

For Immediate Release July 28, 2020

Council Connect: Highlights from the July 28, 2020 Regular Meeting of Council

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

Town Policing: Council received a presentation from the Tecumseh OPP relating to the drop in satisfaction in service received during the Citizen Satisfaction Survey in 2019. The presentation outlined the detachment's priorities and detailed calls for service in each individual ward. During the presentation, Council was advised that 142 traffic enforcement activities have occurred to date this year including 54 in the month of July alone. Tickets issued in July were for multiple infractions including speeding, failure to stop at a stop sign and stunt driving. 9-1-1 misdials and false alarms are down 90% over last year however calls for theft, break and enter and motor vehicle collisions are up. The OPP encourage residents and property owners to lock their homes, garages, sheds and vehicles and call the OPP's non-emergency number (1-888-310-1122) to report traffic issues immediately as this is the best way to track the areas of concern and ensure continued follow up.

Electronic Meetings: Council further amended the Procedural By-law to provide for the holding of statutory public meetings and other public consultation meetings via electronic means. These amendments set out the process to conduct virtual meetings for statutory public meetings under the *Planning Act*; statutory meetings for reports prepared under the *Drainage Act*; other matters Council deems necessary and appropriate to seek public input; and, public information centres for capital projects, master plans and special projects.

There will be two ways for the public to participate in these meetings:

- a) By making a written submission to the Clerk's Office for inclusion in the agenda of the meeting;
- b) To participate as a delegation via registration using the Online Delegation Request Form or by contacting the Clerk's Office.

Registration to participate electronically or submit written comments is extended to noon on the day the Council agenda is published (the Thursday prior to the meeting). Additionally, supplementary delegation requests or written submissions will be accepted until noon the day of the meeting.

Electronic participation by interested parties/members of the public would otherwise follow the rules and regulations for in-person attendance as set out by the Town's Procedure By-Law.

A new Livestreaming Policy was adopted by Council to make it known that by attending a meeting electronically, attendees are consenting to their image, voice, comments and presentations being recorded and published.

COVID-19 Financial Relief: Council received a report outlining the extension of most financial relief measures due to the COVID-19 pandemic to September 30, 2020 for: waiving late payment penalty/interest charges associated with property taxation or water/wastewater billings; waiving "non-sufficient funds" charges on property tax payments; and extending the Dog Tag/Licence fee of \$20 and the Kennel License fee of \$100. Transit fees on Tecumseh Transit will be waived until September 7, 2020, which is Labour Day, following which the regular 2020 schedule of fees will resume. These measures are a continuation of the ongoing COVID-19 financial measures implemented in April 2020.

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Re-opening Tecumseh Arena: Council approved Scenario 1 for the re-opening of the Tecumseh Arena to provide one ice surface for rentals as of August 10, 2020. The second ice surface will reopen for rentals in September 2020. While the Arena has been closed, staff have undertaken a number of projects and improvements in the Arena including completing all 2020 Capital Projects. Staff has also completed a deep clean of the entire facility, finished painting and repair of walls, replaced lighting to LED, and stripped and re-waxed all floors. Arena staff has also completed work at St. Clair Beach Community Centre. Scenario 2 was to reopen both ice surfaces in September 2020.

In the 2020 budget approved last December, the net expenditure forecast for the year was \$571,000. With the continued closure of the Arena to the end of 2020 (closed for 3 seasons), the net expenditure was forecast at \$811,000. With either operating Scenario 1 or 2, net expenditure can be reduced by approximately \$115,000 to finish the year with a net expenditure of \$696,000.

Safety Policy for Virtual Recreation Programming: Council approved the Virtual Recreation Programming and Online Safety Policy for the delivery of virtual recreation programming, the first of which is set to get underway on July 31, 2020. The policy will guide the development and implementation of online recreational programming to ensure safety in the online environment. It applies to any technical application where Parks and Recreation Department members are engaged in online business activities.

11870 Tecumseh Road: Council approved an application for tax relief for the Gateway Tower development by Valente Development Corporation to be built at 11870 Tecumseh Road, north of the intersection with Southfield Drive. The grant under the Community Improvement Plan's Building and Property Improvement Program provides a 100% reduction to the incremental annual increase in the municipal portion of property taxes on an eligible property for a five year period of time. Valente plans to construct a six-storey, 99-unit apartment building on the site and the estimated municipal tax levy increase would be approximately \$150,000 per year. Total tax relief for this project over 5 years would be approximately \$750,000. Following the 5-year grant period, all municipal taxes levied would be retained by the Town. Previously Valente received a CIP grant of \$100,000 under the Development Charges Grant stream for the project.

Application to Rail Safety and Improvement Program: Council authorized the submission of an application under the Rail Safety and Improvement Fund for the VIA Rail crossing at Lesperance Road. The Town had previously applied for funding under this program in July 2019 and recently learned the application was unsuccessful. The Government of Canada has announced a second intake of the program. As part of inspections of railway crossings in Canada, VIA Rail advised the Town in 2017 that the crossing at Lesperance Road required a major improvement to the road grade north of the tracks, re-painting of the road lines and consideration for additional safety measures. The Town is requesting the full grant amount of \$500,000 which will be used as part of the estimated \$1.5 million total project costs. Should the Town be successful in this round of applications, detailed design would be undertaken in 2021, with construction to follow in 2022. This sets the project back a year from when it was previously scheduled for design and construction. This delay is necessary so that all costs remain eligible; any expenses incurred prior to funding approval are ineligible. The deadline to apply is August 1, 2020.

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The next Regular Meeting of Council is Tuesday, August 11, 2020. 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 of Council will be made available on Thursday, August 6, 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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Media Contact:

Lesley Reeves, Manager Strategic Initiatives, 519-735-2184 Ext. 150

