

Council and Committee Monthly Summary

January 2025

Below you will find highlights of the County of Renfrew County Council and Committee meetings held January 15 and January 29, 2025 under the new Committee of the Whole Structure.

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

The full [Council and Committee packages](#) can be found online.

The [January 15, 2025](#) and [January 29, 2025](#) meetings are on YouTube.

Warden's Address

Key highlights

- To begin the year, Warden Peter Emon proposed an operating theme for 2025 as “Persistent Aggressiveness”, and set out his goals for the year:
 - Addressing the housing and homelessness crisis;
 - Fostering economic growth;
 - Focusing on community defining initiatives (finalizing made-in-Renfrew County Climate Action Plan, exploring rural transit, improving the "Aging in Place" services for seniors and their families and investigating shared service opportunities)
 - Lobbying for Highway 417 expansion;
 - Hosting an Economic Development summit
- Between January 15 and 29, the Warden attended 27 meetings on Council business and noted it was an incredibly busy and productive couple of weeks for both Council and staff. A major highlight was the participation in the Rural Ontario Municipal Association ([ROMA](#)) Conference, where elected officials and staff had several impactful delegations. The County of Renfrew was proud to attend 11 delegations, contributing to the largest number of delegations held at the conference to date. He commended the ROMA team for hosting such a valuable and well-attended event.
- He noted the advocacy efforts at the ROMA Conference have already started to pay off as the County of Renfrew has benefited from several funding announcements in recent days. This include funding for a [Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment \(HART\) Hub](#), a [roundabout](#) at the intersection of two County Roads in the Town of Petawawa, and additional funding to tackle homelessness.
- The Warden thanked the members of County Council who attended ROMA and supported the County in its advocacy. He added this will be an ongoing team effort as we look forward to seeing more additional results from these efforts.

Delegations

At the January 15 meeting, Council heard from the following interested parties:

- Jack Craig, President and CEO of Canadian Nuclear Laboratories, provided an update on the operations at the Chalk River facility, which currently employs 3,505 staff members.
- Maggie Braun, founder of KICLEI Canada, made a presentation requesting the County of Renfrew reevaluate its Climate Action Plan and the Milestone Approach used by Ainsworth Consulting in developing the plan.

2025 Budget

- Each Committee had an opportunity to review departmental budgets, highlighted by business plans from the Directors, and financial implications moderated by Treasurer Daniel Burke. A Special Meeting of County Council will be held on February 6 to further discuss the 2025 County of Renfrew Budget.

Health Committee

Presented by: Michael Donohue, Chair

- County Council approved the County of Renfrew Long-Term Care Homes' Strategic Plan for 2025 to 2030. This plan represents an outline of the mission statements, strategic goals and objectives for Miramichi Lodge and Bonnechere Manor. The Strategic Planning process is an important mechanism for the County of Renfrew Homes to undertake to help guide the implementation of their objectives that is a collaboration of input from residents, families, staff, volunteers and the elected representatives.

Community Services Committee

Presented by: Warden Peter Emon

- County Council adopted a By-law to enter into a Services Agreement between the County of Renfrew Community Services Department and MacKay Manor Inc., Renfrew, Ontario, for services in relation to the operations of a Mesa Warming Centre at 156 John Street, Pembroke, Ontario. MacKay Manor Inc. has one patient recovery home program and three outpatient community-based programs. The Warming Centre is staffed 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, with front-line staff from MacKay Manor Inc. trained in helping people access addictions and mental health support.

Under the new Committee of the Whole Structure the following items were discussed at the Committee level, but not finalized. They will be before County Council at the February 12, 2025 meeting for consideration and resolution.

Development & Property Committee

- Development and Property Committee recommends to County Council that the Warden sign the joint letter of support advocating for sustainable funding for the Canadian Association of Nuclear Host Communities (CANHC), of which the County of Renfrew and Town of Deep River are members.
- Development and Property Committee recommends that County Council adopt a By-law implementing a Municipal Consultation Strategy under Section 17.18 of the Official Plan.
- Enterprise Renfrew County (ERC) will be hosting two free webinars in February as follows:
 - HST Prep for Your Business, with Seguin Financial – February 13, 2025 – 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
 - T2 Tax Insights: A Guide for Corporations, with the Canadian Revenue Agency – February 27, 2025 – 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- On March 4, 2025, ERC will host the Francophone Entrepreneur Networking event in Pembroke. During the event, the winner of the Francophone Entrepreneur Award will also be announced. Nominations for this award will be accepted until February 16, 2025. For more information and to register for upcoming workshops and events, visit the Enterprise Renfrew County website.

Operations Committee

- The Operations Committee recommends that County Council adopt a resolution to direct staff to proceed with an application under the Community Sports and Recreation Infrastructure Fund (CSRIF), Stream 2, New Builds and Signature New Builds, for the reconstruction of the trail crossing AT032 (Bissett Creek and Highway 17) located on the Algonquin Trail, in the United Townships of Head, Clara and Maria.
- The Operations Committee recommends that County Council adopt a resolution to direct staff to pursue and submit applications for funding under any eligible Provincial and/or Federal programs that are, or may become, available for which development or maintenance of County Recreational Trails and associated bridges, may be eligible.
- The Operations Committee recommends that staff be directed to seek feedback from the local municipalities regarding the proposed draft policy regarding Community Safety Zones.
- The Operations Committee directs staff to request that Egis proceed with a new Rationalization Study on all County of Renfrew roads and municipal roads as requested by the lower-tier municipalities, using the suggested updated criterion. A meeting was held with Public Works staff from the County and local municipalities on December 12, 2024, to discuss many items related to Public Works.
- The Operations Committee directs staff to proceed with assisting the United Townships of Head, Clara and Maria with the Mackey Creek Culvert Replacement Project and that a Service Agreement be negotiated for the County's involvement in the project, whereby all services rendered, being staff time and equipment, for the project by the County will be recovered from the Township.

Additional Information

Craig Kelley, Chief Administrative Officer/Deputy Clerk
613-735-7288