

MARCH 9, 2021 - MIDDLESEX COUNTY COUNCIL

Council Chambers, County Building
London, 1:00 pm, Tuesday, March 9, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER AND WARDEN'S REMARKS

Council met with all members present electronically. Warden Burghardt-Jesson presided.

Warden Burghardt-Jesson addressed Council as follows:

"Yesterday was International Women's Day! I continue to be in awe by the women I am privileged to be surrounded by. At Middlesex County women are well represented, having many departments led by women and of course we are as close to parity as we can get around the horseshoe. This past year has been a challenge for all of us. As it has been well documented women have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic's economic fallout as compared to men - this is across Middlesex, across the Province, across the Country. The Women's Caucus of Middlesex has heard incredibly impactful stories from women across the county. I have been at the same time emotionally touched, challenged and angered by the stories that have been shared. Nevertheless, women have persisted and endured. As we begin to think about recovery and in a post-pandemic environment, make sure women are at the table sharing their insights in how a recovery can and will happen. Listen to their stories, to the lessons learned. Going forward these are voices that need to be part of the recovery and rebound.

It is hard to believe that a year ago today was the last full in-person council meeting that we held. (Save for the brief one to confirm virtual meetings). There were many discussions going on in the background, preparing for what we might be facing. I still shake my head on how quickly everything changed. It has been acknowledged many times, but the behind the scenes work that was done by our staff, particularly the IT department but then rolled out under department leadership was incredible. At the County, it seemed we never missed a beat. I am extremely proud of the work and support that has been done and shown. It has not been an easy year, working remotely and away from co-workers, having in some cases children at home and balancing their education needs. There have been many stressors, yet I get a sense that everyone has done their best to support each other through it. Who knows how long we will be meeting like this...but as each day passes, we get closer to that end of the tunnel.

Since our last Council meeting, I'm pleased to announce and Congratulate Councillor Kelly Elliott on her re-election as a Director to the OGRA Board ...this role she has taken on through the Municipality of Thames Centre.

I would also like to Congratulation Cara and the Economic Development Team on being awarded top prize at the EDCO Conference for the Culinary Guide Publication.

This morning the 2021 County of Middlesex operating and capital budgets were approved. Highlights of the budget include:

- Implementation of Middlesex County Cycling Strategy*
- Increase in bridge funding to reflect findings of bridge study*
- 64.5 lane km scheduled for reconstruction/rehab*
- Work to begin on Glendon Drive roundabout*
- Funding of additional 26 centre line km of roads assumed from local municipalities*
- Addition of 3 new 12 hour ambulances*
- Additional County resources in order to execute the Economic Development Strategic Plan objectives*
- Radio-frequency identification (RFID) project to enhance and streamline library inventory control*
- Information Technology Services Strategic Plan Development*
- Building access control system replacement at Strathmere Lodge*

There have been stressors on the budget process including but not limited to a decrease in our OMPF Funding as well as a delay in an update on our growth and assessment numbers.

The County of Middlesex delivers a wide variety of programs and services available to the public such as land ambulance, long-term care, 15 library branch system, local roadways, social services, economic development and planning services. That is why the County budget is so important. The budget determines the level of service and priorities that support our residents, enrich our community and build for the future.

It is clear that even with the challenges of the pandemic, the work of the County has not stopped. As always there are exciting projects ahead and I look forward to seeing them put into action during the year.”

2. PROVISION FOR DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

None

4. MINUTES

- a) Minutes of the Middlesex County Council meeting held on February 16, 2021

Moved by Councillor Elliott

Seconded by Councillor Mayhew

That the minutes of the Middlesex County Council meeting held on February 16, 2021 be approved as presented.

Carried.

5. DEPUTATIONS

6. ENQUIRIES OR NOTICES OF MOTION

7. REPORTS

- a) Women's Caucus of Middlesex County Update
 - Report from Warden Burghardt-Jesson

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Telus Communications Municipal Access Agreement
 - Report from Chris Traini, County Engineer

Moved by Councillor Warwick

Seconded by Councillor Smith

That the Municipal Access Agreement between the Corporation of the County of Middlesex and Telus Communications Inc. for the installation and operation of telecommunications infrastructure along sections of County Roads be approved and that the necessary by-law be forwarded to County Council to authorize the Warden and County Clerk to execute the attached Municipal Access Agreement.

Carried.

- b) MLPA 2021 Response Time Performance Plan Compliance
 - Report from Chief Neal Roberts, MLPS

Moved by Councillor Mayhew

Seconded by Councillor Elliott

That the Middlesex-London Paramedic Service Response Time Performance Plan results be received for information; and that County Council direct the Chief, Middlesex London Paramedic Service to submit the annual performance report to the Ontario Ministry of Health, no later than March 31, 2021.

Carried.

- c) Community Paramedicine – Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Funding
 - Report from Chief Neal Roberts, MLPS

Moved by Councillor Vanderheyden

Seconded by Councillor DeViet

That Middlesex County Council receive the update regarding this funding opportunity for the Community Paramedicine programming and that the necessary by-law be presented to County Council to authorize the Warden and County Clerk to execute the transfer payment agreement.

Carried.

- d) Strathmere Lodge - Contract for Food Services Management
 - Report from Brent Kerwin, Strathmere Lodge Administrator

Moved by Councillor Brennan

Seconded by Councillor Ropp

That the contract with Nutritional Management Services (NMS) be approved for a further three (3) years with an expiry date of March 31, 2024; and that The Lodge Administrator be authorized to sign the services contract on behalf of the County of Middlesex.

Carried.

- e) Tender for Concrete Curb and Gutter Contract M-F-21
 - Report from Ryan Hillinger, Engineering Supervisor

Moved by Councillor Cornelissen

Seconded by Councillor Mayhew

That the bid from Ro-Buck Construction in the amount of \$37,960.00 before taxes for Contract M-F-21 for the supply of Concrete Curb and Gutter be accepted.

Carried.

- f) Tender for Glass Beads Contract M-G-21
 - Report from Ryan Hillinger, Engineering Supervisor

Moved by Councillor Richards

Seconded by Councillor Warwick

That the bid from Opta Minerals Inc in the amount of \$113,710.50 before taxes for Contract M-G-21 for the supply of Reflectorizing Glass Beads be accepted.

Carried.

- g) Tender for Traffic Paint Contract M-P-21
- Report from Ryan Hillinger, Engineering Supervisor

Moved by Councillor Smith

Seconded by Councillor Elliott

That the bid from Ennis Paint Canada in the amount of \$775,200.00 before taxes for Contract M-P-21 for the supply of Traffic Paint be accepted.

Carried.

- h) Consulting Services Agreement with Oneida Nation of the Thames
- Report from Bill Rayburn, CAO

Moved by Councillor Mayhew

Seconded by Councillor Vanderheyden

That the Consulting Services Agreement between Oneida Nation of the Thames and the Corporation of the County of Middlesex c/o Middlesex-London Emergency Medical Services Authority Operating and Middlesex-London Paramedic Services be approved; and that the necessary by-law be presented to County Council to authorize the Warden and the County Clerk to execute the Consulting Services Agreement.

Carried.

- i) Municipal Modernization Allocation
- Report from Chris Bailey, Manager of ITS; and Cindy Howard, General Manager of Finance and Community Services

Moved by Councillor Ropp

Seconded by Councillor Warwick

That Middlesex County Council receive the Municipal Modernization Program report as presented and approve the allocation of the unconditional one-time modernization funds.

Carried.

- j) Appointment of Middlesex Representative to Western Ontario Health Team
- A request has been received from Mike McMahon and Linda Crossely-Hauch, co-chairpersons of the Western Ontario Health Team to appoint a Middlesex representative

Moved by Councillor Vanderheyden

Seconded by Councillor DeViet

That Warden Burghardt-Jesson be appointed as the Middlesex Representative to the Western Ontario Health Team for the remainder of the term of Council.

Carried.

9. COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS AND OTHER BUSINESS

- a) Mt. Brydges COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic
Chris Traini, County Engineer, gave a brief updated on the Mt. Brydges COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic. He noted the clinic is vaccinating high risk individuals, 80 plus individuals and health care personnel. He further noted that are vaccinating 350 to 400 people per day and that the Middlesex County CERV volunteers and assisting with the clinic and that it is running very smoothly.

10. BY-LAWS

Moved by Councillor Warwick

Seconded by Councillor Elliott

That first and second reading of the By-laws be given:

Carried.

- #7098 - A BY-LAW to enter into an agreement with LEADS Employment Services London Inc., with respect to participation in Middlesex County's Ontario Works program and to provide employment placement and/or the acquisition of life skills for Ontario Works recipients
- #7099 - A BY-LAW to authorize the Warden and the Clerk to execute a Telecommunications Municipal Access Agreement between The Corporation of the County of Middlesex and TELUS Communications Inc.
- #7100 - A BY-LAW to Authorize the Execution of a Consulting Services Agreement between The Corporation of the County of Middlesex c/o Middlesex-London Emergency Medical Services Authority operating as Middlesex-London Paramedic Services and Oneida Nation of the Thames
- #7101 - A By-Law to confirm proceedings of the Council of The Corporation of the County of Middlesex – March 9, 2021

Moved by Councillor Richards

Seconded by Councillor Vanderheyden

That third and final reading of the preceding By-laws be given.

Carried.

11. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

A. DELEGATIONS / REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICERS

B. ACTION ITEMS

1. Middlesex Centre Radio Tower Agreement
 - Report from Chris Traini, County Engineer

Moved by Councillor Mayhew

Seconded by Councillor Cornelissen

That the agreement between the County of Middlesex and the Municipality of Middlesex Centre for the installation of equipment on the Middlesex County communications tower located at the Central Garage facility be approved for a ten year term; and that the necessary by-law be presented at the March 23, 2021 County Council meeting to authorize the Warden and County Clerk to execute the agreement.

Carried.

2. South West Local Health Integration Network Service Accountability Agreement (L-SAA) – Annual Declaration of Compliance
 - Report from Brent Kerwin, Strathmere Lodge Administrator

Moved by Councillor Ropp

Seconded by Councillor Smith

That Schedule E (Declaration of Compliance) of the Long-Term Care Service Accountability Agreement (L-SAA) be approved, and that Warden Burghardt-Jesson be authorized to sign Schedule E on behalf of the County of Middlesex.

Carried.

3. Quotation for Roadside Weedspraying
 - Report from Ryan Hillinger, Engineering Supervisor

Moved by Councillor Warwick

Seconded by Councillor DeViet

That the quotation provided by Veg-Tek for the spraying of roadside weeds at a total cost of \$71,396.20 plus HST be accepted.

Carried.

C. CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION ITEMS

1. General Payables to February 26, 2021 totalling \$353,065.48
2. Planning Payables to February 2021 totalling \$18,746.43
3. Electronic Payments for the month of February 2021 totalling \$1,943,250.93
4. Social Services Payables to February 26, 2021 totalling \$297,620.41
5. Strathmere Lodge Payables to February 26, 2021 totalling \$164,875.20

6. Road Payables to February 26, 2021 totalling \$1,054,284.13
7. MLPS Payables to February 26, 2021 totalling \$745,910.80
8. IT Payables to February 26, 2021 totalling \$98,691.11
9. Economic Development Payables to February 26, 2021 totalling \$19,195.07

Moved by Councillor Richards

Seconded by Councillor Brennan

That Items C.1 – CW through C.9 – CW, (Payables) be received for information.

Carried.

10. Strathmere Lodge Occupancy and Activity Report – January 2021
11. Letter from the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal with respect to Carruthers - B9-2020, Municipality of Southwest Middlesex advising that the applicant will not be proceeding with the application
12. Copy of a Media Release announcing “Middlesex County Economic Development awarded top prize at EDCO Conference for Culinary Guide Publication
13. Media Release from Middlesex Centre Archives announcing a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation’s Resilient Communities Fund
14. Copy of a letter from Thames Centre to the Thames Valley District School Board Rural Education Task Force with respect to the School Retention Plan

Moved by Councillor Elliott

Seconded by Councillor Cornelissen

That Middlesex County Council hereby supports the resolution from Thames Centre with respect to the School Retention Plan.

Carried.

15. Letter from the Association of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario thanking councils for their service during the pandemic
16. AMO Update entitled “Social Assistance Vision Paper Released and March Break Delayed” dated February 11, 2021
17. AMO Update entitled “Access of Persons with Disabilities to Sports/Recreational Facilities during COVID-19 and Greenbelt Consultation” dated February 17, 2021

18. AMO Update entitled "Build Back Better Extension and New Anti-Human Trafficking Legislation" dated February 24, 2021
19. AMO Update entitled "Province Provides Additional Transit Funding, Municipal Modernization Funding, and 34 Public Health Unit Vaccination Plans Together" dated March 1, 2021
20. AMO Update entitled "Ontario Government Provides New 2021 COVID-19 Relief Funding for Municipal Government Operations" dated March 4, 2021

Moved by Councillor Vanderheyden

Seconded by Councillor Elliott

That Items C.10 – CW through C.13 – CW and C.15 - CW through C.20 – CW be received for information.

Carried.

12. INQUIRIES

13. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Next County Council Meetings:
 - Tuesday, March 23, 2021
 - Tuesday, April 13, 2021
 - Tuesday, April 27, 2021
 - Tuesday, May 11, 2021
 - Tuesday, May 25, 2021
 - Tuesday, June 8, 2021
 - Tuesday, June 22, 2021

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday, June 16, 2021 – Middlesex County Wardens Charity Golf Tournament (Tentative)

15. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Mayhew

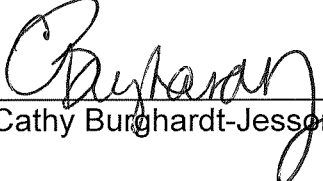
Seconded by Councillor Smith

That the meeting adjourn at 2:19 p.m.

Carried.



Kathleen Bunting, County Clerk



Cathy Burghardt-Jesson, Warden

