

WHITEWATER REGION COUNCIL SUMMARY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 17, 2024

Here is a brief update from the Regular Meeting of the Council on **October 16, 2024**. Full agendas can be found here: <https://whitewaterregion.civicweb.net/Portal/>. The video is available on our YouTube page. The next meeting is November 6, 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 received the 2025 Draft Budget Presentation from the Treasurer during the public meeting and heard preliminary comments from the public. The presentation can be found on the Township's website at www.whitewaterregion.ca/projects/current-projects/2025-budget-presentation/.

- The Township invites residents to review and make comments about the 2025 Draft Budget by **November 13, 2024**. Please send comments to Treasurer, Kurtis McGonegal at kmcgonegal@whitewaterregion.ca, or by phone at (613) 646-2282 ext. 138.

Mayor's Address

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

- In a meeting with the Executive Assistant to our MPP, Township priorities were discussed including Water and Wastewater affordability in Cobden, specifically the Water and Wastewater Task Force recommendations, and continued advocacy efforts with the Ministry of Infrastructure for funding.
- The Beachburg Fair Volunteer Appreciation BBQ, attended with Councillor Tabbert, was a great event and it was noted the Field to Fibre event was a great success, we look forward to seeing this event annually.
- In a meeting with the English Public School Board representatives, including the Director of Community Services for the County of Renfrew, discussion around how to bring a not-for-profit provider to our Region to provide full-time, as well as before and after school, childcare was informative, and work continues to achieve this.

Office of the CAO

Council enacted a by-law to appoint a new member to the Whitewater Region Public Library Board. The current board members include Cindy McAllister, Monica La Grotta, Angela Butterworth, Jim Butterworth, Mary Clark and now Dr. Jamal Hejazi. Councillor Connie Tabbert serves as a council appointed member.

Council approved the use of internet and telephone voting and optical scanning vote tabulators for the 2026 Municipal Election.

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

Public Works

Council received the final Water and Wastewater Task Force report which can be found on the Township's website at www.whitewaterregion.ca/services/water-wastewater-services/ and directed staff to include key recommendations in the 2025 departmental workplan.

- Some of the recommendations within the report are already being implemented. Key immediate recommendations include enhancing public education, improving communication during water-related incidents, creating by-laws, exploring alternative funding options and investigating rate structures and classes.

Contact: *Lane Cleroux, Manager of Public Works*
lcleroux@whitewaterregion.ca Ext. 128

Corporate Services

Council approved the 2023 Audited Financial Statements prepared by MacKillican & Associates and received the Management letter, 2023 Development Charge report and 2023 Annual Report on Building Permit Fees for informational purposes.

Council passed an amending by-law to Schedule F of By-law 23-12-1653 – Tax and User Pay Budgets to increase the student wages to the new minimum wage of \$17.20 an hour as per the October 1st increase in Ontario.

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

Announcements

Members of Council announced the following:

- Deputy Mayor Cathy Regier congratulated the individuals from Whitewater Region competing in the rafting portion of the PanAm games in Chile from October 30th to November 2nd. The mixed team consists of member of staff, Julie Butala, and Whitewater Region residents: Gwyn Ashcroft, Westley Etherington and Kaile Marland.
- Council welcomed Grant McNulty to the driver/operator position.
- Councillor Tabbart announced the Foresters Falls fun Day and BBQ on Oct. 26 at the Foresters Falls Ball Diamond
- Councillor Trimm highlighted the Cobden Taste of the Valley event on October 19th.
- Clerk Miller announced Haunted Haley's Eve on Oct. 26th at the Haley Fire Hall

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Additional information:

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