

County Council Summary

February 23rd, 2022

Below you will find highlights of the County of Renfrew County Council meeting from February 23th, 2022.

Please note that this summary does not constitute the official record of the meeting and approved minutes should be consulted for that purpose.

The full agenda can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3HeS3Q0>

Meeting YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/amX-NshLRuQ>

Warden's Address

Watch the Warden's Address here:

<https://youtu.be/amX-NshLRuQ?t=682>

Key highlights

During the month of February, Warden Robinson attended 15 meetings regarding County business, including but not limited to:

- At the beginning of the month, Warden Robinson met virtually with MPP John Yakabuski and Ontario Minister of Health, Christine Elliott, to discuss future funding for the Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre (RC VTAC).
 - The Province has committed to funding for RC VTAC until March 2023 as [announced in a media release](#) earlier in February.
- On February 15th, Warden Robinson attended an AMO Health Task Force meeting.
 - An update on AMO's response to governance of Ontario Health Teams was received, which aligns with the County of Renfrew's position and the position of the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus.
- On February 17th, CAO Paul Moreau, Director of Development and Property Craig Kelley, Director of Community Services Laura LePine and Warden Robinson met with Andrew Hamilton and Nik Lemieux of Mirabel Consulting to discuss innovative ways of assisting people who are homeless or precariously housed in Renfrew County.
 - A housing forum to bring together developers, builders and other individuals interested in addressing the housing crisis in the County of Renfrew was proposed. This proposal will be brought to Development and Property Committee in the near future.
- On February 18th, Warden Robinson attended a meeting with Parliamentary Assistant Amarjot Sandhu, Ministry of Infrastructure regarding the implementation of the recommendations under the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund re-design and asset management planning programming.
- Throughout the month of February, delegation meetings with local municipalities continued.
 - We have two more municipalities to visit, the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan and Head Clara Maria.
 - Warden Robinson expressed her thanks to all municipalities for inviting the County of Renfrew to make our presentation, as well as to staff CAO Paul Moreau, Director of Development & Property Department Craig Kelley, Director of Corporate Services Jeff Foss and Human Resources Manager Greg Belmore for assisting with the presentation.

Delegations

- A video was shown announcing the launch of a partnership with Renfrewshire, Scotland as part of a twinning communities initiative.
 - Provost Lorraine Cameron from Renfrewshire Council was also present and expressed her congratulations and shared excitement for the initiative, which is meant to increase economic development, tourism, business to business relationships and opportunities, cultural exchanges, educational opportunities, technical exchanges, etc. for both regions, and to increase awareness of both municipalities as being leaders in their respective countries as a place to do business and visit.
- A video was shown to celebrate the resilience of staff and residents at Bonnechere Manor and Miramichi Lodge throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff from Miramichi Lodge travelled to Renfrew to assist staff during a COVID-19 outbreak at Bonnechere Manor. Staff from Miramichi Lodge travelled to Renfrew to assist staff during the COVID-19 outbreak at Bonnechere Manor.

Finance & Administration Committee

Presented by: Jennifer Murphy, Chair

- Staff continue to monitor the Provincial guidelines for COVID-19 and it is anticipated that the March County Council meeting will be hybrid; in person and virtual.
- 2021 Statements of Remuneration:
 - Remuneration for Members of Council By-law references an allocation of \$3,900 per year to attend any conference(s), convention(s) or education session of choice, however, during the 2021 Budget Workshop and once again at the 2022 Budget Workshop, a reduced allocation of $\$30,000 \div 16$ Elected Officials = \$1,875 was approved. Therefore, the column entitled “Convention Expenses” in the Statement of Remuneration and Expenses was changed to \$1,875.
 - Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) provided details of Council remuneration and expenses paid to Warden Robinson, AMO Board of Directors, County Caucus, EOWC Chair. AMO only reimburses for mileage and all meetings in 2021 were held virtually.
 - Renfrew County and District Health Unit provided an itemized statement of remuneration and expenses paid for 2021 for the members of County Council appointed to the Board of Health.
- The County of Renfrew was successful in obtaining four delegations at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Conference in January:
 - Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Steve Clark — to overview how the Social Services Relief Fund 4 will be utilized within the County of Renfrew to start construction on a capital project to build six new affordable supportive housing units, and to discuss innovative approaches to community housing and new purpose built housing in Renfrew County.
 - Minister of Transportation, the Honourable Caroline Mulroney – to discuss innovative options and future collaborations for completion of the Algonquin Trail.

- Minister of Infrastructure, the Honourable Kinga Surma – to discuss potential funding opportunities for growth related projects.
- Minister of Health, the Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier – to discuss the municipal role and funding in Public Health, specifically the impact any future increases to the provincial/municipal cost-sharing model will have on the municipal tax burden. This is particularly challenging for rural communities with aging populations and limited resources, such as the County of Renfrew.
- The budget for 2022 has been finalized and any changes have been reflected in the final report.
 - A copy of the report is available upon request.
- A by-law was passed to adopt the revised By-law for the Remuneration of Members of the Council of the County of Renfrew effective January 1, 2022.
- A By-law was passed to authorize the Warden and Clerk to enter into a Transfer Payment Agreement in the amount of \$317,491 with Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Ontario as represented by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing for the Municipal Modernization Fund-Intake 3.
- A by-law was passed to approve the revised Procurement of Goods and Services Policy (GA-01);
- A by-law was passed to approve the following changes to Employment By-law #1 effective January 1, 2022:
 - a) Article 4 - Rates of Pay: A 1.75% wage increase for all non-union staff (except students) as outlined in Schedules “A” and “B”; and
 - b) Change to the Student Wage from \$13.40 to \$14.10 (for students under 18) and from \$14.25 to \$15.00 (for students 18 and over) as outlined in Schedule “B”.

Community Services Committee

Presented by: James Brose, Chair

- Ministry of Children, Community, and Social Services (MCCSS) has introduced an eSignature option for social assistance recipients. Between February and June of this year, the new signature solution will be rolled out across the province in five phases.
 - The County of Renfrew is one of ten municipalities going live in the first phase. The new technology will enable consent forms as well as the rights and responsibilities form to be signed digitally to reduce the need for in-person visits.
- A resolution was passed to approve that the County of Renfrew apply to the Inclusive Community Grants funding program for the development of a County of Renfrew Housing Action Plan. It is proposed, based on final confirmation of eligible expenses and outcomes, that the funding will go towards a consultant who will assist with taking the information gleaned from the County’s Housing and Homelessness Strategy and the County’s Senior’s Housing Strategy, along with extensive consultation with the local municipalities and come up with a housing action plan that would collect and review all municipal assets and provide a best practice approach for disposal and/or conversion of those assets.
- A resolution was passed to approve an increase to Resource Teachers capped rate of \$16.00 per hour plus mandatory benefits, to \$18.00 per hour plus mandatory benefits, effective January 1, 2022.

- A resolution was passed to approve that Shelley Moore, George Couchie, Lorrie Baird, and Anne Marie Coughlin, provide professional development training to EarlyON and Licensed Child Care Providers throughout 2022, utilizing capacity funding.

Development & Property Committee

Presented by: Robert Sweet, Chair

- In January, Business Development Officer David Wybou coordinated two County of Renfrew Agriculture-related committee meetings: the Renfrew County Agricultural Economic Development Committee meeting on January 13; and the Renfrew County Agricultural Leadership Advisory Committee meeting on January 17.
 - Both committees discussed the merits of merging and both voted to merge as soon as feasible.
- The Ottawa Valley Tourist Association (OVTA) staff has been engaged in a campaign of regular information sharing with tourism businesses and to the public on the opportunities and benefits the Ontario Staycation Tax Credit can provide.
 - Local media were very responsive and supportive of the local tourism sector and produced several features about the Tax Credit across multiple platforms.
- Economic Development staff will review the application guidelines for the Province of Ontario's new Rural Economic Development (RED) Program and if applicable, apply for work on the Algonquin Trail before the March 7, 2022 deadline.
- County of Renfrew staff held a virtual meeting on February 16, 2022 with local municipalities to review GIS services and capabilities along with the review of ESRI's Small Local Government Enterprise License Agreement.
- A mandatory site meeting for the new Multi-Residential Housing Project was held January 25, 2022 at the site located at Lea and Douglas Street in Pembroke. The details for the Request for Proposal (RFP) were reviewed and opportunity given for preliminary questions and site inspection. The closing date for the RFP is February 25, 2022.
- Ontario Government's Bill 13 Supporting People and Businesses Act, 2021 and Bill 276 Supporting Recovery and Competitiveness Act, 2021 which contain amendments to many different Ontario statutes came into effect on January 1, 2022.
 - A report has been put together to highlight some of the more significant changes related to how the Planning Act changes impact the County of Renfrew Planning Division and can be referenced in the appendix of the [full meeting agenda](#).
- A resolution was passed that County Council supports the Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) application to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), Canada's nuclear regulator, to amend its existing site license in order to construct a Near Surface Disposal Facility (NSDF).
- A resolution was passed to pass a By-law to execute an agreement with the Ontario Trillium Foundation in the amount of \$62,800; AND FURTHER THAT funds up to \$15,700 be taken from the 2022 Provision for Unallocated Funds for the County of Renfrew's 20% contribution of the grant; AND FURTHER THAT the funds be used for improvements to the K&P Recreational Trail.
- A revised Tariff of Fees By-law was discussed and Council deferred a decision to the March meeting of County Council in order to provide time for the lower-tier municipalities to discuss the changes.

Health Committee

Presented by: Michael Donohue, Chair

- Community Paramedics continue to support vulnerable populations including those remaining in their homes while COVID positive, reducing transports to hospital, emergency visits and potential admissions.
 - The Remote Patient Monitoring program has 140 patients enrolled, including several that are COVID positive
- Recent provincial testing guidelines have decreased public demand for COVID testing, however the Paramedic Service is working in conjunction with Ontario Health to augment the VTAC offering to add expanded in-person physical assessment options by Paramedics for COVID and other primary care needs.
 - Importantly, Paramedics and VTAC physicians will determine patient eligibility for anti-viral therapy. This change supports the priorities of Ontario Health and meets the requirements necessary to function as a Clinical Assessment Centre (CAC).
- Vaccine clinic attendance has declined resulting in the cancellation of several clinic dates. Clinics in Pembroke, Renfrew and Arnprior will be reduced to one each week in February, freeing resources to complete vaccines in homes, retirement homes, congregate care settings and schools over the next few weeks. Once these groups have been completed, pop-up clinics will be established in various municipalities
 - The County has also procured ID NOW™ COVID-19 rapid test machines to deliver high-quality molecular positive results in as little as fifteen minutes.
 - The units will be used in conjunction with the current swabbing process of swab samples collected for PCR and will eventually become the primary method of testing, providing near-immediate results.
- On December 28, 2021, the Ministry introduced additional temporary enhanced measures for long-term care homes (LTCHs), specifically pausing general visitors and social day absences
 - The Ministry has worked with the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health (OCMOH) to plan for the gradual easing of temporary enhanced measures currently in place. This plan is in the context of the broader reopening Ontario approach announced by the province in January and is also contingent on the absence of concerning trends in public health and health care indicators over the coming weeks.
- Ontario Health, through Ontario Health (East), confirmed that Bonnechere Manor Senior Adult Day Program will receive base funding up to \$6,976 in 2021/2022 for Operating Pressures.
- On January 14, 2022, Premier Doug Ford announced the appointment of Paul Calandra as Ontario's next Minister of Long-Term Care, replacing Rod Phillips. Minister Calandra will maintain his existing responsibilities as Minister of Legislative Affairs and Government House Leader.
- A resolution was passed to pass a By-law authorizing the approval of the Agreement between the County of Renfrew Paramedic Service and Arnprior Regional Health to place Paramedics in the Emergency Department

Operations Committee

Presented by: Tom Peckett, Chair

- The Ottawa Valley Cycling and Active Transportation Alliance (OVCATA) raised concerns on safety for pedestrians and cyclists crossing at the intersection of Highway 148 and County Road 29 (Drive-In Road).
 - Committee directed staff to prepare a response to the Ottawa Valley Cycling and Active Transportation Alliance on behalf of the Warden advising of the ongoing discussions with the MTO for traffic signals at the intersection of Highway 148 and County Road 29 (Drive-In Road) and to send a letter to the MTO asking for an update on the rehabilitation plans including an anticipated timeline for signals to be installed.
- Design for rehabilitation of County Structure B203 (Petawawa River Bridge) is underway by WSP Canada. Preliminary design has been completed and given the high traffic volumes over the bridge, WSP met with County staff to discuss traffic management during the upcoming construction project on the bridge.
- Discussions with the Township of Laurentian Valley staff have been ongoing regarding the use of Borne Road as a detour for full closure of B319 (Bucholtz Bridge) during construction in 2022.
 - Staff of the County of Renfrew and Laurentian Valley have concluded that the use of Borne Road as a detour route for County Road 58 (Round Lake Road) traffic would incur significant damage to Borne Road and require such significant traffic control that the benefits of closing Bucholtz Bridge during construction are outweighed by the negative impacts which could be incurred by the traffic, especially truck traffic, using Borne Road. Construction staging will proceed as originally designed with a single lane closure and traffic signals in place.
- A resolution was passed that County Council pass a By-law to acquire lands located within part of Lots 23 and 24, Concession A in the geographic Township of McNab in the Township of McNab/Braeside, described as Parts 2, 3, 4 and 5 on Plan 49R19902 from Valerie Kohlsmith and Lorinda Kohlsmith for the sum of Seven Thousand and Fifty Dollars (\$7,050); AND FURTHER THAT Parts 2, 3, 4 and 5 on Plan 49R-19902 be dedicated as part of the public highway upon registration of the transfer documents
- A resolution was passed that County Council pass a By-law to acquire Part 2 in the geographic Township of McNab in the Township of McNab/Braeside on Plan 49R-19982 from Ryan Arbuthnot and Krystyn Arbuthnot for the sum of \$1.00; AND FURTHER THAT Part 2 on Plan 49R-19982 be dedicated as part of the public highway upon registration of the transfer documents.
- A resolution was passed that County Council update the speed limit By-law to change the posted speed limit along County Road 511 (Lanark Road) between County Road 508 (Calabogie Road) and 12517 Lanark Road to 40km/hr.

Additional Information

Paul Moreau, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk

613-735-7288