

# WHITEWATER REGION COUNCIL SUMMARY



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 11, 2024

Here is a brief update from the Regular Meeting of the Council on **September 4, 2024**. Full agendas can be found here: <https://whitewaterregion.civicweb.net/Portal/>. The video is available on our YouTube page. The next meeting is September 18, 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 a presentation from John Purdon representing Tour de Whitewater for an update on their "Cycle Whitewater" Project. The project aims to install rest stations throughout Whitewater Region to provide shelter, seating and bike racks to cyclists. Phase 1 of the project is the installation of two (2) rest stations in the hamlet of Westmeath.

### Mayor's Address

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

- The AMO conference which took place on August 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> in Ottawa. This annual event provides a platform for municipal leaders to directly engage with provincial ministers for community advocacy. See the [\*news release\*](#) on the Township website for details about those advocacy efforts.
- The Muskrat Watershed Council celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary at their AGM on August 17<sup>th</sup>. Their annual newsletter will be available on their website at [www.muskratwatershedcouncil.com](http://www.muskratwatershedcouncil.com) which discusses their many projects and efforts to improve the water quality of Muskrat Lake.

### Community Development

Council received a report relating to Bill 185, *Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act* and the new *Provincial Panning (former "policy") Statement, 2024* which gave an overview of the key policy changes which effect planning and development in our Township.

- [\*Click here\*](#) to read the report.

Council approved a by-law to accept, assume, dedicate as a public highway, and name the lands described as Parts 4,5, and 6 of Plan 49R-20682. This is a portion of Rafting Road which will be incorporated into the Township's road network required as a road widening condition of consent approval.

**Contact:** Alex Benzie, Planner/EDO  
[abenzie@whitewaterregion.ca](mailto:abenzie@whitewaterregion.ca) Ext. 122

## Corporate Services

Council approved the debenture by-law for the purchase financing of a 2024 Bomag BC473 RB 5 Landfill Compactor. The by-law is the second part of the process to fund a capital project which requires two bylaws to be passed. The first was passed in June 2024 to authorize the borrowing application for the construction loan.

**Contact:** Kurtis McGonegal, Treasurer  
[kmcgonegal@whitewaterregion.ca](mailto:kmcgonegal@whitewaterregion.ca) Ext. 138

## Public Works

Council awarded tender RFP 2024-07 Designated Substance Survey (DSS) and Asset Retirement Obligation to ECOH Management Inc. and directed staff to request ECOH provide costs for the inclusion of nine additional structures and to proceed, subject to the totals costs not exceeding the allocated Capital Budget amount.

- DSS inspections are completed to assess if there are any harmful substances or other health and safety concerns within municipally owned buildings. If found, the firm will provide a corrective action plan.

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

## Closed Session

Council moved to a closed session to discuss personal matters about an identifiable individual including municipal or local board employees (employee engagement) with the CAO remaining in the room.

## Announcements

Members of Council announced the following:

- Deputy Mayor Regier welcomed Alex Pysklywec to the Community Development team as the Panner/EDO filling in for Alex Benzie.
- Councillor Tabbert noted her attendance at the Summer Company Program Celebration in Pembroke where Haley Vanderzwaag of Westmeath showcased BlueBird Company which she launched through the program.
- Councillor Trimm highlighted the Ontario Culture Days event called "Heartbeat of the Valley" on September 21<sup>st</sup> at the Westmeath Rec. Centre.
- Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> is the Grand Opening for the Whitewater Seniors Active Living Centre at 2022 Foresters Falls Road.
- Mayor Nicholson highlighted the 2024 Municipal Agriculture Economic Development and Planning Forum on October 22 to 24 in Pembroke.

-30-

### Additional information:

Ivan Burton, CAO  
613-646-2282, Ext. 124  
[iburton@whitewaterregion.ca](mailto:iburton@whitewaterregion.ca)

Neil Nicholson, Mayor  
613-646-2282 Ext. 173  
613-401-0097  
[nnicholson@whitewaterregion.ca](mailto:nnicholson@whitewaterregion.ca)