

For Immediate Release October 8, 2019

Council Connect: Highlights from the October 8, 2019 Meeting of Council

Here are the highlights from the meetings of Council this evening:

OPP Municipal Billing Model: at a Special Meeting of Council this evening, Council heard from the OPP Municipal Policing Bureau on their billing model for the Town and how the costs for service are calculated. The presentation was given in advance of contract renewal discussions expected in 2020.

2019 Dog Tag and Licensing Program: Council received a report on the 2019 Dog Tag and Licensing Program conducted earlier this year. The program continued the door-to-door campaign begun in 2018 aimed at increasing compliance with the Dog Tag and Licensing by-law, as well as updating the Town's Dog Tag Registry. The program successfully increased awareness and provided significant updates to the registry going forward.

Local Government Week: Council proclaimed October 21-25, 2019 as Local Government Week (LGW) in the Town of Tecumseh. LGW began in 2008 and is aimed at increasing youth and public awareness of the important role local government plays in shaping communities. Students from local elementary and secondary schools participate in various events and contests both at Town Hall and in their respective schools.

New Fire Equipment: Council approved an amendment to the 2019-2023 Fire Equipment Five Year Capital Works Plan to purchase a fire rescue boat and relevant personal protection equipment. This equipment was identified as necessary following the ongoing Flood Response Planning conducted this year due to the overland flooding warnings and potential for these conditions to continue in the future due to climate change. The estimated cost of the non-motorized boat, steel-toe hip-waders and floatation devices is \$16,000. The equipment will allow Fire and Public Works staff to assist property owners in the evacuation of their premises in the event of overland flooding that prohibits road vehicular access.

Tecumseh Comments on Ontario Planning Policy: Council approved Administration's comments on proposed changes to the Ontario Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) and directed that they be posted on the Provincial Environmental Registry. The PPS sets out provincial policy direction on land use planning by municipalities and all decisions by Council must be consistent with it. Administration noted several concerns related to the proposed policies including: ambiguity surrounding the definition of market need and demand with respect to the provision of housing; lack of direction on climate change mitigation; permitting settlement area boundary adjustments and the conversion of employment lands outside of a comprehensive Official Plan review; increased opportunity for new development to be on private services; and, the softening of certain critical policy directions through the replacement of "shall" with "should". Administration also recommended that the Province take a leadership role in addressing flooding risk through the provision of on-going hazard mapping updates and clear policy language on development constraints within hazard areas. The deadline to provide comments to the province is October 21, 2019 with details on the updated PPS expected to be provided in 2020.

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Special Planning Study: Council approved a motion put forward by Councilor Jobin to allocate funds in the 2020 and 2021 Town Budgets to complete a special planning study over 2020 and 2021 regarding the “Hamlet Lands” in Oldcastle. This motion relates to the anticipated approval of the updated Official Plan and previous discussions regarding a land use study for this area following the completion of the updated Official Plan.

Designated Veterans Parking: Council approved a motion put forward by Deputy Mayor Bachetti that authorizes a dedicated parking space for veterans at the municipal parking lot abutting the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 261 on Lesperance Road and a spot at Tecumseh Town Hall. The designated spots will be identified by the Poppy trademark which will require an agreement with the Royal Canadian Legion.

Community Support Services Transportation: Council approved the renewal of the contract with Community Support Centre of Essex County for the provision of transportation services to persons with disabilities and seniors in Town until December 31, 2021. \$15,000 will be allocated in the 2020 and 2021 budgets for the service which has been in place since 2011. There were over 4,000 trips—including 1,400 for students—for 399 riders in 2018 in Tecumseh.

The next Regular Meeting of Council is October 22, 2019 at 7 p.m. Full agenda details will be available on the Town’s website Thursday, October 3.

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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