

WHITEWATER REGION COUNCIL SUMMARY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 7, 2024

Here is a brief update from the Regular Meeting of the Council on **September 18, 2024**. Full agendas can be found here: <https://whitewaterregion.civicweb.net/Portal/>. The video is available on our YouTube page. The next meeting is October 2, 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

Council recognized the Muskrat Watershed's ten-year anniversary and their continued work and activism to improve the water quality of Muskrat Lake. They have completed many projects in these efforts some of which can be viewed in their Annual report, found on their website at <https://www.muskratwatershedcouncil.com/annualnewsletter>.

Council received a presentation from Donald Deer and Anne Guest regarding concerns around the timeline and costs of the contract with Jp2g for the Cobden Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Mayor's Address

Mayor Nicholson noted his attendance at 15 meetings and events since the last council meeting. Highlights from the address include:

- With disruption in bussing services, businesses and employers providing flexibility to parents are recognized for supporting their affected employees.
- At the Ontario East Municipal Conference, there were great presentations on economic development, plans to support growth, and how to fund arenas/firehalls/rec buildings in small rural communities with populations of less than 10,000.
- The Whitewater Seniors Home Support and Active Living Centre grand opening was held on Sept. 18th, congratulations to all volunteers and staff who worked tirelessly to get to this point.

Community Development

Council approved a by-law to amend Comprehensive Zoning By-law 24-01-1655 in response to some housekeeping technical revisions.

Contact: Alex Pysklywec, Planner/EDO
apysklywec@whitewaterregion.ca Ext. 122

Office of the Clerk

Council received a report providing an update on solemnization services provided by the municipality. The township has two members of staff who can perform marriages and four private residents who have been delegated the ability.

- Since 2017, staff have officiated 36 services and issued 151 marriage licenses.

Contact: Carmen Miller, Clerk
cmiller@whitewaterregion.ca Ext. 123

Office of the CAO

Council approved updates to the Schedules "B" and "M" of By-law No. 21-07-1404 to update the Health and Safety and Workplace Violence and Harassment Prevention Policies. Under the Occupational Health and Safety Act, these policies must be prepared/updated at least annually.

- The CAO highlighted that unwelcomed behavior in the workplace will not be tolerated, and staff are able to utilize this policy as a framework to handle difficult interactions. The Township conducts annual training for its employees on procedures surrounding this matter.

Contact: Ivan Burton, CAO
iburton@whitewaterregion.ca Ext. 124

Community Services

Council approved an in-kind donation relating to the waste site disposal fees for the materials removed from Grant Settlement Road (Black Rock) Bridge as part of its renewal to be completed by Renfrew County ATV Club volunteers.

Contact: Stephanie Plebon, Manager of Community Services
splebon@whitewaterregion.ca Ext. 143

Corporate Services

Council approved the approach and timetable for the 2025 budget. The timetable is as follows, **October 2, 2024:** Presentation of all departmental budgets for both operating and capital, inclusive of tax supported and user pay budgets, **October 16, 2024:** Budget public meeting, **November 6, 2024:** Discussion of revised budgets and Council deliberation, review and direction, and **December 4, 2024:** Budget By-laws adopted.

- The approved budget direction:
 - 6.2% total levy increase
 - +/- 2% operating levy increase
 - +/- 4.2% general capital levy increase – per AMP
 - 3% to 7.84% water rate increase and 3% wastewater rate increase - per water/wastewater rate study (to be reviewed)

Contact: Kurtis McGonegal, Treasurer
kmcgonegal@whitewaterregion.ca Ext. 138

Announcements

Members of Council announced the following:

- Councillor Tabbart noted the Cobden Arena ice season is underway. Ice time can be booked with Amber, Recreation Assistant at akent@whitewaterregion.ca or online at <https://app.univerusrec.com/whitewaterregionpub/index.asp>. Public skating has also begun.
- Councillor Moore congratulated the 3 members of the roads department who attended the annual Renfrew County Road Supervisors Association Truck Safety Roadeo held on September 5th. Nathan Tubby received 3rd out of 35 drivers that participated. Nathan moved on to attend the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors (AORS) Provincial Safety Truck Roadeo on September 25th in Peterborough.
- Councillor Trimm highlighted the Cobden Taste of the Valley event on October 19th
- Also highlighted is the 2024 Municipal Agriculture Economic Development and Planning Forum in Pembroke from October 22 to 24.

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Additional information:

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