

MINUTES
LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL

March 4, 2009

Lambton County Council was in session in the Council Chambers, Wyoming, Ontario, at 1:00 p.m. on the above date. Warden in the Chair; Roll called; All members present except D. McGugan.

Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest: Warden Jim Burns declared a pecuniary interest with respect to the grant request from the Lambton County Developmental Services, as the organization is his employer.

In-Camera

#1: MacDougall/Kirkland: That the Warden declare that County Council go in-camera to discuss a matter concerning labour relations and employee negotiations.

Carried.

Open Session

The Warden declared that County Council go back into open session.

Rise and Report Motions of the In-Camera Session dated March 4, 2009

#2: Napper/Boushy: That Council rise and report.

Carried.

The Chief Administrative Officer noted that there were no resolutions to report from the Closed Session meeting.

#3: Napper/Boushy: That Council adopt the report of the Closed Session meeting.

Carried.

Delegations

#4: Jamieson/Foubister: That we invite the delegations, within the Bar, to speak to County Council.

Carried.

Amanda Murray, Chair of the Southwestern Ontario In Motion and President of the South West Area Recreation Guild, spoke to County Council regarding the In Motion health promotion strategy and highlighted the successes in Lambton County and the surrounding region.

#5: Bradley/Foubister: That County Council endorse the two (2) recommendations contained in the presentation by the South West Area Recreation Guild as follows:

- a) That the County of Lambton endorse the Southwestern Ontario In motion health promotion strategy to promote physical activity to every resident.
- b) That Municipalities within Lambton County have greater representation on the Lambton County Community In motion Committee.

Carried.

Les McDermott, Chair of the Board and Debra Taylor, Chair of the Government Affairs Committee, Sarnia Lambton Chamber of Commerce, spoke to County Council to provide input on the proposed 2009 Budget.

Kathy Wodzinski, Chair of the Community Homelessness Initiative Network and Myles Vanni, Executive Director, Inn of the Good Shepherd, spoke to County Council regarding social service issues and the impact currently being felt by those living in poverty.

Tony Hanlon, President of Lambton College and Nicole Sheppard, Student - Lambton College, Steve Bolt, Chair, Lambton College Board of Directors and Andy Brandt, Chair, Lambton College Foundation, spoke to County Council regarding the Lambton College Inspiring the Future \$5 Million Fundraising Campaign.

#6: Boushy/Foubister: That the request from Lambton College be forwarded to the 2009 Budget process.

Carried.

Corey Allison, Director of Marketing and Fund Development, Lambton County Developmental Services, spoke to County Council regarding a grant request for the Olde Post Office Project.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

Warden Jim Burns declared a pecuniary interest with respect to the grant request from the Lambton County Developmental Services, as the organization is his employer. Warden Burns then vacated the Council Chambers during the presentation and ensuing discussion.

#7: Perry/McCharles: That the request be forwarded to the 2009 Budget process.

Carried.

Minutes

The Lambton County Council (Open Session) and (Closed Session) minutes dated February 4, 2009 and the (Open Session) minutes dated February 7, 2009 were presented.

#8: Gillis/Perry: That the Lambton County Council (Open Session) and (Closed Session) minutes dated February 4, 2009 and the (Open Session) minutes dated February 7, 2009 be accepted as presented.

Carried.

Correspondence

3-7-09 A Member Communication from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), dated February 3, 2009, advising that in a letter to Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Community and Social Services, AMO recommends to the Minister to consider the full impact of the proposed information and communication standard on municipal property taxes and local economies. AMO has consistently expressed support for the principles adopted by the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), recognizing that Ontario's municipal sector has led the move toward improved accessibility in the Province. However, AMO is concerned that the timelines, the scope and the cost of implementing the proposed standard as drafted will have detrimental impacts on municipal budgets and Ontario's economic competitiveness.

#9: Minielly/Gillis: That County Council support correspondence 3-7-09 from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario regarding its recommendation to the Minister of Community and Social Services to consider the full impact of the proposed information and communication standard on municipal property taxes and local economies.

Carried.

3-11-09 A letter from the Egg Farmers of Ontario, dated February 10, 2009, requesting support of its motion that the current procurement practice of eggs by the County of Lambton, produced by Ontario egg farmers, be identified as the preferred local sustainable procurement practice and that the purchase of all Ontario eggs contribute to the creation of a sustainable environment in which consumers and farmers benefit.

#10: Bilton/Arnold: That County Council support the motion from the Egg Farmers of Ontario, that the current procurement practice of eggs by the County of Lambton, produced by Ontario egg farmers, be identified as the preferred local sustainable procurement practice and that the purchase of all Ontario eggs contribute to the creation of a sustainable environment in which consumers and farmers benefit.

Carried.

Correspondence to Receive and File

3-2-09 A resolution from the Township of South Algonquin, dated January 16, 2009, advising that its Council investigate and promote the possibility of pursuing the use of low grade wood waste to create electric power as an alternative to wind-generated power.

3-10-09 A letter from the Sarnia Justice Film Festival, dated February 5, 2009, inviting the County to participate in the next film screening of "Blue Gold: World Water Wars", which is a film about water resources. The film will be shown at the Sarnia Public Library Auditorium on Saturday, March 21, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Admission is free.

3-12-09 A letter from Patricia Davidson, M.P. Sarnia-Lambton Riding, dated February 9, 2009, advising that she fully supports the motion unanimously passed by Lambton County Council calling for the Erie St. Clair LHIN to reject the recommendations within the Small Community Hospital Emergency Department Study, authored by the Hay Group Health Care Consulting at the earliest possible occasion.

3-13-09 A Members Advisory from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), dated February 12, 2009, advising that cities and communities in more than seventy (70) countries will be flicking off their lights on March 28, 2009, from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. (local time) to mark Earth Hour and show support for action on climate change. FCM, in partnership with World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Canada, is asking the County to sign up and participate.

#11: McCharles/Kirkland: That correspondence 3-2-09, 3-10-09, 3-12-09 and 3-13-09 be received and filed.

Carried.

Correspondence from Member Municipalities

3-8-09 A resolution from the Village of Oil Springs, dated February 10, 2009, advising that it is seeking immediate intervention by the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care to direct the Erie St. Clair LHIN to reject the Hay Group Study and commit to providing proper sustained funding to allow the emergency department at the Bluewater Health CEE Hospital in Petrolia to operate as a 24/7 emergency department for an indefinite period of time.

3-9-09 A resolution from the Town of Petrolia, dated February 9, 2009, that the Council call for the continuing operation of the 24/7 emergency room department and services at all three hospitals referred to in the study, that the LHIN reject the recommendations found within the Small Community Hospital Emergency Department Study at the earliest opportunity and that LHIN be requested to take immediate action to ensure there is no loss of doctors as a result of this study.

#12: Arnold/Minielly: That County Council support the resolutions from the Village of Oil Springs and the Town of Petrolia concerning the continued operation of the emergency department at the Bluewater Health CEE Hospital in Petrolia.

Carried.

3-14-09 A copy of a letter from Councillor Mike Bradley to the Honourable David Caplan, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, dated February 24, 2009, urging the Minister to intervene and take appropriate steps to end the recommendation outlined in the Hay Group report of turning the 24 hour emergency department at the Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital into an Urgent Care Centre with reduce operating hours and no ambulance service. Councillor Bradley advises that Sarnia City Council unanimously approved a motion supporting the retention of the 24 hour emergency department in Petrolia. The possible loss of six physicians will have a huge and devastating impact on health care in Lambton County.

#13: Foubister/Bilton: That correspondence 3-14-09 be received and filed.

Carried.

Items Not Requiring a Motion

The following items were presented to County Council for its information:

- a) Land Division Committee Minutes dated February 10, 2009; and,
- b) General Managers' Updates - Minutes dated January 6, 2009.

Councillor Peter Gilliland spoke to Council regarding Application 38T-08006 in the Land Division Committee minutes dated February 10, 2009. Councillor Gilliland requested that the existing rows of mature trees be protected on the site.

Committee Minutes

Ms. B. MacDougall presented the Committee A.M. minutes dated February 18, 2009.

#14: MacDougall/Gillis: That the Committee A.M. minutes dated February 18, 2009 be adopted as presented.

Carried.

Warden Burns presented the Joint Meeting of the Standing Committees minutes dated February 18, 2009.

#15: Jamieson/Boushy: That the Joint Meeting of the Standing Committees dated February 18, 2009 be adopted as presented.

Carried.

Ms. C. Jamieson presented the Committee P.M. minutes dated February 18, 2009.

#16: Jamieson/Napper: That the Committee P.M. minutes dated February 18, 2009 be adopted as presented.

Carried.

Notice of Motion

A Notice of Motion from Councillor Mike Bradley was received February 17, 2009, suggesting that County Council consider putting aside funds in the 2009 Budget or staff resources to assist in the campaign to oppose the cuts to Bluewater Health in Lambton County as outlined in the recent report.

Carried.

#17: Foubister/McCharles: That the matter be referred to the 2009 budget deliberations.

Carried.

Other Business

Report dated March 4, 2009 Regarding the Newcomer Portal II Funding

#18: Foubister/Gillis:

- a) That the County support the continued development of the newcomer portal.
- b) That staff be directed to enter into the necessary agreement with the Province for funding.

Carried.

Report dated March 4, 2009 Regarding the LIPs Program

#19: Perry/MacDougall:

- a) That the County support the creation of a local LIP.
- b) That staff be directed to enter into the necessary agreement with the Federal Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration for funding.

Carried.

Re: Employment Ontario Service Model

#20: MacDougall/Arnold: That staff prepare a report regarding the square footage currently leased by Employment Ontario in the Lambton Shared Services Centre, the revenue impacts if Employment Ontario pursues a “one-stop service” model, as well as possible steps the County would undertake to mitigate the impacts.

Carried.

Councillor Dave Boushy inquired whether there were items in the draft budget which could be cut further as it is still too high.

Councillor Anne Marie Gillis asked what steps could be taken to secure the future of our local hospitals.

Councillor Todd Case congratulated and thanked those involved in securing the future of our hospitals. Councillor Case noted that we must also continue to support other rural hospitals in the Province, including Chatham-Kent.

Councillor Steve Arnold spoke to County Council regarding the need to protect all rural health care, especially the hospitals in Wallaceburg and Petrolia. He also has recently met with the Minister regarding his region's concerns. All supporters are to be thanked for their efforts.

Warden Burns announced that donations are still being received for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Southwestern Ontario. To date, the County has raised an amazing \$10,050.00. The overwhelming support is appreciated not only by the participants, but by the children who will receive wishes as a result of this fundraising.

By-Laws

#21: Arnold/Bilton: That By-Laws #13 to #15 of 2009, as circulated, be taken as read a first and second time.

Carried.

#22: Boushy/Case: That By-Laws #44 of 2008 and #13 to #15 of 2009, as circulated, be taken as read a third time and finally passed.

Carried.

Adjournment

#23: Foubister/Perry: The Warden declared the meeting adjourned with the next meeting to be held on Wednesday, March 18, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers for Budget deliberations.

Carried.

Time: 3:30 p.m.

Jim Burns
Warden

Ronald G. Van Horne
Chief Administrative Officer