

**MINUTES
COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF HURON**

Hybrid Meeting
April 17, 2024

The Council of the County of Huron met in a hybrid meeting setting on Wednesday, April 17, 2024. All members of Council were present.

1. Warden Glen McNeil called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM.

2. Approval of Agenda:

Moved by: Councillor M. Anderson and Seconded by: Councillor P. Heffer
THAT:

The Council Day 2 agenda for April 17, 2024 be approved as presented.
CARRIED

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest: None.

4. Minutes of Previous Meetings:

Moved by: Councillor T. Bazinet and Seconded by: Councillor B. Vanstone
THAT:

The minutes of the Council Day 1 meeting of April 3, 2024 be adopted as circulated.
CARRIED

5. Delegations/Petitions/Presentations:

5.1. Health Unit Cost Apportionment Agreement Renewal, presentation by Brent Kittmer, CAO, Town of St. Marys

Presentation to County Council by Brent Kittmer, CAO, Town of St. Marys with an updated cost apportionment agreement between the County of Perth, the City of Stratford, and the Town of St. Marys for health unit services.

Moved by: Councillor J. Ginn and Seconded by: Councillor G. Finch
THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron receive presentation by Brent Kittmer, CAO, Town of St. Marys, dated April 17, 2024, titled Health Unit Cost Apportionment Agreement Renewal, as presented for information.
CARRIED

Moved by: Councillor T. Bazinet and Seconded by: Councillor B. MacLellan
THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron request the staff report regarding the Health Unit cost apportionment.
CARRIED

6. Councillor's Comments:

Councillor M. Anderson raised concerns about County Road 4 and County Road 25, noting that during power outages traffic lights are non-functional at night, there is a lack of signage to warn travelers about approaching intersection. Director of Public Works Khalid is aware of this issue and will explore solutions.

Councillor B. MacLellan requested information about the Out of the Cold program motel usage, as to whether patrons have been relocated. CAO Wark confirmed the relocation, assuring that the transition occurred smoothly with no decline in service quality.

7. Consent Agenda - Items 7.1 through 7.5:

Items listed under the Consent Agenda are considered routine and may require discussion but no action on the part of Council. Consent Agenda items are received in one motion. Council members may request that one or more items be removed for further action.

Moved by: Councillor D. Harding and Seconded by: Councillor J. Heffer
THAT:
Items 7.1 through 7.5 be approved with the actions as noted.
CARRIED

8. Social and Property Services:

8.1. Amendments to Smoke-Free Policy (presented by Jayme Koskamp)

Moved by: Councillor J. Becker and Seconded by: Councillor L. Noel
THAT:
The Council of the County of Huron receives the report by Jayme Koskamp, Housing Services Supervisor, dated April 17, 2024, titled Amendments to Smoke Free Policy as presented;
AND FURTHER THAT:
The Council of the County of Huron approve the proposed amendments to the Housing Smoke-Free Policy;
AND FURTHER THAT:
A by-law be drafted amending by-law 2016-026 Housing Smoke-Free Policy with the presented amendments.
CARRIED

8.2. New Child Care Spaces in Goderich (presented by Cheryl Patience)

Moved by: Councillor J. Dietrich and Seconded by: Councillor T. Bazinet
THAT:
The Council of the County of Huron receives the report by Cheryl Patience, Manager of Ontario Works and Children's Services, dated April 17, 2024, titled New Child Care Spaces in Goderich, for information;
AND FURTHER THAT:
The Council of the County of Huron approve issuing EYES Child Care Start-Up funding in the amount of \$300,000 to contribute to the initial costs to create new child care spaces;
AND FURTHER THAT:
The Council of the County of Huron approves entering into a Service Agreement with EYES Childcare upon approved licensing with the Ministry of Education;
AND FURTHER THAT:
A by-law be drafted authorizing the Warden and Clerk to execute the Service Agreement with EYES.
CARRIED

8.3. Employment Ontario Service Provider Changes for Ontario Works (presented by Cheryl Patience)

Moved by: Councillor P. Heffer and Seconded by: Councillor A. McLellan
THAT:
The Council of the County of Huron receives the report by Cheryl Patience, Manager of Ontario Works and Children's Services, dated April 17, 2024, titled Employment Ontario Service Provider Changes for Ontario Works, for information.
CARRIED

8.4. Exterior Improvements to 250 Picton Street, Goderich (presented by Jeff Kerslake)

Moved by: Councillor J. Ginn and Seconded by: Councillor J. Becker
THAT:

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The Council of the County of Huron receives the report by Jeff Kerslake, Technical Services Manager, dated April 17, 2024, titled Exterior Improvements to 250 Picton Street, Goderich, as presented for information;

AND FURTHER THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron approve tender RFT(HPS) 2024-01 be awarded to True Trough Ltd. for the amount of \$275,769.60 including provisional items;

AND FURTHER THAT:

A by-law be drafted authorizing the Warden and Clerk to execute contract RFT (HPS) 2024- 01 with True Trough Ltd. and all other required documents for this project.

CARRIED

8.5. National Housing Strategy - Potential Funding Changes (presented by Barbara Hall)

Moved by: Councillor P. Klopp and Seconded by: Councillor G. Finch

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron receives the report by Barbara Hall, Director, Social and Property Services, dated April 17, 2024, titled National Housing Strategy - Potential Funding Changes, as presented for information.

CARRIED

Moved by: Councillor L. Noel and Seconded by: Councillor G. Finch

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron direct staff to send an advocacy letter to the federal and provincial governments regarding the inconsistencies of the funding for the National Housing Strategy.

CARRIED

9. **Homes for the Aged:** None.

10. **Emergency Services:** None.

11. **Public Works:**

11.1. Memorandum of Understanding with G2G Rail Trail Inc. for the restoration of the Blyth Tunnel (presented by Imran Khalid)

Moved by: Councillor P. Klopp and Seconded by: Councillor J. Heffer

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron approves entering into the Memorandum of Understanding with G2G Rail Trail Inc. for the restoration of the Blyth Tunnel with the removal of the following clause:

- Upon completion, Huron County will assume ownership of the tunnel. After assuming ownership, Huron County will be responsible for all work and expenses with respect to the rehabilitation, repair, maintenance and restoration of the tunnel structure.

DEFEATED

Moved by: Councillor B. Vanstone and Seconded by: Councillor B. MacLellan

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron receive the report by Imran Khalid, Director of Public Works, dated April 17, 2024, titled Memorandum of Understanding with G2G Rail Trail Inc. for the restoration of the Blyth Tunnel, for information;

AND FURTHER THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron approves entering into the Memorandum of Understanding with G2G Rail Trail Inc. for the restoration of the Blyth Tunnel;

AND FURTHER THAT:

A by-law be drafted for April 17, 2024 authorizing the Warden and Clerk to execute the Memorandum of Understanding with G2G Rail Trail Inc. for the restoration of the Blyth Tunnel.

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Recorded vote was requested by Councillor P. Klopp:

Councillor J. Ginn - YAY
Councillor B. Vanstone - YAY
Councillor B. MacLellan - YAY
Councillor G. Finch - NAY
Councillor T. Bazinet - YAY
Councillor P. Klopp - NAY
Warden G. McNeil - YAY
Councillor D. Harding – NAY
Councillor J. Becker - YAY
Councillor J. Heffer - NAY
Councillor M. Anderson - YAY
Councillor A. McLellan - YAY
Councillor L. Noel – YAY
Councillor J. Dietrich - NAY
Councillor Paul Heffer – NAY
CARRIED 11- 4

11.2. Recommendation to Award Tender HC 24-506: Construction of The G2G Rail Trail Tunnel (25-20.8) Under County Road 25 West of Blyth (presented by Imran Khalid)

Moved by: Councillor P. Klopp and Seconded by: Councillor A. McLellan

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron request the County contribution surplus from the G2G Trail Tunnel project tender be returned to the County of Huron.

DEFEATED

Moved by: Councillor B. Vanstone and Seconded by: Councillor P. Heffer

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron receive and approve the report by Imran Khalid, Director of Public Works, dated April 17, 2024, titled Recommendation to Award Tender HC 24-506: Construction of The G2G Rail Trail Tunnel (25-20.8) Under County Road 25 West of Blyth, for information;

AND FURTHER THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron accept the tender submitted by Lavis Contracting Co. Limited in the amount of \$414,557 (inclusive of provisional items, contingency allowance, and net applicable taxes), based on the anticipated scope of work for Tender HC-506;

AND FURTHER THAT:

A by-law be prepared for April 17, 2024 authorizing the Warden and Clerk to execute the contracts and all other required documents, conditional upon confirmation of transfer of funds to the County by the G2G Rail Trail Group for HC-506 with Lavis Contracting Co. Limited.

CARRIED

11.3. Recommendation to Award Tender HC 24-302 for Urban Dashwood Reconstruction (presented by Imran Khalid)

Moved by: Councillor P. Klopp and Seconded by: Councillor G. Finch

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron receive the report by Imran Khalid, Director of Public Works, dated April 17, 2024, titled Recommendation to Award Tender HC 24-302 for Urban Dashwood Reconstruction, for information;

AND FURTHER THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron approves the award of Contract HC 24-302 in the amount of \$7,007,153 (including contingencies and net HST) to VanBree Drainage and Bulldozing Limited, subject to Bluewater and South Huron Council approving funding for their share of the project;

AND FURTHER THAT:

A by-law be prepared authorizing the Warden and Clerk to execute the contracts and all other required documents.

CARRIED

- 11.4. Staff Report Regarding the Proposed Removal of Tulip Tree at 115 Main Street as Part of Dashwood Urban Reconstruction (presented by Imran Khalid)

Moved by: Councillor G. Finch and Seconded by: Councillor P. Heffer

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron receive the report by Imran Khalid, Director of Public Works, dated April 17, 2024, titled Staff Report regarding the Proposed Removal of Tulip Tree at 115 Main Street as part of Dashwood Urban Reconstruction, for information;

AND FURTHER THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron direct Public Works staff to proceed with the removal of the tree at 115 Main Street, on the advice of design engineers and arborist.

CARRIED

12. Economic Development:

- 12.1 Maple Mania 2024 Report (presented by Alecia Anderson)

Moved by: Councillor M. Anderson and Seconded by: Councillor L. Noel

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron receive the report by Alecia Anderson, Coordinator Tourism & Local Food, dated April 17, 2024, titled Maple Mania 2024 Report, as presented for information.

CARRIED

- 12.2 Small Business Enterprise Centre (SBEC) Provincial Agreement for 2024/2025 (presented by Brittany Wise)

Moved by: Councillor J. Dietrich and Seconded by: Councillor G. Finch

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron receive the report dated April 17, 2024 by Brittany Wise, Huron Business Centre Manager, titled Request for Execution of Small Business Enterprise Centre (SBEC) extension Agreement;

AND FURTHER THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron approve entering into the SBEC extension agreement as presented;

AND FURTHER THAT:

A by-law be drafting for April 17, 2024 authorizing the Warden and Clerk to execute the SBEC extension agreement and any further required documents.

CARRIED

- 12.3 Economic Development 2023 Annual Report (presented by Vicki Lass)

Moved by: Councillor P. Heffer and Seconded by: Councillor T. Bazinet

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron receive the report by Vicki Lass, Director of Economic Development, dated April 17th, 2024, titled Economic Development 2023 Annual Report, as presented for information.

CARRIED

13. Administration, Policies and Other Issues:

- 13.1. 2023 Annual Report Promotion (presented by Erin Samuell)

Moved by: Councillor T. Bazinet and Seconded by: Councillor G. Finch

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron receives the report by Erin Samuell, Senior Communications Specialist, dated April 17, 2024, titled 2023 Annual Report Promotion as presented for information.

CARRIED

14. Correspondence:

Moved by: Councillor G. Finch and Seconded by: Councillor B. Vanstone

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron supports correspondence item 14.6 from Drinking Water Source Protection - Letter Regarding Private Drinking Water Testing, item 14.7 from Township of Clearview - Resolution Regarding Endorsement of Bill C-63 in the House of Commons, and item 14.8 from County of Prince Edward - Resolution Regarding Call to Action to Meet the Deadline of an Accessible Ontario by 2025.

CARRIED

Moved by: Councillor D. Harding and Seconded by: Councillor J. Heffer

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron supports correspondence item 14.9 Township of Warwick - Letter Regarding Access to Natural Gas.

CARRIED

Moved by: Councillor J. Dietrich and Seconded by: Councillor P. Heffer

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron accepts correspondence not specifically dealt with, for information.

CARRIED

15. New/Unfinished Business:

In the interest of being accountable and transparent, where a member of Council or staff would like to present an item of business in this section, it is recommended that they contact the Chief Administrative Officer in advance so that the item can be placed on the published agenda.

16. Notice of Motion: None.

17. By-laws:

Moved by: Councillor L. Noel and Seconded by: Councillor G. Finch

THAT:

By-law No. 2024-033, being a By-law of the Corporation of the County of Huron to delegate authority for the execution of agreements from the Provincial and/or Federal governments.

By-law No. 2024-034, being a By-law of the Corporation of the County of Huron to authorize entering into Memorandum of Understanding with G2G Rail Trail Inc. for the restoration of the Blyth Tunnel.

By-law No. 2024-035, being a By-law of the Corporation of the County of Huron to authorize entering into a contract for HC 24-506 Construction of the G2G Rail Trail Tunnel (25- 20.8) under County Road 25 West of Blyth with Lavis Contracting Co. Limited.

By-law No. 2024-036, being a By-law of the Corporation of the County of Huron to authorize entering into a Small Business Enterprise Centre (SBEC) One-year Extension Agreement with the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade (MEDJCT).

Be introduced, be given a first, second and third reading, be passed, signed by the Warden and Clerk, and the Seal of the Corporation affixed thereto, in accordance with Part 14 of the Procedural By-Law for the County of Huron.

CARRIED

18. Closed to the Public Session:

Council meeting recesses at 10:29 AM and resumed at 10:35 AM.

Moved by: Councillor J. Heffer and Seconded by: Councillor J. Dietrich

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron do now go into a Closed to the Public Session at 10:28 AM under Section 239 of the Municipal Act, 2001 as amended, to discuss an item that relates to:

1. labour relations and employee negotiations; Homes for the Aged.

AND FURTHER THAT:

CAO Meighan Wark, Director of Legislative Services/County Clerk Susan Cronin, Treasurer and Director of Corporate Services Michael Blumhagen, Director of Human Resources Lara Vanstone, Senior Communications Specialist Erin Samuell, and Director of Homes for the Aged Connie Townsend remain in attendance.

CARRIED

Moved by: Councillor L. Noel and Seconded by: Councillor J. Becker

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron rise from the Closed to the Public Session at 11:41 AM.

CARRIED

CAO Wark reported that the Council met in the Closed Session to receive information on labour relations/employee negotiations regarding Homes for the Aged.

Moved by: Councillor L. Noel and Seconded by: Councillor J. Ginn

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron request staff to proceed as per direction given in the Closed to the Public Session of April 17, 2024.

CARRIED

19. Upcoming Meetings:

Cybersecurity and AI In Municipal Government Education/Orientation Session -
Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 9:00 AM - Virtual Meeting

Economic Development Board Meeting - Thursday, April 25, 2024 at 9:00 AM at 57
Napier Street, Goderich - Hybrid Meeting

Council Day 1 - Wednesday, May 8, 2024 at 9:00 AM in the Council Chambers,
Goderich - Hybrid Meeting

Economic Development Board Meeting - Thursday, May 9, 2024 at 9:00 AM at 57
Napier Street, Goderich - Hybrid Meeting

Library Board Meeting - Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at 9:00 AM at 57 Napier Street,
Goderich - Hybrid Meeting

Council Day 2 - Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at 9:00 AM in the Council Chambers,
Goderich - Hybrid Meeting

20. Confirmatory By-law:

Moved by: Councillor P. Heffer and Seconded by: Councillor D. Harding

THAT:

By-law No. 2024-037, being a By-law of the Corporation of the County of Huron to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Huron be introduced,

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be given a first, second and third reading, be passed, signed by the Warden and Clerk, and the Seal of the Corporation affixed thereto, in accordance with Part 14 of the Procedural By-Law for the County of Huron.
CARRIED

21. Adjournment:

Moved by: Councillor J. Dietrich and Seconded by: Councillor J. Heffer
THAT:

The Council of the Corporation of the County of Huron do hereby adjourn at 11:43 AM to meet again on Wednesday, May 8, 2024 at 9:00 AM or at the call of the Warden and the Clerk.

CARRIED



Warden Glen McNeil



Clerk Susan Cronin