medical Officer of Health for the Renfrew County and District Health Unit, advises all long-term care facilities to postpone lifting of restrictions.
- A Point of Care Ultrasound Service (POCUS) rollout within the CPRU program is being planned, including education for staff in a train the trainer model to leverage the Canadian Point of Care Ultrasound Society's expertise and accreditation. This will result in improved assessment and diagnostic capability for the Community Paramedic Program.
The CPRU program is participating in the High Intensity Supports at Home (HISH) program in collaboration with Home and Community Care Support Services and other multidisciplinary agencies in the community to provide "wrap around" care for patients requiring more intensive supports to safely remain at home.
- Swabbing clinics continue to provide testing for eligible residents although there has been a significant decline in numbers. The clinic in Shady Nook still offers weekday clinics while Horton and Arnprior have reduced the number of testing dates.
The transition to testing with the Abbott ID Now rapid analyzers will be used almost exclusively starting next week, while PCR testing will be used on an as needed basis. All appointments for testing will continue to be booked through RCVTAC.
- The Ministry of Health has provided confirmation that the Ministry of Health has received approval to continue supporting COVID-19 testing in fiscal year 2022-23, including maintaining current funding support for the Renfrew County VTAC.
- The Ministry of Health has provided the County of Renfrew, Paramedic Service with up to \$1,514,402 in one-time funding for 2021 in support of the Emergency Service's COVID-19 General Expenses and Vaccine Distribution.
- County Council adopted a By-law to authorizing the Warden and Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk to sign the "Extending Letters" for the extension of the Long-Term Care Service Accountability Agreements from March 31, 2022 until March 31, 2023 between Ontario Health and each of Bonnechere Manor and Miramichi Lodge for submission by the deadline of March 30, 2022.
- County Council adopted a By-law to authorizing the Warden and Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk to sign the "Extending Letter" for the extension of the Multi-Sector Service Accountability Agreement from March 31, 2022 to March 31, 2023 between Ontario Health and Bonnechere Manor Senior/Adult Day Program for submission by the deadline of March 30, 2022.
- County Council authorized the Chief Administrative Officer to sign the Ontario Transfer Payment Agreement for the Network 24 Ontario Health Team to receive funding in the amount of \$1,125,000 (Implementation Funding) and \$75,000 (Collaborative Support) from the Province of Ontario.

Operations Committee

Presented by: Tom Peckett, Chair

- The Capital Program maps for the planned projects for County Roads and Structures in 2022, including the budget allocation can be found in the County Council report.
- A brief prepared by the Public Works and Engineering Department staff on the findings from research conducted and through discussions with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) on their recently enacted requirements of Regulation 406/19, On-Site and Excess Soil Management Regulation. The research concludes that Regulation 406/19 does not significantly impact County operations or projects.

A webinar session with the Senior Policy Advisor for the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks was held on March 22, 2022 for the County of Renfrew and lower-tier municipal public works staff to overview the Regulation 406/19, On-Site and Excess Soil Management. Staff was directed to develop a policy regarding the management and reuse of excess soils resulting from County of Renfrew capital and maintenance projects and to update the property owner declaration form to meet the consent requirements under Ontario Regulation 406/19. Through feedback received on the circulation of options for establishing funding for growth related projects, it has been recommended by a number of local municipalities that the County proceed with completing a Transportation Master Plan (TMP) in order to better identify those projects resulting from growth and establish the costs associated with them.

In anticipation that the development of a TMP may be of benefit to the County, staff sounded the market in late 2021 and received proposed costs averaging \$188,556 for the services required to establish a TMP. Infrastructure to be considered in the TMP would be to include County Roads, Bridges, Structure Culverts, and Active Transportation infrastructure (trails, hardened shoulders, etc.). A County TMP shall, at minimum:

- Integrate with County and local Official Plans;
- Establish a vision for transportation within the County and guiding principles supporting the vision;
- Proactively plan for all modes of travel;
- Optimize investments in transportation infrastructure;
- Identify projects not currently included in the 10-Year Asset Management Plan resulting from growth;
- Identify joint partnership funding opportunities;
- Provide accessible streets for all ages and abilities;
- Investigate and provide insights on potential for a County transit system;
- Encourage seamless, multi-modal travel and transfers between different transportation modes;
- Promote active lifestyles;
- Support a vibrant and connected community; and
- Enhance quality of life for the people who live, work, and play in the County of Renfrew.
- The development of a TMP is anticipated to be a lengthy process, requiring investigation and analysis of all County transportation infrastructure, cooperation with all local municipalities, and review of all policies relating to roads, bridges, trails, and prioritization of works. There will also be opportunity to cooperate with local municipalities who have completed, or are in the process

of completing, a TMP to ensure the County's TMP coincides with the others. It is anticipated that a County TMP will require up to two years to complete.

Our Committee directed the Public Works and Engineering Department staff to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Professional Services to develop a Transportation Master Plan for the County of Renfrew. As the development of a TMP has not been included in the 2022 budget, the funding for this will come from the Working Capital Reserve.

- County Council approved waiving the Tourism Signage fees on County Roads for 2022, and the Tourism Signage fees will be reinstated in January 2023. Warden will send a letter to the Honourable Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries requesting the Ministry to consider suspending the Tourism-Oriented Directional Signing (TODS) fees in 2022.

Additional Information

Paul Moreau, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk

613-735-7288