

For Immediate Release February 25, 2020

Council Connect: Highlights from the February 25, 2020 meetings of Council

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

Official Plan: Council held a special meeting to review the draft of the new Official Plan. The plan consolidates the three Official Plans of Tecumseh, St. Clair Beach and Sandwich South which currently govern the Town's planning practices. The new plan introduces new policies reflecting current planning issues, upper-tier plan policies and agency/public comments received through consultations. Public comments included a greater mix and range of housing, the creation of complete communities, improved traffic conditions, more trails and bike paths, the establishment of a Farmer's Market, and providing public community facilities. The draft Official Plan will be provided to Council for full review on March 10 with public Open House sessions to follow in April. A formal Public Council Meeting will be held in early May and the final document is expected to be adopted by Council by early July. Subsequently, final approval will be sought from Essex County. Full details on the plan and the process as it goes along will be posted at www.tecumseh.ca.

Minimum Maintenance Standards for Roads: Council received a report on the minimum standards for road maintenance and adopted a by-law on them. Minimum standards are governed by the *Municipal Act, 2001* and Ministry of Transportation Ont. Regulation 239/02: Minimum Maintenance Standards for Municipal Highways. That regulation came into effect in November 2002. The Town had adopted a minimum standards by-law in 2003 and in the years since that adoption, there have been a number of amendments to the Ontario Regulations. To be consistent with the Provincial Legislation, By-Law 2020-17 was prepared. The new by-law will be reviewed annually for any future amendments to the Provincial regulations.

Year End Building Permit Report: Council received the 2019 Year End Permit Report from Building Services. Construction values in 2019 were approximately \$58.6 million, 60% higher than 2018. This substantial increase is a function of a number of large non-residential building additions, one of which had an individual value of \$15 million. The number of permits is down 27% from 2018. Total revenue to the Town from Building Permits in 2019 was \$398,706.

Watermain Replacement on Highway 3 and County Road 11: Council approved the watermain replacement Highway 3/County Road 11 tender and awarded SheaRock Construction Group the \$1.3 million contract. The project involves the replacement of the watermain at the Highway 3/County Road 11 intersection from Oldcastle Road westerly to approximately 450 m west of County Road 11 (Walker Road) and along County Road 11 from McCord Lane southerly to just south of Highway 3. Construction is expected to begin this spring and will take approximately 10 weeks to complete, weather permitting. Traffic impacts will be shared publicly as scheduled.

2019 Water Distribution Report: Council adopted the Annual Summary Report for the Tecumseh (Water) Distribution System for the year 2019. The report is prepared annually in accordance with the *Safe Water Act*, O.Reg. 170/03. For 2019, there were no reported non-compliance issues and lead sampling showed no concerns. Monthly water flow averaged 291,000 cubic metres. The full report will be posted at www.tecumseh.ca/waterreports.

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Water Inspection Report: As part of the year end reporting on Tecumseh’s water system, Council received the report on the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Inspection of the Tecumseh (Water) Distribution System. The inspection was conducted on January 26, 2020 and covered the period March 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019. The inspection involved a comprehensive review of Town records and inspection documents, review of operating procedures and interviews with Water staff. The Town received a 100% inspection rating—the best possible rating achievable. Council commended the Town’s water staff for continuing to provide high quality service and ensuring access to safe drinking water.

The next Regular Meeting of Council is Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at the **Tecumseh Arena, 12021 McNorton Street** in the **Horwood Room**. The agenda will be made available on Thursday, March 5, 2020.

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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