

For Immediate Release May 12, 2020

## Council Connect: Highlights from the May 12, 2020 Regular Meeting of Council

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

**Flooding Preparedness:** Council authorized an agreement between the Town and the Canadian Red Cross for the provision of services in the event of an emergency. As part of the Town's Flood Emergency Response Plan, the Red Cross has been identified to provide certain emergency services in the event of an ordered evacuation in support of the Town's operations. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and local Board of Health and social services advice, the Town is unable to open a temporary shelter for flood evacuees. As a result, the Town has been working with the Red Cross to determine alternative ways for a coordinated and modified response as well as virtual registration of evacuees. A County wide agreement is being negotiated with the Red Cross for the provision of support services during emergencies however the current high lake levels and increasing risk of flooding in the Town make securing a provider for these services a high priority. The agreement outlined in the report would serve as an interim agreement to secure these services until the County wide agreement (currently under negotiation) has been executed.

**2020-2024 Fire Equipment 5 Year Capital Works Plan:** Council authorized the purchase of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) equipment and approved the addition of this purchase to the 2020-2024 Fire Equipment 5 Year Capital Works Plan with the \$305,900 funding to come from the Fire Equipment Lifecycle Reserve. At the Regular Meeting of Council on December 10, 2019, development of a replacement program for SCBA was identified as an action to be taken in 2020. The existing equipment was purchased in 2009 and had a ten year life span. During the research on the replacement of this equipment, it was determined that an opportunity to cooperate on a purchase with another municipality would substantially reduce the cost for the Town however, purchase had to take place in 2020 to realize the joint purchase savings. Administration is looking into the potential salvage value of the existing equipment and any proceeds would offset costs of the new equipment.

**Shoreline Week Newspapers:** Council carried a motion to reach out to Postmedia on their decision to close a number of small town newspapers including the Shoreline Week in Tecumseh. The motion specifically requests that Postmedia reconsider their decision to permanently close Shoreline Week and other community newspapers and to consider the introduction of alternative models to maintain local coverage. The Mayor posted a tweet on May 5, 2020 outlining his dismay with the decision as local newspapers are the lifeblood of Small Town Ontario. Andrew MacLeod, president of Postmedia reached out to the Mayor following his tweet and they discussed the situation by phone, including potential for some ongoing form of local news. The two plan to have additional conversations and will share further details in the future.

The next Regular Meeting of Council is Tuesday, May 26, 2020. 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, May 21, 2020. 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](https://www.facebook.com/townoftecumseh)).

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