

WHITEWATER REGION COUNCIL SUMMARY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 22, 2024

Here is a brief update from the Regular Meeting of the Council on **March 20, 2024**. Full agendas can be found here: <https://whitewaterregion.civicweb.net/Portal/>. The video is available on our YouTube page. The next meeting is March 20, 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

Kerry Dunn presented comments and concerns related to the proposed Hila Road Project set to begin at the end of May 2024. The project would remove the current double surface treatment to be replaced with gravel, also including culvert replacement, minor ditching, and brushing. Council received Ms. Dunn's concerns and has directed staff to revisit the options available for resurfacing both Hila and Sutherland Road before proceeding with either project.

Mayor's Address

Mayor Nicholson attended 12 meetings over the last two weeks, including several meetings with the Renfrew County and District Health Unit Board, involving discussion of a potential merger. Ultimately, the Board of Health determined the residents of Renfrew County are best served by not moving forward with a merger at this time. For more information see the [*Renfrew County and District Health Unit*](#) media release.

Other meetings which were highlighted:

- Introductory meeting of the Community Services Advisory Committee
- Introductory meeting of the Water-Wastewater Task Force
- Public Information Centers (PIC) held for the Adaptive Reuse of Community Centres Project
- Regularly scheduled Municipal Emergency Control Group meeting discussing spring freshet.

Environmental Services

Council received two (2) reports from the Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA). The reports are available on our website.

- 2023 Annual Drinking Water Reports for the Beachburg, Cobden, and Haley drinking water systems.
- 2023 Annual Cobden Wastewater Treatment Plant Report

Information was also provided by OCWA about the sodium levels found in the Beachburg and Haley drinking water systems. Information has been distributed by mail to the users.

Contact: Deanna Nicholson, Environmental Services Superintendent
dnicholson@whitewaterregion.ca Ext. 127

Community Services

Council approved the use of the municipal facility located at 2022 Foresters Falls Road (formerly the Foresters Falls Library) to operate as a “store front” to support the Whitewater Seniors Home Supper and Active Living Centre. Council also approved an in-kind contribution to the SALC fund of ±\$35,400.

Contact: Stephanie Plebon, Manager of Parks & Recreation
splebon@whitewaterregion.ca Ext. 126

Public Works

Council directed staff to apply for a grant under the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund. The grant, if awarded, would fund 73% of the cost of the proposed project which aims to support future growth (housing) by replacing the water distribution, wastewater/storm collection system, sidewalks, and asphalt on the following roads:

- Crawford Street, Simpson Street, Jason Street, Meadow Street, Astrolabe Road

Contact: Lane Cleroux, Manager
lcleroux@whitewaterregion.ca Ext. 128

Office of the CAO

Council approved:

- a By-law to authorize the closure and conveyance of the lands forming part of the unopened road allowance between the Townships of WWR and Horton (described as Part 1 of plan 49R-20494). This by-law finalizes a non-compliance matter relating to the construction of accessory structures on municipally held lands.
- the appointment of Councilor Connie Tabbert, Lead of Protective Services, as a member of the Renfrew OPP Detachment Board and Councilor Chris Olmstead (Co-Lead) as an alternative member.

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

Notice of Motion

Council approved to direct staff to investigate opportunities to increase the level of service/care relating to first response of basic life support (BLS), specifically, defibrillator use, artificial respiration, and CPR by the Whitewater Region Fire Department, including the engagement with the Renfrew County Paramedics.

Contact: Jonathan McLaren, Fire Chief
jmclaren@whitewaterregion.ca

Announcements

- Deputy Mayor Cathy Regier extended congratulations to Treasurer McGonegal for graduating with the AMCTO Diploma in Municipal Administration (DMA).
- Council congratulated and welcomed the newly hired staff and summer students who have joined the Township of Whitewater Region.
- Councilor Bell urged residents to submit nominations for the Volunteer Appreciation Awards by the deadline of April 5th, 2024. See the Township website under "Community" for more details.
- The Adaptive Reuse of Community Centres Project survey closes March 29th, 2024, see the Township website under "Projects" to take the survey.
- Councilor Tabbart mentioned community events including the March 26th, 2024, spaghetti supper at Cobden District Public School, and the Whitewater Region Library Trivia Night on April 26th, 2024.
- Councilor Moore highlighted the Public Information Centre for the Transportation Master by Renfrew County on March 26th, 2024.
- Mayor Nicholson highlighted the community calendar on the Township's website as a resource for residents to find/add events.

Additional information:

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