

For Immediate Release March 9, 2021

Council Connect: Highlights from the March 9, 2021 meeting of Council

Tecumseh Town Council met electronically this evening and here are the highlights:

ERCA 2021 Budget: Council received a presentation from the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) on their draft 2021 Budget. The draft calls for a 1.8% increase to the municipal levy which would result in a levy \$287,672 for the Town of Tecumseh. The budget will be voted on April 8, 2021 by the ERCA Board of Directors.

Municipal Modernization Program Intake 2: Council authorized Administration to submit three applications to the Province of Ontario's Municipal Modernization Program Intake 2 Review Stream. The Town had previously been awarded approximately \$20,000 in Intake 1 for a Human Resources Services Review undertaken in 2020. The three projects being submitted are: shared economic development opportunities with the Town of Lakeshore; a Digital Strategy and Business Continuity Plan; and, business process optimization for the Town's payroll services. The deadline to apply to the Province is March 15.

11865 Tecumseh Road: Council approved \$15,000 for building façade improvements to 11865 Tecumseh Road, which is located at the corner of Tecumseh Road and Southfield. The owner was previously awarded \$3,000 in September 2020 for drawings associated with the façade improvements.

1200-1250 Southfield Drive: Council approved a Building and Property Improvement Grant to Skyline Apartments, the owners of the property at 1200-1250 Southfield Drive. The amount of the grant will be determined based on the incremental increase in the portion of property tax that would result from works completed in relation to construction of two four-storey 71-unit apartment buildings at this location. This tax relief will be in the form of a 100% grant on the municipal portion of the incremental tax increase resulting from the development for a five-year period. The grant is expected to be in the order of \$630,000 in total over the five-year period. The construction timeline has also been extended from one year to two years. Construction is expected to get underway in 2021.

Tecumseh Transit: Council received the annual report on Tecumseh Transit. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 ridership decreased by 55% (13,021 in 2020 versus 28,707 in 2019). Fare revenue also decreased by 62% (\$7,659 in 2020 versus \$19,039 in 2019). Revenues in January and February of 2020 were above those in 2019 however the impact of the pandemic on ridership and the removal of the transit fare in March 2020 until September 2020 and the public health restrictions put in place throughout 2020 had a large impact on the use of transit services in Tecumseh. These trends are not unique to Tecumseh, but rather were the norm in 2020 for transit services throughout Ontario.

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Tecumseh Road Storm Sewer and Road Improvements: Council approved adding the Storm Sewer and Road Improvements on Tecumseh Road from east of Lexham Gardens to Regent Road to the 2021 Public Works and Environmental Services Capital Works Plan. Due to the proposed new North Shore School at 13800 Tecumseh Road, this project was recommended to be accelerated. Detailed engineering design will be completed in 2021 with construction to proceed in 2022. Funds for the project will come from the Town's Reserve funds.

County Road 19 Trunk Watermain Installation: Council approved adding the County Road 19 (Manning Road) Trunk Watermain installation from County Road 22 to south of Jamsyl Drive to the 2021 Public Works and Environmental Services Capital Works Plan. This will allow the Town to coordinate with County of Essex road work that will widen County Road 19 south of County Road 22 to south of Jamsyl Drive.. The County project will also install an eastbound fly-off from County Road 19 onto County Road 22 and a through lane southbound to south of Jamsyl Drive. Intersection improvements, signalization and turning lanes are planned at County Road 19 and Jamsyl Drive. Desro Drive will be closed at County Road 19 and terminated with a cul-de-sac. Construction will be completed in 2021 in accordance with the County of Essex schedule. The Town's watermain replacement was recommended to be accelerated to coincide with the County's project. Funds for the Town's project will come from Reserve Funds and a consulting engineer will be shared with the County of Essex. The Town is looking forward to the County's road work in this area to alleviate traffic congestion. The Town's watermain project is part of a larger watermain project planned for this area that will strengthen the Town's water distribution system and provide servicing for new development lands within planning areas west of Manning Road and south of County Road 22.

County Road 46 Webster-Laval Sanitary Sewer Extension: Council authorized the execution of an agreement for an easement within the 8th Concession Road Sanitary Service Area. The easement is required for construction of a sanitary sewer extension and associated works in the Oldcastle Hamlet Settlement Area. This Area is serviced by two trunk sewers, the North Talbot Road Trunk Sanitary Sewer and the 8th Concession Road Trunk Sanitary Sewer. In 2018 the Town's consultant on the 8th Concession Road Trunk Sanitary Sewer work identified easement requirements for construction of the full project. The County Road 46, Webster and Laval Sanitary Sewer Extension project is a continuation of the sanitary sewer servicing within the 8th Concession Road sanitary service area. The project includes the extension of a sanitary sewer along County Road 46 from the 8th Concession to Webster Drive as well as road and storm sewer improvements on Webster Drive, construction of a new trunk watermain and replacement of the existing local watermain on County Road 46 and utility relocations. Works on the project design, advanced utility relocations, easement acquisition and obtaining all required approvals will continue in 2021 with construction anticipated in 2022/2023.

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The next Regular Meeting of Council is Tuesday, March 23, 2021. The meeting is scheduled to be held electronically. The live stream will be available on our website at www.tecumseh.ca. The agenda for the Regular meeting will be made available on Thursday, March 18, 2021.

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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