

County Council Summary

June 28, 2023

Below you will find highlights of the County of Renfrew County Council meeting from June 28, 2023.

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 County Council package](#) can be found on our website.

[June meeting](#) YouTube link.

Warden's Address

During the moment of silent reflection, Warden Peter Emon asked those in attendance to remember the members of 450 Tactical Helicopter Squadron – Capt. David Domagala, 32, and Capt. Marc Larouche, 53 – who died as a result of a helicopter crash near Garrison Petawawa earlier this month.

Key highlights

During the month of June, Warden Peter Emon attended 14 meetings on County business.

- On June 7, he attended with CAO Craig Kelley and Director Michael Nolan, a meeting to discuss paramedic issues including cross border billing, off load delays and the County's relationship with the City of Ottawa. Members of council and staff from the Counties of Prescott Russell, Lanark, and Stormont Dundas and Glengarry, and the City of Cornwall were present and progress was made on forging ahead with the issues.
- On June 8, he attended a meeting with CAO Kelley, members of the Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) board, elected officials and staff from South Algonquin and the City of Pembroke. RCDHU staff provided a briefing on a budget deficit as a result of the possibility of the mitigation funding from the Province of Ontario not being renewed. The Board noted the resulting strain on the 2024 budgets of the three obligated municipalities. On June 19 the same group met with MPP John Yakabuski regarding the absence of mitigation funding. MPP Yakabuski agreed to seek clarification from the Minister and facilitate a meeting.
- On June 22, he and other municipal leaders attended a briefing on wildfires in Ontario hosted by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. The prognosis was for a long dry summer with a high fuel load and the probability of more fires if our communities are not vigilant.
- On June 26, he attended a meeting of the United Way East Ontario Cabinet to discuss youth mental health and substance use health in East Ontario.
- On June 27 he attended Roseburg Forest Products in Laurentian Valley along with CAO Craig Kelley and County Development staff at the invitation of Anita Vandebeld, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Development; the Honourable Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry and MPP John Yakabuski, for an announcement on a significant funding investment. The announcement saw the Federal and Provincial Governments invest \$1.5 million each to help Roseburg Forest Products upgrade equipment at the facility.

- On June 29, he presented the Culture Connector Awards to Ro Nwosu and Michelle Beale in Arnprior. Culture Connect, organized by the Local Immigration Partnership – Lanark and Renfrew, is an initiative, which offers a unique opportunity to celebrate the beauty of diversity and the significance of culture. By bringing together community groups and organizations across the Ottawa Valley, Culture Connect aims to create an inclusive space for learning, social connection, and fun.

Delegations

- Darren Waters, Area Manager Highway Engineering, Project Delivery, and Ryan Vandenberg, Project Manager, Project Delivery, Ministry of Transportation, provided an update about MTO projects in Renfrew County in 2023. This includes an investment of approximately \$8 million on highway rehabilitation projects in Renfrew County this year. They shared details about the Highway 148 project, which is currently in the design phase, and the consultation phase for Highway 60 at County Roads 30/70, as well as the Highway 17 Twinning, including the Calabogie Road interchange.
- Lori Huber, Partner, KPMG, LLP presented the 2022 Draft Audited Financial Statements for the County of Renfrew. This was the first time she presented to council as KPMG was just hired as the new auditor for the County.
- Meredith Staveley-Watson, Manager of Government Relations and Policy, Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus, outlined the history of the EOWC and shared successes of the group's advocacy work. Jim Pine, CAO for the County of Hastings, outlined the EOWC's Regional Housing Plan, known as '7 in 7', a bold plan which aims to reduce wait lists and build the supply of community housing by delivering 7,000 new affordable community rental units across Eastern Ontario over the next seven year.

Announcements

- County Council approved the creation of the Community Health Programs Advisory Committee (CHPAC) as an ad-hoc to the Health Committee, consisting of representatives from different institutions and areas of relevance within the broader health-care system, to offer their diverse, relevant, and extensive perspectives of health care leadership experience. Warden Peter Emon and Councillor Michael Donohue, Health Committee chair, will be the County Council representatives on the CHPAC.
- County Councillors Dan Lynch and Jennifer Murphy were appointed as Deputy Wardens from July 1, 2023 to December 12, 2023. This is a ceremonial function to allow the Warden to accept more invitations and have the Deputy Wardens attend simultaneous events to bring greetings on behalf of the County, while increasing the exposure for the corporation.
- County Council passed a [Housing and Homelessness Resolution](#) highlighting the housing and homelessness crisis being felt across Ontario and within Renfrew County. The resolution calls on the Province of Ontario to acknowledge the housing affordability crisis, commit to ending homelessness and provide adequate, predictable and sustainable housing infrastructure renewal funding.
- County Council approved the purchase of property at 34254 Highway 41, Eganville, Ontario in the amount of \$1.6 million for a future Paramedic Base. Staff was directed to further proceed with the retrofit and current costs at an estimated value of \$483,200 to be financed from Building Reserves.

Finance & Administration Committee

Presented by: Jennifer Murphy, Chair

- Tara-Lee Hay, Prosecutor within the Provincial Offences Administration, provided an update to the Finance and Administration Committee on the review of cases within the POA Court due to COVID-19. She noted the review resulted in the disposal of approximately 500 Part I and Part III charges within the County of Renfrew between January to May 2023, with the majority of these charges falling under the Highway Traffic Act and the Compulsory Automobile Insurance Act. This is to assist with the current court backlog.
- County Council passed a resolution authorizing staff to join the Canoe Procurement Group of Canada/LAS Group Procurement Program, effective July 1, 2023, to take advantage of public sector group purchasing opportunities when it is beneficial for the County of Renfrew to do so.
- County Council approved that the Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk be given delegated authority for the month of July to approve consultant appointments and contract awards that would normally require Committee and/or Council approval. This approval is contingent on the appointments/contract awards being within approved funding allocations and that there are no irregularities associated with the procurement process.
- County Council approved a revised Employment By-law # 1 that included a number of changes, in removing, reclassifying, creating and renaming positions. All of these changes were approved over the past year.

Community Services Committee

Presented by: Anne Giardini, Chair

- The County of Renfrew Community Services Department has been participating on the Renfrew County Risk Watch Table since April 2023. The Table brings multiple human-service sectors together to identify individuals who are at an acutely elevated risk of harm and provide a coordinated intervention before a crisis occurs. Meetings are held on a bi-monthly basis, and the location is rotated between Renfrew and Pembroke. Rotating the meeting location affords all agencies an opportunity to attend in person while reducing travel time and expenses.

Development & Property Committee

Presented by: James Brose, Chair

- The Summer Company program has five participants enrolled for the 2023 season:
 - Daniel Pomery – 3D Directions, Chalk River. 3D printing business selling small items such as fidget spinners, figurines and custom orders.
 - Grace Ding – Aster’s Boutique, Deep River. Jewelry and sewing business, including wrap wire jewelry (rings, earrings, necklaces, bracelets) and small sewing services (minor repairs, buttons and hems).

- Arden Miller – Arden Miller Studios, Chalk River. Custom paint pieces and hand painted items, including tote bags.
- Amber Gilchrist – Charms and Trinkets, Pembroke. Pottery business offering handcrafted mugs, bowls and vases.
- Logan Stuart – Viking Metal Works, Eganville. Junior blacksmith offering hooks, hangers, BBQ accessories and cooking utensils.

Business operations start the first week of July. Participants will each receive a \$1,500 grant to assist with business start-up costs, including equipment purchase, setting up online platforms, etc. To successfully complete the program and receive a second grant of \$1,500, students must log 280 operational hours, complete training, attend bi-weekly meetings and provide proof of sales.

- From January to May 2023, the Planning Division opened 96 new severance applications and approved 91 applications. In 2022, the County of Renfrew received a total of 234 applications and approvals for 184 applications. The County of Renfrew has processed 15 Zoning By-law Amendment applications and 7 Official Plan Amendments on behalf of local municipalities, in the same timeframe.
- Official Plan Amendment No. 35 implemented new provisions that would allow municipalities to require mandatory pre-consultation. County of Renfrew staff have reached out to the local municipalities that we provide local planning services for to start implementing changes to address Bill 109, More Homes for Everyone Act, 2022 and Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022. These changes are intended to help local municipalities process planning applications in accordance with the revised timeframes under the Planning Act.
- The Province has extended the commenting period regarding a review of proposed policies adapted from A Place to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement to form a new provincial planning policy instrument, until August 4, 2023 on the Environmental Registry of Ontario ([ERO 019-6813](#)).
- County Council passed a by-law to enter into a lease agreement for a two-year period commencing August 1, 2023 with Arnprior Regional Health for office space at 80 McGonigal Street, Arnprior, Ontario.
- County Council passed an updated Tariff of Fees By-law for applications made in respect of planning matters. Staff recommended an average 10% increase to fees. Even with the proposed increases, these fees are far below actual costs to the County of Renfrew for processing planning applications. The changes to the Tariff of Fees By-law are required to implement Bill 109 and Bill 23. Local municipalities will also need to update their Tariff of Fees by-laws to implement changes to the Planning Act under Bill 109 and Bill 23. Some of the proposed County fee changes will impact what a local municipality will need to re-coop from a local development application fee.
- County Council adopted a by-law to delegate the authority to the Manager of Planning Services to enter into consent agreements. This delegation of authority will streamline the consent agreement process and improve efficiency within the County of Renfrew, ultimately benefiting the stakeholders involved. Consent agreements play a crucial role in facilitating land development, allowing for the creation of new parcels or the adjustment of boundaries between existing parcels. These agreements often include conditions and restrictions that ensure compliance with planning regulations and promote orderly and sustainable development.

Health Committee

Presented by: Michael Donohue, Chair

- The Emergency Services Department met with representatives from the Ministry of Health and the Renfrew Central Ambulance Communications Center to begin planning the implementation of a new deployment tool called MPDS (Medical Priority Dispatch System) to replace the current DPCI (Dispatch Priority Card Index) system of triaging and categorizing 911 calls. The Service will be designing “response plans” to help guide the Ambulance Communications Officer (ACO), at dispatch to send the right crew, to the right place, at the right time.
- RC VTAC was selected as the winner of the Paramedic Chiefs of Canada Award of Excellence in the category of Client Centred Initiative, which was presented at the Leadership Summit in Kelowna, B.C., on June 13-15, 2023.
- The EOWC set paramedic services as a priority for 2023 in response to the growing pressure faced by paramedic services throughout the region. The report includes updated data for both the EOWC as a region as well as each of the 13-member municipalities following the initial EOWC paramedic services situational overview report from 2019. The refreshed report is available on the EOWC website: www.eowc.org/2023paramedicstudy.
- County Council approved that the County of Renfrew join a working group of neighbouring municipalities to address the issue of cross-border paramedic billing and other systemic issues.
- County Council adopted a by-law authorizing the Warden and CAO/Clerk to sign a contract with 211 Ontario to provide 211 contact centre (telephony system) access to support the Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre team.
- County Council approved the reallocation of Paramedic Service Capital Funds to cover the purchase of a Super Daxx Survivor 1800 Rescue Watercraft at a cost of \$11,500 and deferred the purchase of a Paramedic all-terrain vehicle. In the past the Paramedic Service has borrowed boats to respond to calls requiring water access, but this purchase will allow the Service’s Sierra Team to add marine capabilities to its operating procedures.
- County Council authorized the Warden and CAO/Clerk to sign an Agreement between the County of Renfrew, and Ontario Health for funding to support the Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre for the term from April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024.

Operations Committee

Presented by: Glenn Doncaster, Chair

- On May 4, 2023, County staff attended a presentation to various municipal stakeholders by Dillon Consulting Limited (Dillon), on behalf of the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO), which is commencing a Preliminary Design and Class Environmental Assessment Study for the intersection of Highway 60 with County Road 30 (Lake Dore Road) and County Road 70 (Kokomis Road). Dillon reviewed 20 conceptual alternatives for the intersection and has narrowed the design alternatives to the following 4 that are viable for continued analysis and consideration:
 - Traffic signals with left turn lanes;
 - Realigned Kokomis Road with signals and driveway;
 - Realigned Kokomis Road with signals, a south cul-de-sac, and left turn lanes; and,
 - Realigned Kokomis Road with signals and south cul-de-sac.

- County Council approved the assumption of McMahon Road Culvert on McMahon Road, 0.18km east of Ferguslea Road, Township of Admaston/Bromley. Costs for design and construction on McMahon Road Culvert will be shared equally between the County of Renfrew and the Township of Admaston/Bromley. A design for the culvert and budget implications will be presented at a future meeting.
- County Council approved a number of contracts as submitted:
 - For the reconstruction of County Road 512 (Foymount Road) and County Structure B257 (Harrington Creek Bridge), from Rodden Creek to Miller Road, Township of Bonnechere Valley, to Bonnechere Excavating Incorporated (BEI), Renfrew, Ontario, in the amount of \$6,370,184.09 plus applicable taxes.
 - For the rehabilitation of County Road 508 (Calabogie Road) from Goshen Road to Highway 17, Township of McNab/Braeside in the amount of \$1,077,527.42 plus applicable taxes and from County Road 34 (Norton Road) to Mill Street, Township of Greater Madawaska, in the amount of \$940,617.58 plus applicable taxes, to Thomas Cavanagh Construction Limited, Ashton, Ontario.
 - For the rehabilitation of County Road 65 (Centennial Lake Road) from Black Donald Public Boat Launch to Civic Address #2875, in the Township of Greater Madawaska, to McCrea Excavation Ltd., Pembroke, Ontario, in the amount of \$531,708.75 plus applicable taxes.
 - For the rehabilitation of County Road 517 (Dafoe Road) from the Township Line (Coulas Road) to Serran Road, Township of Madawaska Valley, to Walsh Contracting and Equipment Rentals, Killaloe, Ontario, in the amount of \$1,074,039.62 plus applicable taxes.
 - For the rehabilitation of County Road 4 (Storyland Road) from Alex Lane to County Road 653 (Chenaux Road), Township of Horton, to Greenwood Paving (Pembroke) Ltd., Pembroke, Ontario, in the amount of \$1,245,192.50 plus applicable taxes.
 - For Asphalt Patching and Scratch Coat Paving to Greenwood Paving (Pembroke) Ltd., Pembroke, Ontario, in the amount of \$672,355.70 plus applicable taxes.
 - For the reconstruction of County Road 30 (Lake Dore Road) from Highway 60 to Sperberg Road, Township of North Algona Wilberforce, to R.G.T. Clouthier Construction Ltd., Pembroke, Ontario, in the amount of \$2,914,330 plus applicable taxes.
 - For Contract Administration and Construction Supervision services during reconstruction of County Road 512 (Foymount Road), Township of Bonnechere Valley, BT Engineering Incorporated, Ottawa, Ontario, in the amount of \$316,647.80 plus applicable taxes.
- County Council approved a Road Access Agreement to County Road 20 (Castleford Road), Township of Horton between Enne Bakker and Douwe Bakker and the County of Renfrew.
- County Council approved a Road Access Agreement to County Road 508 (Calabogie Road), Township of Greater Madawaska between Scott Power and Lindsay Power and the County of Renfrew.
- County Council approved a Cost Share Agreement with the Town of Arnprior for the County Road 2 (Daniel Street), Edey Street and Galvin Street intersection realignment. During the 2023 Budget Workshop, County Road 2 (Daniel Street), Edey Street and Galvin Street intersection realignment was approved. Staff has completed the Agreement which will see the County of Renfrew contribute \$684,356.96 excluding applicable taxes to this project (as budgeted). This project is being led and managed by the Town of Arnprior.

- County Council approved the acquisition of property described as part of Lot 22, Concession 13, Part 6 on Plan 49R-20186 in the geographic Township of Sebastopol, Township of Bonnechere Valley from Sean Rombough in the amount of \$7,800.

Additional Information

Craig Kelley, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk

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