



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

Tuesday, February 7th, 2023

6:00 p.m.

**Tay Valley Municipal Office – 217 Harper Road, Perth, Ontario
Council Chambers**

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present: Chair, Councillor Wayne Baker
Reeve Rob Rainer
Deputy Reeve Fred Dobbie
Councillor Korrine Jordan
Councillor Andrew Kendrick
Councillor Angela Pierman
Councillor Marilyn Thomas
Councillor Greg Hallam

Staff Present: Amanda Mabo, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk
Janie Laidlaw, Deputy Clerk
Noelle Reeve, Planner
Sean Ervin, Public Works Manager

Regrets: None

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.
A quorum was present.

2. AMENDMENTS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as presented.

3. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND/OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None at this time.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

i) Public Meeting: Zoning By-Law Amendment – January 17th, 2023.

The minutes of the Public Meeting – Zoning By-Law Amendment held on January 17th, 2023, were approved.

5. DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

i) Delegation – Perth & Smiths Falls District Hospital Update. Michael Cohen, President & Chief Executive Officer.

M. Cohen gave the PowerPoint Presentation that was attached to the agenda.

A Member asked that given the amount of the contribution being the same for many years now, with inflation, does that still suffice? M. Cohen explained that the numbers were presented in good faith and would not request a change without consultation, it will have to be revisited but not this year.

A Member asked about the staffing and recruitment difficulties. M. Cohen explained that it has been incredibly difficult but have had some successes. The challenges are different than the hospitals in the city. It is difficult to recruit students to a rural hospital, one reason is they are behind on the technology the students are taught on, which is why the core capital program is so important.

A Member asked about the timeframe for the revamp of the Perth hospital. M. Cohen explained that they are working on it now, putting in the first submission to the Ministry with the aim being to get a planning grant to hire a team to work on determining the options for the site. An estimated time from now until the first patient is 7 to 9 years.

A Member asked about the municipalities that do not contribute, do they have reasons for not contributing. M. Cohen explained that there are various reasons, when presenting to municipalities this year more are thinking about contributing.

A Member asked about the expansion of the Perth site and if there is room to expand. M. Cohen explained that the site is constrained by the railway, residences, and the restriction around the original part of the building. Putting an addition on will be a challenge on the outside as well as the inside. The detail planning has not been done. The Member also asked about the helicopter pad for both hospitals and hoped given the rural area they would remain. M. Cohen agreed they cannot afford to lose either helicopter pad.

The CAO/Clerk explained that Council adopted the 2023 budget last week and the support to the hospital will continue and unless something changes that support will continue into the future.

A Member mentioned that on their tax bill that was just received, the amount for the Hospital contribution was \$13 which is a small price to pay for having services so close to home.

A Member acknowledged that comment and wondered if Council would consider making a larger contribution in future and to challenge other municipalities to do the same and encouraged M. Cohen to speak to County Council and to ask for what is needed.

6. PRIORITY ISSUES

i) Report #PD-2023-02 – Septic Re-Inspection Program Expansion.

A Member asked if the number of lakes are increasing in the mandatory program will the amount in the budget also need to be increased. The Planner explained that with the budgeted amount the inspector can only do so many a year and will prioritize the lakes and rivers into the rotation. If Council wants to increase the budget next year they can, but right now increasing the number of lakes will not increase the number of inspections completed.

A Member asked that since this By-Law affects a lot of people, can Council change it without public consultation. The Planner explained that the By-Law is not under the Planning Act and is a municipal By-Law so Council can amend it without consultation. The Member felt that consultation should be done as some may be taken by surprise. The Planner explained that with Bill 23 taking everyone by surprise, the septic re-inspection program is a tool the Township can use to protect the water, climate change alone is increasing the temperature of the lake water and they are seeing more algae blooms. Water quality is degrading without adding other sources of nutrients. The Planner suggested that when the Septic Inspector sends the letters to landowners in May the program is explained to them, so it is not a surprise.

The Reeve and CAO/Clerk met with the President of the Big Rideau Lake Association, and they were reminded that all lakes in the Township of Rideau Lakes are mandatory, and they are supportive of Tay Valley having a mandatory program. Things are different than when the program started, climate changes were not even being discussed, staff can reach out and ask for feedback by a certain date if that is Council's direction.

A Member while uncomfortable moving forward without consultation is okay with the mandatory program as evidence is compelling that the mandatory approach detects significantly more problem septic systems than the voluntary approach and identifying problem systems and seeing those problems rectified is in the interest of associated property owners, all owners around a given waterbody, and the Township as a whole and there is assistance available for if a system needs to be replaced. Would like to defer for a month to allow the lake associations to get the information to their members.

A Member supports the idea and would like to get the educational information out, when looking to purchase waterfront property people often ask how the water quality is, it does affect the value of the property. Agrees with deferring by a month to reach out to Lake Associations.

A Member asked how often the systems are inspected. The Planner explained that the system must be 10 years old and then is not inspected for another 10 years.

A Member would like to get more information to the public about the financial assistance part mentioned in the report and what can Council members give the public to let them know about the re-inspection program. The Planner will prepare information to explain the program.

A Member feels that Council was voted in not to only make decisions for the next four (4) years but for the future of Tay Valley and agrees to waiting a month to allow for Lake Associations to get the information out to the seasonal property owners, and asked if the Septic Inspector has an estimated cost for replacing a septic system.

The CAO/Clerk clarified with the Committee that the first part of the motion is okay to move forward to the Council meeting at the end of February and the second part is supported in principle while staff reach out to the Lake Associations to allow them to inform the members of what Council is considering, with the educational and financial information that the Planner will put together. Feedback can be submitted to the Planner and if needed can bring a report to Committee of the Whole in March with the By-Law being brought to Council at the end of March.

Recommendation to Council:

“THAT, the Maberly Pines subdivision lots be included in the mandatory Septic Re-Inspection Program.”

Recommendation to Council:

“THAT, prior to Council directing staff to include other lakes and rivers in the mandatory septic re-inspection program to assist in protecting lake water quality following the removal by Bill 23 of Site Plan Control Agreements for residential development under 10 units that feedback be solicited from lake and river property owners in time for the March Committee of the Whole meeting.”

ii) **Report #PD-2023-03 – Appointment to County Climate Action Implementation Working Group.**

Recommendation to Council:

“THAT, Noelle Reeve, Planner be appointed to the Lanark County Climate Action Implementation Working Group.”

- iii) **Report #PW-2023-02 – Maberly Community Hall Renovation – Tender Award.**

Recommendation to Council:

“THAT, the Maberly Community Hall Renovation, be awarded to JT Concrete Ltd. in the amount of \$54,000, plus applicable taxes;

AND THAT, the Reeve and Clerk be authorized to sign the necessary documentation.”

- iv) **Report #CBO-2023-02 – Building Department Report – January 2023.**

Recommendation to Council:

“THAT, Report #CBO-2023-02 – Building Department Report – January 2023 be received as information.”

- v) **AMO Policy Update – A Call for Provincial Action on Property Assessments.**

Recommendation to Council:

“THAT, the AMO Policy Update – A Call for Provincial Action on Property Assessments dated January 13, 2023, be received for information.”

7. CORRESPONDENCE

- i) **23-02-02 – Council Communication Package.**

Recommendation to Council:

“THAT, the 23-02-02 Council Communication Package be received for information.”

8. COMMITTEE, BOARD & EXTERNAL ORGANIZATION UPDATES

- i) **Bolingbroke Cemetery Board** – *deferred to the next meeting.*
Councillor Wayne Baker.

- ii) **Committee of Adjustment.**

The Committee reviewed the draft minutes that were attached to the agenda.

- iii) **Fire Board.**
Councillor Wayne Baker, Councillor Greg Hallam, Councillor Marilyn Thomas

- discussed open air burning and the fees for violating the By-Law
- will be holding an awards dinner, one member will be receiving their 50-year service award, it is the first awards dinner one in five (5) years

The Committee reviewed the draft minutes from January 30th, not the 19th, that were attached to the agenda.

- iv) **Library Board** – *deferred to the next meeting.*
Councillor Andrew Kendrick.
- v) **Pinehurst Cemetery Board** – *deferred to the next meeting.*
Councillor Fred Dobbie.
- vii) **Police Services Board** – *deferred to the next meeting.*
Reeve Rob Rainer.
- viii) **Green Energy and Climate Change Working Group** – *deferred to the next meeting.*
Councillor Greg Hallam and Councillor Angela Pierman
- ix) **Municipal Drug Strategy Committee** – *deferred to the next meeting.*
Councillor Korrine Jordan.
- x) **Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority Board.**
Councillor Andrew Kendrick.
 - the 2023 Budget has been set and the Tay Valley portion is increasing just under 5%The Committee reviewed the minutes that were attached to the agenda.
- xi) **Rideau Valley Conservation Authority Board.**
Councillor Angela Pierman.

The Committee reviewed the minutes that were attached to the agenda.
- xii) County of Lanark.
Reeve Rob Rainer and Deputy Reeve Fred Dobbie.
 - the County holds two sets of meetings each month, County Council, followed by two (2) Committee meetings
 - has not passed budget the main increases to budget are due to taking on Child Care
 - declared intimate partner violence an epidemic
 - hiring a junior planner
 - encourage Council Members to attend a County Council meeting to see how streamlined the meetings are

9. CLOSED SESSION

None.


10. DEFERRED ITEMS

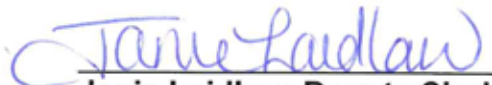
**The following items will be discussed at the next and/or future meeting:*

- **See Township Action Plan – distributed separately to Council**

11. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 7:21 p.m.


Chairperson


Janie Laidlaw, Deputy Clerk