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NEWS RELEASE

Wednesday, July 2, 2008

For Immediate Release

Council Highlights

Wyoming, ON – At its regular meeting on Wednesday, July 2, 2008 at 12:30 p.m., Lambton County Council:

- Heard a presentation from Glen Millar, Manager, County of Lambton Public Works Department, who spoke to Council about the Department's activities.
- Heard a presentation from Linda Creaghe, General Manager, Corporate Services / County Clerk, who provided a presentation concerning Succession Planning.
- Expressed its dissatisfaction with the quality of the electrical service in Lambton and invited a representative from Hydro One to address County Council concerning the lack of preventative maintenance and plans to address the same.
- Agreed in principle to fund the cost of the Sarnia Police Force providing court security to the courts operating in the County of Lambton on the following basis:
 - That all parties establish agreed definitions as to what constitutes 'court security costs' for purposes of the Sarnia Police Force receiving funding for those costs from the County of Lambton;
 - That the County fund actual court security costs incurred by the Force, but on the basis of a one year deferment; and
 - That the actual court security costs funded shall be open to verification by the County.

This agreement will be circulated to the Sarnia Police Services Board and the City of Sarnia Council with a request that they also agree in principle to the proposed funding model. Providing the funding model is approved in principle by all parties, staff from the County, City and Police Services will meet to develop a full, formal Memorandum of Understanding which will then be presented to all parties for ratification.

- Authorized staff to resume processing regular quarterly payments to the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC).
- Approved a motion that the purchase, storage, and distribution of backyard composters remain the responsibility of local municipalities.

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- Endorsed the criteria and weightings for the Road Designation Study and the action plan to continue work on the Road Designation Study. The existing sub-committee for the Truck Study consisting of the Warden and Councillors Anne Marie Gillis, Gord Minielly, and Lonny Napper will be maintained to provide advice as the Road Designation Study moves forward.
- Noted that the County has received responses from seven municipalities concerning the study examining the use of the County Road Network by commercial trucks. Next steps include a compilation of the local municipal responses and the reconvening of the sub-committee and the resulting draft report presentation to County Council.
- Tabled a by-law to accept Enniskillen Township and the Village of Oil Springs' delegation of the authority to designate a Heritage Conservation District under the provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act. Staff will submit a further report detailing potential inclusion of sites within the Town of Petrolia.
- Noted that the County has received an additional \$27,359 from the Province for the Rent Bank Program. Council directed staff to add these funds to the 2008 Homelessness Budget and disperse the funds accordingly.
- Approved an in-kind contribution from staff at the County of Lambton Community Health Services Department of \$38,560 to the Lambton Community Health Study Board to undertake its 2008 work, which will include a broad based community consultation.
- Directed staff to permit the Forest Community Connections Program, operated by Lambton County Developmental Services, the use of space within the Day Program area at North Lambton Lodge on a temporary basis, when needed, until they can move into their new space.
- Directed staff to award a contract for the installation of an elevator lift at 3548 St. Clair Parkway, Sombra to the low valid bidder in the amount of \$111,101 utilizing additional funding from a grant or surplus funding due to cancellation of another project.
- Recommended to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, that the Lambton County Developmental Services project in the amount of \$100,000 for two affordable rental units in Petrolia be approved and that the County of Lambton request the Ministry redirect the previously approved \$75,000 and approve an additional \$25,000 for this project.
- Directed staff to work with the respondents from the second Affordable Housing Request for Proposals, who indicated their interest in building in the City of Sarnia and that an Evaluation Committee be struck with staff membership from the County of Lambton, the City of Sarnia and a representative from Canadian Mental Health Association, and should no project be identified as suitable for recommendation to County Council, staff be authorized to issue a third Request for Proposals.

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- Tabled a request to sponsor (in the amount of \$5,000) the presentation by Mr. Eddie Friel, who will provide an address at an upcoming Southwest Economic Assembly (SWEA) meeting held in Sarnia.
- Agreed that a committee of representatives will travel to Toronto to discuss the importance of provincially-funded court security with the Ministry of the Attorney General.
- Requested staff prepare a report outlining the policies concerning seven-day borrowing limits at Lambton's libraries.

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