

For Immediate Release January 26, 2021

## Council Connect: Highlights from the January 26, 2021 meetings of Council

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

**New Official Plan:** Council held a Public Meeting to receive further public comment on the draft New Official Plan following public consultation opportunities hosted in November 2020. Administration has compiled comments received to date and will make any additional amendments to the draft following the meeting. The final draft of the New Official Plan will be provided to Council for consideration at a future Regular Meeting of Council.

**2020 Open and Closed Meetings:** Council received the annual report on the total number of Council meetings held last year. In 2020, Council held 22 Regular Meetings, 10 Public Meetings, six Special Meetings and six In-Camera Meetings. Due to COVID-19, in-person meetings were moved to electronic meetings as of March 24, 2020. From January to March 2020, 13 in-person meetings were held with the remainder of the year seeing 31 held electronically. The number of Public Council Meetings and Special Council Meetings decreased in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic

**Property Taxes:** Council received the year-end report on the 2020 Taxes Receivable which outlined the status of outstanding property taxes for all of Tecumseh. Tax receivable as a percentage of tax levy decreased slightly to 4.0% at December 2020 (from 4.3% in 2019). This percentage is below the Town's historical normal in the 6% - 8% range from 2009 to 2013. Current tax arrears status in Tecumseh is reflective of the norm throughout Essex County and western Ontario municipalities in general.

**2020 Radar Speed Surveys:** Council received a report on radar speed surveys conducted in 2020. Public Works and Environmental Services deployed radar speed trailers to 13 locations on 11 streets in Town and found five streets where motorists were traveling well over the speed limit according to the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile data. This information as well as the details about time of day and direction of traffic were immediately provided to the OPP for enforcement purposes. Radar speed surveys will continue in areas known for speeding and in response to complaints as they arise with results shared with the OPP for enforcement purposes.

**Drainage Act Comments:** Council received the report on the Town's comments on the *Drainage Act* Regulatory Proposal. Administration will now submit these comments to Ontario's Food Safety and Environmental Policy Branch. The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Farming and Rural Affairs is seeking input on a proposal to streamline the *Drainage Act* approval process and follows a report to Council in February 2020.

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- 2 -

**2021 Business Plan and Budget:** Council adopted a by-law on the 2021 Business Plan and Budget. Following budget deliberations at the January 14, 2021 Special Meeting of Council, the 2021 Business Plan and Budget was approved with the 2021 blended tax rate increase set at 1.48% resulting in an increase of approximately \$51 annually on a \$250,000 home. The 2021 Business Plan and Budget includes an increase of \$968,000 to the general tax levy with \$566,000 going to support the Town's capital projects. More than \$26 million in projects are planned for 2021.

**Water Servicing Agreement:** Council adopted a by-law to accept the Minutes of Settlement from the mediation and arbitration process with the Windsor Utilities Commission with respect to the Bulk Water Supply Agreement. Council approved the Minutes of Settlement at the October 27, 2020 Regular Meeting of Council which outline an agreed increase of \$0.03 per cubic metre effective from 2017.

**OPP Policing Services:** Council adopted a by-law to authorize entering into an extended, 3-year agreement with the Ontario Provincial Police for policing services for the Town. At their meeting of January 12, 2021, Council directed Administration to finalize the agreement which provides for continued policing services by the OPP. A change in legislation with new rules around municipal policing is expected to come into effect during the term of the agreement.

**Rodent Concerns:** Council passed a motion requesting that Administration review recently approved Rodent Control subsidies in several Ontario municipalities as well as the cancellation of such subsidies in other communities and to report back to the Policies & Priorities Committee of Council in time for 2022 Budget considerations.

The next Regular Meeting of Council is Tuesday, February 9, 2021. The meeting is scheduled to be held electronically. The live stream will be available on our website at [www.tecumseh.ca](http://www.tecumseh.ca). The agenda for the Regular meeting will be made available on Thursday, February 4, 2021.

Information on this and all Town of Tecumseh news and events is available at [www.tecumseh.ca](http://www.tecumseh.ca), Twitter (@TownofTecumseh), and Facebook ([www.facebook.com/townoftecumseh](http://www.facebook.com/townoftecumseh)).

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