# Township of South-West Oxford Council Minutes

April 4, 2023

<u>Members Present</u> :	Mayor: Councillors:	David Mayberry Paul Buchner (Ward 1), Peter Ypma (Ward 2), Valerie Durston (Ward 3), George Way (Ward 4), Jim Pickard (Ward 5 – via Zoom), Craig Gillis (Ward 6)
<u>Members Absent</u> .	None.	
<u>Staff Present</u> .	Mary Ellen Greb, Chief Administrative Officer/Treasurer/Deputy Clerk, Rob Serson, Fire Chief, Adam Prouse, Works Superintendent Nicole Chambers, Records Management Co- ordinator/Clerk's Assistant	

# Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Mayor David Mayberry and a quorum was present.

# Motion to Accept Agenda

Resolution No. 1 Moved by Paul Buchner Seconded by Peter Ypma

RESOLVED that the regular meeting agenda for the April 4th, 2023 meeting of council be approved, as amended.

**DISPOSITION: Motion Carried** 

#### **Declaration of Pecuniary Interest**

None.

#### <u>Minutes</u>

March 21st, 2023 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Resolution No. 2 Moved by George Way Seconded by Valerie Durston RESOLVED that the regular minutes of the March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023 council meeting be approved, as amended.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

# Business Arising from the Minutes

#### CL 14-2023: Business Arising from the Minutes of March 21st, 2023

Clerk Julie Middleton provided Council with a report to provide them with an overview for Council of the staff actions arising from the minutes of the last Council meeting.

Resolution No. 3 Moved by Peter Ypma Seconded by Craig Gillis

RESOLVED that the regular minutes of the March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023 council meeting be approved.

**DISPOSITION: Motion Carried** 

#### Appointments

# 9:05 a.m. - Mark Emmanual re: EPCOR Community Update

Mark Emmanual, on behalf of EPCOR, provided Council with a community update. He provided Council with a high-level overview of EPCOR – their focus, lines of business, geographic footprint and achievements. He reviewed the company's business mission, vision and values.

Mr. Emmanual reviewed the history of EPCOR, which is an acronym for Edmonton Power Corporation. The majority of EPCOR's business is regulated utilities, and their corporate growth has focused on diversifying their footprint beyond Edmonton to provide electricity, natural gas, water, wastewater, drainage and other services. He also reviewed the awards and recognition that EPCOR has received over the last several years.

EPCOR is focused on safety; Mr. Emmanual noted that they are dedicated to the elimination of damages, and they promote safe working environments for everyone. EPCOR and the Township can work together to bring this to the forefront. Mr. Emmanual reminded everyone to call before they dig, and stated the importance of utility locating. EPCOR expects customers to report incidents in a timely manner, and they have no issues with customers calling to report issues with their natural gas line and suspected leaks. Calling EPCOR will help protect everyone against an event. Mr. Emmanual commented on EPCOR's partners. EPCOR's partnerships have allowed small communities to maintain public ownership and regulation of their infrastructure, while gaining access to EPCOR's expertise in innovative design, construction, and cost-effective technology. Mr. Emmanual noted how EPCOR is working with the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business' Progressive Aboriginal Relations Program to work together in the spirit of reconciliation and collaboration. He stated the importance of transparency and partnership, especially for large projects.

Mr. Emmanual added that if there is anything EPCOR can do that is beyond natural gas, they are willing to explore any options to diversify their business.

Mayor David Mayberry expressed his congratulations to EPCOR for bringing natural gas lines down Salford Road, and collaborating with the Township to bring natural gas down McBeth Road to the Salford Group. Mayor Mayberry added that the Township is always looking for ways to enhance business opportunities in our community.

In response to an inquiry from Mayor Mayberry about the depth of natural gas lines, Mr. Emmanual replied that main lines are buried approximately 0.9 meters and lines for services are buried approximately 0.5 meters deep. He added that you should always call before you dig, even just for peace of mind.

Mayor Mayberry asked a question referencing Agenda Items and Correspondence Item #62 - Association of Ontario Road Supervisors regarding the announcement of a proposed fee by Enbridge Gas. Mayor Mayberry stated his concern regarding proposed fees for locates, and questioned EPCOR's position on this. Mr. Emmanual responded that Enbridge has been stopping their trucks and EPCOR does not take the same approach. He shared the same concerns with Mayor Mayberry regarding the trickle-down-effect of locate fees for the taxpayer/customer. Mr. Emmanual stressed that once utilities add costs to locates, it will further discourage individuals and contractors from calling in locates.

In a response to an inquiry from Works Superintendent Adam Prouse regarding the use of third-party locating companies, Mr. Emmanual replied that EPCOR was using GTel Utility Locate Services, but has since reorganized their services to have a more targeted approach. EPCOR is now using their own in-house locate team, which has led to less delays. Enbridge is still using GTel.

In a response to an inquiry from Fire Chief Rob Serson regarding in-kind and financial donations offered to emergency services to help with smoke alarm and carbon dioxide policies, Mr. Emmanual replied that EPCOR did assist the Town of Alymer with this last year. In a response to Chief Serson's second question regarding updating GIS mapping to include up-to-date service lines,

Mr. Emmanual requested that Chief Serson contact him to obtain this information from EPCOR's GIS team.

Mayor Mayberry thanked Mr. Emmanual for his presentation, and Council looks forward to continuing to build their relationship with EPCOR in the future.

#### 9:25 a.m. - Beachville Museum Curator Stephanie Radu re: Museum Update

David congratulated Beachville Museum Curator, Stephanie Radu for winning Ontario's Southwest Tourism Innovation Award: 2022 Innovator of the Year. Ms. Radu noted it was a great way to pull partners together and direct the museum to celebrate the achievements and share in the accomplishments.

Ms. Radu provided Council with the museum's 2022 annual report, which encompass all reports from their committees, and summarize all major projects and catalogue updates. She notes the following updates have taken place since January, 2023: potential trail damage due to flooding; flat portion of roof leaking (looking for quote from contractors); working to empty barn 2 (correcting floors); and renovating the quarry room exhibit. The main building flooring project from 2022 has been completed.

Ms. Radu advised Council that significant donations have been received from the Hill Family (long term Folden's residents) connecting to South-West Oxford's industrial and musical histories. The museum also received an autograph quilt from the Mount Elgin United Church (which has names of local residents), a contemporary donation from Beachville Public School (from a 1990s school teacher) and a few other pieces from the Carmeuse quarry. The total catalogue progress for 2022 includes 506 new entries, 3,404 images and 702 new locations for artifacts. The Assistant Curator is working on housing and re-labelling projects to preserve artifacts and maintain the connection to it's paperwork. The museum is also working with an archaeologist to better understand the Indigenous archeological pieces they have in their collection, so they can be included in permanent exhibits.

Ms. Radu noted the following events have taken place, or are scheduled for 2023: January/February Historical Society Speaker Series: Doug Carr's Worldwide Bike Tour presented by Hannah Mantel; February 14<sup>th</sup>: Presentation by Gail Lewis of the South Norwich Historical Society on the Otterville African Episcopal Cemetery for Black History Month; April 11<sup>th</sup>: Presentation by Ruthann Rule, Reminiscing on Life in Folden's Corner; May 9<sup>th</sup>: Presentation by Bonnie Sitter and Shirleyan English, "Onion Skins and Peach Fuzz" about the Ontario Farmerettes (rescheduled from 2020). The annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place this Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at the museum from 12 to 2 p.m. in partnership with the Beachville Parks and Recreation Committee. A full car show schedule, in addition to all other events, is posted

on their website and through HeartFM's community calendar. Summer camp spots are filling up, and the museum was awarded \$12,000 for two summer camp staff positions to be hired for the end of May to the first of September. The groundskeeper will be returning, and the Assistant Curator Sydney will be filling in for Stephanie while she takes maternity leave (starting in July).

Ms. Radu noted that they are working on upcoming grant applications due in July. One of the standards that must be brought up-to-date is their accessibility plan, and she hopes to work with the Township to complete this as it is a requirement by 2025.

In a response to an inquiry from Councillor Ypma regarding where the artifacts were stored while work on the barn 2 floor is happening, Ms. Radu noted that they have migrated most of the artifacts to barn 1 and disassembled wood pieces to make more space. Any fragile pieces were dusted, cleaned and sanitized, and moved to collection storage in the main building. Their plan is to pave the floor in barn 1 in 2024, and move all items over to barn 2 when it is complete. Ms. Radu highlighted the care and planning that takes place to facilitate moving artifacts stored in the two barns. She added that the contractor is expected to begin the work on barn 2 in May.

Mayor Mayberry thanked Councillor Gillis and Councillor Way for their participation on the Beachville Museum Board. Mayor Mayberry welcomed the Assistant Curator and noted that Council looks forward to working with her while Ms. Radu is on maternity leave. He offered congratulations to Ms. Radu and thanked her for her update regarding the museum.

# <u>9:40 a.m. - President Jason Graham, Ingersoll Minor Hockey Association re:</u> 2023 Grant Request

Jason Graham, on behalf of Ingersoll Minor Hockey Association, addressed Council in relation to their 2023 grant request. He advised that the organization is requesting \$2,000 from the Township in 2023. The funds are intended to be used towards the cost of ice rentals, safety equipment and skills development sessions.

In response to an inquiry from Councillor Way regarding the rumour of an amalgamation between the Ingersoll and Tillsonburg Minor Hockey Leagues, Mr. Graham replied that the rumours are true and the amalgamation has taken place for "Rep A", but the home associations will remain the same. If kids want to play locally, they can still do so.

In a response to an inquiry from Councillor Way regarding the composition of the executive boards, Mr. Graham replied that there will be three Minor Hockey executive boards: Ingersoll, South-West Oxford and Tillsonburg.

Members of the Ingersoll and Tillsonburg will sit on the South-West Oxford board.

Mayor Mayberry thanked Mr. Graham for his presentation and noted that their requested amount of \$2,000 was allocated to the Ingersoll Minor Hockey League in the 2023 budget.

#### <u>9:45 a.m. - Council's consideration of Canfield and Alla road allowances</u> <u>CL 15-2023: Proposed Sale of Canfield and Alla Road Allowances</u> (Beachville)

Chief Administrative Officer Mary Ellen Greb presented Council with a report to provide them with follow up information in relation to the proposed sale of the Canfield and Alla road allowances to 2581859 Ontario Ltd. (Jeff & Micelle Sol, Dwayne & Tracey Bultuis, Mark & Andrea Burke).

In September, 2022, staff circulated public notice of Council's intent to consider the sale of the proposed lands to 2581859 Ontario Ltd. As a result of the public notice, township staff received expressed interest in purchasing a portion of the road allowances from abutting property owners immediately to the north of the Canfield road allowance so that the lands could be consolidated with their existing property.

Council received two written proposals to purchase the Canfield and Alla road allowances at their meeting held on February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023. 2581858 Ontario Ltd. submitted the highest proposed purchase price for the lands and are also willing to include a right of first refusal to the Township to purchase the lands back at the same price, should the proposed development immediately to the west not be approved or proceed.

The lands immediately to the west of the road allowances, located between West Hill Line and Vine Street, are zoned D-2 - Development and are located within the Beachville Settlement Area. These lands are intended for future development subject to Council approval.

Township staff have received several calls in relation to the public notice circulated regarding Council's final consideration of the sale of the road allowances. Members of the public questioned if the lands could be purchased for development on their own, or whether the land would need to be consolidated with abutting lands. Staff advised that the lands do not have development potential on their own. It was also noted that the road allowances would be needed by the Township in the future to provide access to the lands immediately to the west should they be developed. The inclusion of a right of first refusal is a key factor in the consideration by Council of the proposed sale to 2581858 Ontario Ltd. Other offers received by the Township

in relation to the subject lands did not include a right of first refusal, and as a result, would restrict access to these lands in the future if they are sold.

#### Comments from Members of the Public

# Leo Walsh, Beachville Resident

Leo Walsh guestioned the transparency of the land-sale process and noted that his neighbour shares the same concerns. He added this will compromise the work that they have done on this property. Neighbours have planted gardens and taken care of the land because it was left overgrown and unsightly. He noted that the Township has not given consideration to the neighbouring landowners. Mayor Mayberry replied that the Township owns this land and it has always been intended to be a street into a potential future development. These road allowances exist in virtually every small village in the municipality, and occasionally, Council does not need them anymore so we offer them for sale. In this particular case, the developer needs to purchase this land to put a road on the property to satisfy conditions from the Township for a second access to a potential future subdivision. Mr. Walsh questioned drawings created and circulated by the developer which already showed the developer owning this road allowance and building a house on it, instead of a road. Mayor Mayberry replied that the developer can design their site plan however they would like, but the Township has not yet seen a final plan, and Council expects it to illustrate a street on this road allowance. He noted it was made clear to the developers that a second access is required for safety. Mr. Walsh expressed his concerns regarding drainage for the proposed entrance on Vine Street. Mayor Mayberry noted that once a subdivision plan is submitted, Public Works and the Upper Thames Conservation Authority will have to ensure drainage concerns are satisfied for both entrances, including the Vine Street entrance.

# Ida Veenstra, Beachville Resident

Ida Veenstra, long-standing Beachville, requested a status update regarding the timeline for a potential subdivision on the lands owned by 2581859 Ontario Ltd. Mayor Mayberry noted that this parcel is being sold to developers to satisfy the condition of a second entrance. Once the developer establishes a road on the parcel, it will be given back to the Township to maintain after the road is assumed. Mayor Mayberry asked the owners of 2581859 Ontario Ltd, who were present at the meeting, to comment on whether they were looking to move forward and submit a final subdivision plan and development agreement to the Township if/after the purchase of this parcel is finalized. The owners of 2581859 Ontario Ltd confirmed that their intention is to move forward with their application. Ms. Veenstra expressed concerns regarding the conversion of current green space to homes. In a response to Ms. Veenstra's question regarding potential green space destruction and

disturbance of wildlife, Mayor Mayberry noted that these concerns would be addressed when subdivision plans move forward. Council may ask the developers to plant trees and create new habitat spaces during their review of the subdivision plan agreement. In a response to Ms. Veenstra's question regarding the name of the street, as Canfield is currently known as "Canfield Lane", Mayor Mayberry replied that the naming of Canfield to become a lane, street, or otherwise will be decided between Council, Fire and the Public Works Departments. It will be determined whether the road will have emergency access only, or if it will be a full-time street which would have to be built to specific standards. Mayor Mayberry requested that all residents attend the public meeting regarding the subdivision plan agreement to express their concerns and feedback, but this will be a separate discussion. Ms. Veenstra expressed her further concerns about drainage for both the Canfield Lane and Vine Street entrances due to existing flooding as a result of the slope of the land, pond flooding and blocked culverts. Mayor Mayberry noted that the developers and their engineers will design the subdivision and Council/staff will provide comments, recommendations and changes before this is approved. Public Works Superintendent Adam Prouse noted that they will work to address drainage issues and the stressed culverts in the area. In a response to Councillor Pickard's question regarding the first right of refusal, Chief Administrative Officer Mary Ellen Greb confirmed that this parcel can be sold back to the Township if the project does not go forward.

Resolution No. 4

Moved by Craig Gillis Seconded by Peter Ypma



RESOLVED that the Council of the Township of South-West Oxford receive report CL 15-2023: Proposed Sale of Canfield and Alla Road Allowances (Beachville) as information;

AND FURTHER THAT Council authorize the sale of the Canfield and Alla road allowances to 2581859 Ontario Ltd. (Jeff & Micelle Sol, Dwayne & Tracey Bultuis, Mark & Andrea Burke) for a set price of \$10,000 plus all applicable legal and surveying costs with a first right of refusal provision included in the agreement of purchase and sale;

AND FURTHER THAT the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents in relation to the sale.

**DISPOSITION: Motion Carried** 

# Staff Reports

#### CAO 03-2023: Solar Panel Project Salford Community Centre 2022

CAO Greb provided Council with a report to provide them with the annual income statement report as well as the accumulative Kilowatts of power generated by the solar panels installed on the roof top of the Salford Community Centre in 2013.

She advised that the solar panels generated 10,714 kWh of electricity in 2022. Since the panels were installed in late 2013 a total of 99,651 kWh of electricity has been generated by the micro-fit project. The solar panels generated revenue of \$5,882.01 in 2022. The 2022 expenses related to this project totaled \$264.12; leaving an overall net revenue stream of \$5,617.89. The Salford Hall Board will receive \$1,404.47 (25% of the 2022 net revenue) in April 2023.

In response to a question from Councillor Ypma regarding the lifespan of the solar panels, CAO Greb replied that there has not been any money placed in reserves to replace these panels and no plan on doing so in the future. Once the project has concluded in 2034, CAO Greb understands there could be a reduction of electricity generation as the solar panels age, and a plan will be developed at that point. Mayor Mayberry noted that the average degradation per year is only 0.5 to 1 percent, and after 20 years they will likely switch to a net meter. He added that the electricity produced will power the hall and after 20 years this amount will be approximately 80 percent and the power demand of the hall will likely consume most of the production.

Councillor Jim Pickard noted his was one of the Environment and Energy Innovation Committee's more successful projects.

Councillor Peter Ypma stated that while this is a good news story, at the end of their lifecycle the solar panels will end up at the Salford Waste Management Facility – the project does not end when the panels get removed from the roof. Mayor Mayberry noted that the metal can be recycled. Councillor Ypma replied that he remained unconvinced whether there is a net-benefit for the environment in the long-term.

Councillor Craig Gillis noted that most FIT Projects turned out well for those who participated. He expressed his concerns regarding net metering. Councillor Gillis noted challenges with the panels at the Beachville Fire Hall and is hoping that the Energy Committee will bring a report to Council in the near future regarding the status of the panels and electricity production/consumption. Councillor Pickard noted that the Energy Committee is reviewing the monthly bills for the fire hall, but it is too early to generate a report. Mayor Mayberry noted that the fire hall is using more power than anticipated. Fire Chief Rob Serson added that the heating system pumps were running at all times and an electrician is looking for a solution to this problem.

Resolution No. 5 Moved by George Way Seconded by Jim Pickard

> RESOLVED that the Council of The Township of South-West Oxford receive Report CAO 03-2023: Solar Panel Project Salford Community Centre 2022 as information.

**DISPOSITION: Motion Carried** 

#### CAO 04-2023: Township Development Charges - Annual Adjustment

Chief Administrative Officer Mary Ellen Greb provided Council with a report to provide them with information in relation to the increased cost of Township Development Charges as at April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

CAO Greb advised that Section 13(1) By-Law 55-2019 (as amended) states as follows:

By-Law Indexing (1) The Development Charges set out in Schedule "B" to this By-Law shall be adjusted annually as of April 1, without amendment to this By-Law in accordance with the most recent twelve (12) months change in the Statistics Canada Quarterly, "Construction Price Statistics".

Additionally, Oxford County has advised municipalities in Oxford (excluding the City of Woodstock) that the 2023 adjustment rate is 14.5% (increase was 15.25% in 2022). In keeping with this, the Township's rates have been adjusted as at April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

CAO Greb noted that the Township does not budget for development charges, these funds are put into reserves and can only be used for specific purposes related to growth.

In a response to an inquiry from Councillor Ypma regarding changes to collection of development charges after the passing of Bill 23, CAO Greb replied that we are currently collecting on single-family residential and commercial. We are able to collect on multi-family residential, but we have not had building permits for these dwellings. Agricultural and industrial remain exempt. She added that the County's exemptions are similar to ours, but they calculate this value by square foot. The Township also does not net revenues like the County does, and Council may want to consider re-evaluating these

exemptions in the future. CAO Greb noted they will have a report coming to Council with the development charges balances in the next 30 days or so.

In a response to Councillor Ypma's inquiry regarding if any proposed townhomes in Phase 6 of the Mount Elgin Subdivision would qualify as attainable housing, CAO Greb noted that the definition of attainable is key and needs to be vetted out. Mayor Mayberry added that he has not read a provincially approve definition of attainable. CAO Greb noted that the increase to development charges is largely due to the cost of construction also increasing by 14.5 percent and the Township must collect at the same rate. She added the Township re-evaluates development charges every 5 years and there may be further changes due to rising capital costs (i.e., fire trucks, road construction). CAO Greb stressed that these charges can only be used on expansion, and/or growth and not existing.

Resolution No. 6 Moved by Paul Buchner Seconded by Craig Gillis

> RESOLVED that the Council of the Township of South-West Oxford receive report CAO 14-2023: Township Development Charges – Annual Adjustment as information.

**DISPOSITION: Motion Carried** 

# **Discussion Items**

#### Longsworth Municipal Drain - Member for Court of Revision (Norwich)

Resolution No. 7 Moved by Peter Ypma Seconded by Valerie Durston

> RESOLVED that the Council of the Township of South-West Oxford appoint Councillor George Way on behalf of South-West Oxford to the Court of Revision for the Longsworth Municipal Drain.

**DISPOSITION: Motion Carried** 

# Agenda Items & Correspondence

#57 - Oxford County Council Report - March, 2023

#58 - Oxford County PW 2023-12 - Liquid Manure Transmission Line, Oxford Road 10

Council expressed concerns that stipulations to install pipe under the road are very stringent. Works Superintendent Prouse will present their concerns to the Service Sharing Committee to work together to provide a more generic standard and model for future transmission lines.

Resolution No. 8 Moved by Craig Gillis Seconded by Paul Buchner

> RESOLVED that the Council of the Township of South-West Oxford provide direction to staff to send a letter of recommendation in relation to item #68 – Oxford County PW 2023-12 - Liquid Manure Transmission Line, Oxford Road 10

AND FURTHER THAT Council encourages a collaborative approach and consistent plan for all municipalities within Oxford County.

**DISPOSITION: Motion Carried** 

#59 - Oxford County Community Improvement Plan Amendment - Notice of Adoption

#60 - Oxford County Council: PW 2023-18 - Annual Waste Management Reports

#61 - 2023 UTRCA Budget Package - Electronic Version - South-West Oxford 5

#62 - Association of Ontario Road Supervisors regarding the announcement of a proposed fee by Enbridge Gas

Resolution No. 9 Moved by Craig Gillis Seconded by Peter Ypma

> RESOLVED that the Council of the Township of South-West Oxford provide direction to staff to send a letter of support in relation to item #62 – Association of Ontario Road Supervisors regarding the announcement of a proposed fee by Enbridge Gas.

**DISPOSITION: Motion Carried** 

#63 - Oxford County 2022 Wastewater Treatment Plant Summary Reports

### Accounts Payable Report

April 4th, 2023 - Accounts Payable Report

Resolution No. 10 Moved by Valerie Durston Seconded by George Way

RESOLVED that the following Accounts be approved for payment:

Accounts Payable for<br/>March 18th to 31st, 2023\$2,104,435.14Bi-Weekly Payroll #6\$51,831.19Fire Pay #3\$18,974.59Council Pay #3\$8,430.77Total:\$2,183,671.69

**DISPOSITION:** Motion Carried

#### Information Items & Correspondence

#64 - Woodstock City Council Resolution re: Municipal Insurance Costs

CAO Greb expressed a word of caution on reciprocal insurance and advised Council that they must be comfortable with the risks that the entire group may take – members may be paying for these risks years after the contract expires. Mayor Mayberry noted that County Councillors will be meeting to discuss this but they may want to examine other options.

#65 - Town of Lincoln Resolution re: Ontario School Board Elections

#66 - Support Resolution for Town of Grimsby - Barriers for Women in Politics

#67 - Township of Lucan Biddulph Resolution re: accuracy of the Permanent List of Electors in Ontario

#68 - Town of Essex Resolution re: Municipality to retain surplus proceeds from Tax Sales

#69 - Town of Essex Resolution re: tax classification of Short-Term Rental Units

Resolution No. 11 Moved by Valerie Durston Seconded by Craig Gillis

> RESOLVED that the Council of the Township of South-West Oxford receive information and correspondence items #64-66 and #69 inclusive as information and that they be noted and filed.

AND FURTHER THAT that Council provide direction to staff to send a letter of support in relation to item #67 – Township of Lucan Biddulph Resolution re: accuracy of the Permanent List of Electors in Ontario.

AND FURTHER THAT Council provide direction to staff to send a letter of support in relation to item #68 – Town of Essex Resolution re: Municipality to retain surplus proceeds from Tax Sales.

**DISPOSITION: Motion Carried** 

# **Committees**

- Foldens Hall AGM Minutes
- Brownsville Hall Board AGM Minutes
- Resolution No.

Moved by Valerie Durston Seconded by George Way

RESOLVED that the Council of the Township of South-West Oxford receive the following minutes as information:

- Minutes of the Foldens Hall Board Annual General Meeting held on February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023;
- Minutes of the Brownsville Hall Board Annual General Meeting held on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**DISPOSITION: Motion Carried** 

# Strategic Planning

Council discussed taking a more focused outreach to information gathering for the strategic planning process. Staff will reach out to:

- Community youth: Grade 11 Class at the Oxford Reformed Christian School agreed to participate in a discussion on strategic planning;
- Community groups: 4H, the Women's Institute, Lions Clubs;
- Volunteers (via Breakfast with the Boards);
- Rural Oxford Café and the Rural Oxford Economic Development Corporation.

The online survey has been extended until April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Dates and any other targeted outreach to be confirmed and scheduled by the end of April, 2023 with a summary report coming back to Council in May.

Councillor Gillis expressed his concern with the relevance of the data collected from the in-person Community Conversations sessions.

In a response to an inquiry regarding the survey responses, Nicole Chambers noted that the consultant has not provided staff with the data collected. As of March 28<sup>th</sup>, 83 responses have been received with the goal being 100.

# <u>New Business</u>

Mayor Mayberry welcomed Mayor Brian Petrie of the Town of Ingersoll (10:35 a.m.)

# Folden's Walking Path

Councillor George Way noted that the Folden's Hall Board meets tonight to plan some upcoming events and projects. Despite the walking path being cut from the 2023 budget, the committee hopes to get the project started this year so the gravel has time to settle. The committee has asked if the Township is willing to help by providing labour and equipment. Works Superintendent Prouse noted that he does not think it will fit in to their departmental schedule this year but advised they could provide the at-cost supply of material and delivery. CAO/Treasurer Greb reminded Council that this project was removed from the 2023 budget along with several others from other boards and this would bring that project (and others) back for reconsideration. Staff do not know what cost overruns for approved projects in the 2023 budget will take place. Council agreed not to commit to any funds in the 2024 budget for this project. Councillor Way will bring this information back to the Committee.

# Council Round Table

Council members shared updates from their respective wards and community involvement.

Beachville Parks and Recreation Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> from 12-2 p.m. at the Beachville District Museum. Parks and Rec Committee meets April 5<sup>th</sup>. Concerns regarding drainage in Beachville which may be

echoed by other wards due to rainfall projections. Environment and Energy Innovation Meeting April 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. Sweaburg Minor Ball registration has taken place and they could have up to 7 teams this summer. Sweaburg Easter Egg Hunt at the ball park takes place Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> starting at 9 a.m. Folden's Hall Board meets tonight at 7:00 p.m. April Speaker Series: Reminiscing Life in Folden's Corner (presentation by Ruthann Rule) next Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at the Museum. Tomorrow night at 6 p.m. in Brownsville, Councillor Way will represent Council at a public meeting regarding a proposed wind turbine project in South-West Oxford and Norwich Townships (residents have asked him to attend and Councillor Buchner has a conflict). Salford Hall Board's next meeting is tonight and they will be discussing future fundraising. Tillsonburg Airport also talked about possible fundraisers in partnership with the Oxford Hills Golf Course. Tillsonburg Airport provided their operating financial plan for 2023 and their 10-year capital plan. Hilltop Park Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday, April 8th starting at 10:00 a.m. Engage and Inform Committee meets April 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. and their next event is SWOX Earth Day in partnership with Reuseapaloozaha on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Sweaburg Lions Pavilion. Mount Elgin Hall Board met last Monday and discussed fundraisers and ongoing hall upkeep. Mount Elgin Parks and Rec's AGM is tonight at 7 p.m. at the hall. Last day for pickleball is next Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> until next fall. Considering quotes for outdoor exercise equipment. T-Ball has only had two registrations - not likely to move forward. Dereham Centre Hall Board held their AGM on March 22<sup>nd</sup> where they reviewed their financials and welcomed two new members. Rental agreement was updated and discussed options for exterior signage. Planning for a Dereham Centre Community BBQ on June 20<sup>th</sup> (Council that evening). Spring cleaning of hall will take place March 1<sup>st</sup>. Renovation costs to-date for kitchen are \$67,649.64 – they are under the budget set of \$80,000. They still need to purchase a commercial dishwasher (which will cost approximately \$4,000-6,000) and new pots/pans/dishes but they are looking at affordable options. Dereham Centre Hall has a new Facebook page. Long Point Region Conservation Authority meets tomorrow night at 6:00 p.m. Brownsville Hall Board meets next Wednesday. Complaints of wet basements, flooding and drainage issues continue in Brownsville.

#### **Closed Session**

The meeting will be closed to the public to discuss subject matter that is:

(c) a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board (potential purchase of land);

(e) litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board (broadband internet).

Resolution No.	Moved by Craig Gillis		
	Seconded by Paul Buchner		

RESOLVED that Council hold a closed meeting at 10:32 a.m. in order to discuss a matter pertaining to:

(c) a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board (potential purchase of land);

(e) litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board (broadband internet)

**DISPOSITION: Motion Carried** 

Resolution No. Moved by Jim Pickard Seconded by George Way

> RESOLVED that the Council of the Township of South-West Oxford reconvene in regular session at 11:38 a.m.

**DISPOSITION:** Motion Carried

# Confirmatory By-law

 By-Law No. 20-2023 - To confirm all actions and proceedings of Council (April 4th, 2023)

Resolution No. Moved by Craig Gillis Seconded by Valerie Durston

RESOLVED that By-law No. 20-2023 being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of Council held Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 be read a first, second and third time this 4<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023.

AND FURTHER THAT the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the By-law and affix the corporate seal.

**DISPOSITION: Motion Carried** 

Adjournment

Resolution No. Moved by Valerie Durston Seconded by Peter Ypma

> RESOLVED that there being no further business, the Council meeting be adjourned at 11:39 a.m. to meet again on Tuesday, April 18th, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. (Mount Elgin Community Centre).

**DISPOSITION: Motion Carried** 

CLERK: Julie Middleton

MAYOR: David Mayberry

This document is available in alternate formats upon request.

