



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Whitewater Region Council Summary

Here is a brief update from the Regular Meeting of Council of February 7, 2024.

Full agendas can be found here: <https://whitewaterregion.civicweb.net/Portal/>

Video is available on our YouTube page. Next meeting is February 21, 2024.

This summary does not constitute the official record of the meeting and approved Minutes should be consulted for that purpose.

Presentations and Public Meetings

- Non-Profit Sector Appreciation Week – Wayne Bennett President on behalf of the Cobden Legion Branch 550 was recognized by Council for all the great work that the Legion does for the community.
- The 2023 Fourth Quarter Administrative Report was presented by staff. A copy is available at the link above.

Mayor's Address

- Mayor Nicholson attended 11 different meetings since the last Council meeting and highlighted the 2024 ROMA Conference which he and four members of Council attended, and the presentations relating to water and wastewater initiatives for rural development, affordable housing proposals in small communities, rural economic development plans, and many others.
- Mayor Nicholson also took part in the County 2024 Budget process and noted that the County is investing \$2 million in a multi-department, multi-pronged approach to address the growing crisis in terms of housing, homelessness, mental health, and addictions in the community. This includes staffing two mobile crisis support units with paramedics and crisis workers, preparing a study for a shovel-ready housing development, additional maintenance staff and a full-time Community Housing Coordinator and a Homelessness Coordinator.
- He noted that he presented the motion from Whitewater Region Council regarding the unaffordability of rural water and wastewater systems to the members of County Council. He received support from County to advocate for this issue to the Province, Federal governments, AMO, ROMA and FCM. The next steps will be a joint delegation with Madawaska Valley and Renfrew to the Ministry of Infrastructure's Parliamentary Assistant at the end of February.

Community Development

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- Council received and approved the enactment of a by-law to enter into Site Plan Agreement to permit the construction of a garage at 304 Voyageur Bay Trail. This was a condition of a former Minor Variance.

Community Services

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- Staff highlighted the completion of the purchase of the active transportation corridor known as the former CN Rail Line. Council approved the resolution to direct the Mayor and staff to explore and negotiate opportunities with the County of Renfrew relating to the transfer and/or maintenance of the land; and direct staff to provide a letter of support to the Whitewater Sno-Goer's for their submission to the Fed Dev Ontario - Funding for Southern Ontario grant application for the resurfacing work of Broome's Creek Rail Bridge.

Public Works

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- Council received a report for Broomes Creek Dam Active Transportation, outlining the County's position on the replacement/repair/removal of the Broomes Creek Dam. Council supported the replacement of the dam to include a two (2) metre wide paved shoulder for pedestrian access.
- Council received an update on Haley Station Traffic Calming, which spoke to the methods to ensure safety at the intersection of Haley Road, Godfrey Road and Firehall Lane. The County has concluded that a change in speed limit or addition of traffic stop signs is not warranted. Staff recommended continuing traffic counts and speed radar watch, as well as the consideration of speed markings placed on the pavement near the intersection.
- Council received a report from staff regarding the completion of the Joint Roads Operational Review and the changes that can be implemented from the findings of the review. Council has directed staff to come back to Council with an implementation plan.
- Cobden WTP Filter Engineering Study was awarded to J.L. Richards & Associates Limited, at an upset limit cost of \$35,616.00 (inclusive of non-refundable HST).
- Council received a report concerning the benefits of a landfill compactor and approved the purchase of a Landfill Compactor for the Whitewater Landfill, at a cost of \$861,430.96 (inclusive of non-refundable HST).

Office of the CAO

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- By-law enforcement officer (MLES) Jim McBain presented a report to council regarding the compliance and complaints process.
- Council approved the transfer of ownership of the 427 Squadron 'Memorial to the Fallen' located at Veterans Memorial Park in Cobden to the Township.
- Council supported for the resolution from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) that the Province of Ontario commit to undertaking a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review to

promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances across Ontario.

- Council directed staff with regards to the Age Well at Home initiative and applauded the inclusion by other municipalities in this program.

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Additional information:

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