

# WHITEWATER REGION COUNCIL SUMMARY



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Here is a summary of the Regular Meeting of the Council on **February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025**. Full agendas can be found here: <https://whitewaterregion.civicweb.net/Portal/>. The video is available on our YouTube page. 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 a presentation from Cameron Dube about the *Wendigo Fatbike Ultra*, an annual winter ultramarathon that brings participants from around the world to Whitewater Region. Riders will traverse the Ottawa Valley Recreational Trail in an endurance race, starting and ending in Cobden.

Mitchell Johnson of Cogeco updated Council on its network expansion, with high-speed internet now available throughout the Township (±650 premises). The Accelerated High-Speed Internet Program (AHSIP) rollout continues, with full service expected by summer 2025 for those eligible, and a separate Foresters Falls project planned for year-end. Residents can email [nep@cogeco.com](mailto:nep@cogeco.com) with questions.

### Mayor's Address

Mayor Nicholson discussed the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) conference which he attended with other Township representatives in January. Also recognized the retirement of MPP John Yakabuski. Council acknowledges and thanks him for his years of service, leadership, and commitment to Whitewater Region and the broader community.

- For more details about the advocacy efforts at the ROMA conference [click here](#).

### Office of the CAO

Council approved the 2025 Departmental Workplan to be used as a guide for operations throughout the year, and to ensure the implementation of Council's strategic plan and strategic direction.

- To view the departmental work plan for 2025 [click here](#).

Council enacted a by-law to appoint a new member, Sarah Laut, to the Whitewater Region Public Library Board as the sixth member of the board.

Council approved to enter into a transfer payment agreement to access funding through the Community Emergency Preparedness Grant.

- The Township was successful in its grant application, and the resulting funds will be used to purchase a mobile generator to be used in emergency situations.

Council enacted by-laws to amend the Customer Service, Complaint and Complement, Unreasonable Behaviour, Corporate Audio and Video Recording, and the Records & Information Management Policies.

- These policies will enable the Township to provide continuous improvement and open communication with the public ensuring positive or negative situations are handled appropriately.

**Contact:** Ivan Burton, CAO  
[iburton@whitewaterregion.ca](mailto:iburton@whitewaterregion.ca) Ext. 124

## Public Works

Council received a report outlining the events leading to the January 1, 2025, Boil Water Advisory for the Beachburg Drinking Water Distribution System. The Renfrew County District Health Unit commended the response by Township staff, OCWA, and the Fire Department during the watermain break.

A debrief identified some areas for improvement, both in responding and trying to reduce future occurrences, such as:

- Installing a smart hydrant to monitor water pressure fluctuations, enhancing internal and external communication, and reviewing water system infrastructure.

Council approved entering into an agreement with the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) to complete LED lighting upgrades at 18 municipal buildings, utilizing their Small Business Program which provides monetary incentives to make the upgrades.

- The upgraded lights will reduce energy consumption by an estimated 51% resulting in annual energy savings.

**Contact:** Deanna Nicholson, Environmental Services Superintendent  
[dnicholson@whitewaterregion.ca](mailto:dnicholson@whitewaterregion.ca) Ext. 127

Council approved the award for a new grader brush head to Forax Equipment Ltd. which will be used as an attachment on the Township's grader to be used for roadside brushing. The new grader head will provide a better finish when brushing.

Council awarded Dillon Consulting Limited for services related to building condition assessments (BCAs). These assessments are critical tools to effectively manage and maintain the Townships municipal buildings.

**Contact:** Lane Cleroux, Manager of Public Works  
[lcleroux@whitewaterregion.ca](mailto:lcleroux@whitewaterregion.ca) Ext. 128

## Closed Session

Council moved in closed to discuss the following with staff remaining in the room.

- a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board (Potential Sale of Properties),
- litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the Municipality or local board (Little Street - Beachburg),
- a position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality or local board (ORPC), and
- educating and training of the members relating to AMO/ROMA delegations by staff.

## Announcements

Members of Council announced the following:

- Mayor Nicholson announced the *Francophone Business Networking Breakfast* on March 4<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am to 12:00pm.
- Councillor Tabbert announced the Whitewater Region Library's new program for seniors offering books, magazines, and puzzles that do not have to be returned.
- Councillor Moore noted that ConnectWell has a new phone number: 613-646-0420
- Councillor Trimm commended the Civitan Club for their very successful annual fishing derby, it being the largest one yet!

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### Additional information:

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