

**Township of South-West Oxford
Council Minutes
January 23, 2024**

Members Present: Mayor: Mayor David Mayberry, Paul Buchner (Ward 1), Peter Ypma (Ward 2), Valerie Durston (Ward 3),
Councillors: George Way (Ward 4), Jim Pickard (Ward 5) – via Zoom, Craig Gillis (Ward 6)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Mary Ellen Greb, CAO/Deputy Clerk
Julie Middleton, Clerk/Deputy CAO
Brooke Crane, Treasurer
Adam Prouse, Works Superintendent
Nicole Chambers, Records Management Co-ordinator/Clerk's Assistant

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor David Mayberry and a quorum was present.

Motion to Accept Agenda

Resolution No. Moved by Paul Buchner
Seconded by Peter Ypma

RESOLVED that the regular meeting agenda for the January 23rd, 2024 meeting of council be approved.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

None.

Minutes

January 9th, 2024 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Resolution No. Moved by George Way
Seconded by Craig Gillis

RESOLVED that the regular minutes of the January 9th, 2024 council meeting be approved.

- College Avenue SS Rubberized Track replacement – Underway
- College Avenue SS Library Learning Commons renovations – Underway
- Ingersoll DCI Library Learning Commons renovations – Completed
- Oliver Stephens Library Learning Commons Renovations – Underway
- Roch Carrier FI PS School Renovations – Underway
- Woodstock Collegiate Institute – Auditorium Renovations – Underway

New North Woodstock PS:

- The Ministry of Education (MOE) has approved \$8 million in additional funding to increase the size of the future north Woodstock elementary school
- Submitted an approval to proceed to tender to MOE
- Expected opening September 2026 (Pending tender approvals from the Ministry)
- Many schools in Oxford are overpopulated right now and this is being supported with portables

Questions from Council:

Councillor Way commented on the proposed new elementary schools in Ingersoll and Tillsonburg. This is not expected to result in the closure of any existing schools – there is still a moratorium on school closures by the province. Population continues to grow.

Discussion took place regarding population growth and it was noted that the growth that has been experienced was not anticipated. The Covid-19 pandemic changed this. The planning department within the board has been expanded – the board is pleased with the efforts of the planning team.

Councillor Pickard asked what the 2024 budget increase is projected to be. At this point, the board is not aware of any increase – a small decrease is projected – their budget is dependent on funding received from the province.

Mayor Mayberry commented on a new curriculum announcement made this week for kindergarten students to focus on literacy and math. It was noted that staffing in schools is a challenge for principals, teachers, education assistants and support staff – there are many retirements occurring. Mayor Mayberry thanked Dave Cripps and Leanne Hopkins for their presentation.

** Councillor Valerie Durston entered the meeting at 6:55 p.m.*

RESOLVED that Council reconvene in regular session at 7:05 p.m.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

7:00 p.m. - Ammon Miller and Ray Baxter re: Request for Exemption (Sawmill Operation in March and April)

Ray Baxter, Jay Baxter and Ammon Miller addressed Council regarding the sawmill that is operating on property located at 264459 Prouse Road. The property received zoning approval in August of 2020. The amending by-law allowed the operation of a sawmill except throughout the months of March and April of each year. Mr. Baxter advised that limiting the operation during these two months is impacting their ability to run their business and maintain income/revenue – there is currently high demand for product. Staff have expressed concern about trucks operating at full load along Prouse Road when weight restrictions are in effect.

Chief Administrative Officer Mary Ellen Greb provided Council with background information in relation to the amending by-law and the weight reductions in effect on Prouse Road throughout March and April of each year. She advised that a condition of the zoning approval was that the sawmill would not operate throughout the months of March and April of each year. The property owner was in agreement with this and these provisions were specifically included in zoning by-law no. 42-2020. Set fines have been established for operation of the sawmill during the months of March and April.

It was explained that even if the property owners applied to have the restrictions removed from the zoning by-law, the weight restrictions would still be in effect and may result in fines for operation. Council may not grant an exemption to the by-law; a new zone change application would need to be submitted to have the restrictions removed. It was noted that only one axle may be over the weight limit for a fine to be issued – the property owners may have some control on product leaving the facility; however, they are not able to control the weight of logs coming into the facility. Depending on the type of truck, some empty trucks are over the weight limits during weight restricted periods. It was noted that the cost to upgrade Prouse Road to a full load road is estimated at approximately \$180,000 per km of road.

7:15 p.m. - Lloyd Johnson - Johnson Bros Ltd. Request to Purchase Land CL 05-2024: Request for Closure and Sale of Unopened Road Allowance (Part Lot 29, Broken Front Concession)

Lloyd Johnson, addressed Council regarding a request that they have submitted to Township staff to purchase lands owned by the Township immediately adjacent (to the west) of the Township's gravel pit. Half of the

Resolution No. Moved by Valerie Durston
Seconded by George Way

RESOLVED that the Council of the Township of South-West Oxford receive report CL 04-2024: Request to Purchase Land: Mike Christiaens - Hincks Street Road Allowance as information.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

Staff Reports

CAO 02-2024: South-West Oxford - 2023 in Review

Chief Administrative Officer Mary Ellen Greb provided a report to Council to provide them with a summary of some of the successes and challenges of 2023. She advised that challenges outlined in the report will be linked to the Township's new Strategic Plan, which will continue to be worked on for the foreseeable future.

Resolution No. Moved by Peter Ypma
Seconded by George Way

RESOLVED that Council receive Report CAO 02-2024: 2023 in Review as information.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

CL 03-2024: By-law Enforcement Activity Report - 4th Quarter Year-End December 31, 2023

Clerk Julie Middleton provided Council with a report to provide Council with an update in relation to the activities in the by-law enforcement division as of December 31st, 2023.

Resolution No. Moved by Craig Gillis
Seconded by Paul Buchner

RESOLVED that the Council of the Township of South-West Oxford receive report CL 03-2024: By-law Enforcement Activity Report - 4th Quarter Year-End December 31, 2023 as information.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

Resolution No. Moved by Paul Buchner
Seconded by Valerie Durston

RESOLVED that Council reconvene in regular session
at 9.26 p.m.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

Confirmatory By-law

*By-Law No. 05-2024 - To confirm all actions and proceedings of Council
(January 23rd, 2024)*

Resolution No. Moved by Paul Buchner
Seconded by Valerie Durston

RESOLVED that By-law 05-2024 being a By-law to
confirm the proceedings of Council held Tuesday,
January 23rd, 2024 be read a first, second and third
time this 23rd day of January, 2024.

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 Craig Gillis
Seconded by Jim Pickard

RESOLVED that there being no further business, the
Council meeting be adjourned at 9:28 p.m. to meet
again on Tuesday, February 6th, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

CLERK: Julie Middleton

MAYOR: David Mayberry

This document is available in alternate formats upon request.