



## **Essex County Council Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, November 4, 2020**

**7:00 PM**

**Council Chambers, 2nd Floor**

**360 Fairview Avenue West**

**Essex, Ontario N8M 1Y6**

**519-776-6441, ext. 1335**

Council: Gary McNamara, Warden, Mayor, Town of Tecumseh  
Joe Bachetti, Deputy Mayor, Town of Tecumseh  
Tracey Bailey, Deputy Mayor, Town of Lakeshore  
Tom Bain, Mayor, Town of Lakeshore  
Marc Bondy, Mayor, Town of LaSalle  
Aldo DiCarlo, Mayor, Town of Amherstburg  
Hilda MacDonald, Mayor, Municipality of Leamington  
Crystal Meloche, Deputy Mayor, Town of LaSalle  
Leo Meloche, Deputy Mayor, Town of Amherstburg  
Richard Meloche, Deputy Mayor, Town of Essex  
Nelson Santos, Deputy Warden, Mayor, Town of Kingsville  
Gord Queen, Deputy Mayor, Town of Kingsville  
Larry Snively, Mayor, Town of Essex  
Larry Verbeke, Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Leamington

Administration: Mary Birch, Director of Council & Community Services/Clerk  
Jayne Brooks Keller, Administrator - Sun Parlor Home  
Robin Greenall, CEO/Chief Librarian, Essex County Library  
Bruce Krauter, Chief, Essex Windsor EMS  
Jane Mustac, Director of Infrastructure Services/County Engineer  
Greg Schlosser, Director Human Resources  
Sandra Zwiers, Director of Financial Services/Treasurer  
Renée Trombley, Manager Communications and Organizational Development  
Katherine Hebert, Deputy Clerk  
Jeanie Diamond Francis, Community Services Coordinator  
Danielle Dunlop, Council and Community Services Administrative Assistant

**1. Closed Meeting**

A Closed Meeting of Council was scheduled for 6:00 PM.

**222-2020**

**Moved By** Gord Queen

**Seconded By** Marc Bondy

That Council move into a closed meeting pursuant to Section 239 (2) (d), (e) and (f) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended for the following reason:

- (d) labour relations or employee negotiations;
- (e) litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board;
- (f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose.

**Carried**

**225-2020**

**Moved By** Tom Bain

**Seconded By** Larry Verbeke

That Council rise from the Closed meeting at 6:50 PM.

**Carried**

**2. Moment of Reflection**

County Council and Administration viewed a video in recognition of Remembrance Day.

**3. Singing of 'O Canada'**

**4. Recording of Attendance**

Warden McNamara attended the meeting at the Council Chambers. All other members of Council participated in the meeting via video conferencing from alternate remote locations.

**5. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no conflicts of pecuniary interest declared.

**6. Adoption of Regular Meeting Minutes**

October 21, 2020 - Essex County Council, Regular Meeting Minutes

**226-2020**

**Moved By** Marc Bondy

**Seconded By** Gord Queen

That the minutes of the October 21, 2020 Regular Meeting of Essex County Council be adopted as presented.

**Carried**

**7. County Warden's Welcome and Remarks**

Warden McNamara welcomed the members of County Council, Administration and members of the public and delivered the following greeting:

A week from now, at the eleventh hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month, we will salute our fallen soldiers and all those who fought for freedom, who sacrificed so much for the peace and prosperity we take for granted today.

Nearly 61,000 Canadians were killed during the First World War and another 172,000 were wounded. More than 45,000 Canadians were killed in the Second World War and another 55,000 were wounded. More recently, 158 Canadian soldiers were killed and 1,800 others wounded in Afghanistan.

Windsor and Essex County residents turn out by the thousands at Cenotaphs across the region each Remembrance Day to honour our military heroes, but we must avoid those large public gatherings this year.

We owe our fallen heroes a debt we can never repay, but we can honour their legacy best by continuing to make smart, selfless decisions to keep our community safe and slow the spread of COVID-19.

Please, participate virtually this year and watch the proceedings on your smartphone or computer screen. You can pay tribute to our Veterans in other ways by making sure you are wearing your Poppy or supporting Royal Canadian Legion Halls, which, like many other organizations, are struggling to survive in the midst of this pandemic.

We emerged victorious in both World Wars because of the individual actions of so many Canadians united in common cause, from soldiers overseas to farmers tending crops to mothers working in munitions factories. We mobilized the entire country and everyone made sacrifices, at home and abroad, in order to defeat the enemy.

It is this same indomitable spirit that will see us safely through the COVID-19 crisis.

I would like to highlight some fantastic news the County of Essex received last week that is included in tonight's agenda package.

Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology announced it had awarded \$19 million in contracts that will bring fast and reliable Internet service to more than 5,100 homes and businesses in Essex County by the end of 2022. These newly awarded projects will service more than 260 kms of roadway in Essex, Kingsville, Leamington and Lakeshore.

These investments in crucial connectivity recognize the essential role that fast and reliable Internet access plays in attracting investment, encouraging innovation and creating opportunities for education and economic prosperity. If this pandemic has taught us anything, it's that high-speed internet access is not a luxury, it is a necessity.

The provincial government announced today it was investing nearly \$1 billion over six years to expand broadband and cellular access across the province. This is a fantastic news and we will work with the province to ensure that funding flows to connect under-served areas in Essex County.

## **8. Delegations and Presentations**

There were no delegations for October 21, 2020.

## **9. Communications**

### **9.1 Correspondence**

**227-2020**

**Moved By** Tracey Bailey

**Seconded By** Aldo DiCarlo

That the correspondence listed on the regular agenda for November 4, 2020, be received and any noted action approved.

**Carried**

#### **9.1.1 Rick Nicholls, MPP Chatham-Kent Leamington**

Ontario Helps Protect Most Vulnerable People in Chatham-Kent and Windsor-Essex from COVID-19

#### **9.1.2 Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs - News Release**

[October 30, 2020 - Delivering High Speed Internet to Essex County](#)

**9.1.3 SWIFT News Room**

[October 30, 2020 - SWIFT Announces \\$19M In Broadband Improvements For Essex County](#)

**9.1.4 Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT)**

[SWIFT News October 2020](#)

**9.1.5 Northumberland County**

- Resolution RE Aggregate Resource Property Valuation
- Resolution RE Cannabis Production
- Resolution RE Municipal Election Act Review
- Resolution RE Car Rally in Wasaga Beach

**9.1.6 Township of South West Oxford**

Resolution RE Assessing Aggregate Resource Properties

**9.1.7 Enbridge Gas**

[2021 Federal Carbon Pricing Program - Notice of Application](#)

**9.1.8 City of Clarence-Rockland**

Resolution RE Location of Cannabis Retail Stores

**9.1.9 Township of Huron-Kinloss**

- Resolution RE Municipal Elections Act
- Resolution RE Heritage Bill

**9.1.10 Windsor Essex Compassion Care Community (WECCC)**

[October Newsletter](#)

**9.1.11 Hydro One Network - Virtual Open House (Chatham - Lakeshore Line)**

Starting on October 29th, community members can visit the virtual open house at [chatham-to-lakeshore-openhouse.com](https://chatham-to-lakeshore-openhouse.com) to learn more about the Class EA evaluation process, route refinements, and next steps. On November 5th, participate in a live presentation and virtual discussion with members of the project team.

**9.1.12 Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)**

[ROMA Insider - October 2020 Newsletter](#)

**9.1.13 Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) - Conference**

[2021 Annual General Meeting and Conference, Connecting Rural Ontario](#)

January 25th-26th, 2021 - A Virtual Event

**9.1.14 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) - Policy**

[October 19, 2020 - AMO Policy Update – Ontario Proposes New Blue Box Regulations, Modified Stage 2 Restrictions Expanded to York Region, and Halloween Guidance](#)

**9.1.15 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) - Policy**

[October 21, 2020 - AMO Policy Update – COVID-19 Liability Protection, Municipal Elections Act; An Ontario Digital Identity; Public Health Orders; and Child Care](#)

**9.1.16 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) - Watchfile**

[October 22, 2020 - AMO Watchfile Online](#)

**9.1.17 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) - Policy**

[October 23, 2020 - AMO Policy Update – New Legislation Expedites Provincial Infrastructure, Reduces Red Tape, and Allows Off-Peak Deliveries](#)

**9.1.18 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) - Policy**

[October 26, 2020 - AMO Policy Update – 2020 Provincial Budget Date Announced](#)

**9.1.19 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) - Communication from the President**

October 26, 2020 - Proposed Transition schedule for your Blue Box program to the new Full Producer Responsibility regulation

**9.1.20 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) - Policy**

[October 28, 2020 - AMO Policy Update – COVID-19 Resiliency Stream Launch and New Funding to Fight Human Trafficking](#)

**9.1.21 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) - Watchfile**

[October 29, 2020 - AMO Watchfile Online](#)

**9.1.22 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) - Policy Update**

[October 30, 2020 - AMO Policy Update – 2021 OMPF Allocations and LTC Home Community Paramedicine Program](#)

**9.2 Resolutions**

There were no resolutions for Council's consideration for November 4, 2020.

**10. Consent Agenda**

There were no items for the Consent Agenda for November 4, 2020.

**11. Reports and Questions**

**11.1 Essex County Library Board**

Essex County Library Board Meeting Minutes, dated September 23, 2020, Nelson Santos, Chair.

Nelson Santos updated County Council on the Essex County Library. He noted that the Amherstburg branch would soon open, making at least one branch in each municipality now open and accessible to all patrons.

Mr. Santos indicated that home delivery and 24/7 online digital delivery continued to remain available to the public.

**228-2020**

**Moved By** Nelson Santos

**Seconded By** Marc Bondy

That the minutes of the Essex County Library Board meeting, dated September 23, 2020 be received.

**Carried**

**11.2 2020 Essex-Windsor Emergency Medical Service - Response Information Report**

Report number 2020-1104-EMS -R004-BK 2020 Essex Windsor Emergency Medical Service Response Information Report, dated November 4, 2020 from Bruce Krauter, Chief, Essex-Windsor EMS.

Chief Bruce Krauter discussed the Response Information Report for Essex-Windsor EMS. He indicated that the data was collected through both the Central Ambulance Communication Center (CACC) and the Electronic Patient Care Records (ePCR), which provided for a more in-depth report.

Chief Krauter noted that the CACC data did not include patient contact or transport to hospital, and therefore varied from the ePCR data. He provided updates on the numbers for response time averages for each local municipality. He noted a decrease in response times and projected a similar pattern for the whole of 2020 for all but one municipality (Essex).

Chief Krauter indicated that response times were relatively consistent across the region. He noted that an overall decrease was attributed to the Vulnerable Patient Navigator program, the Emergency Room Diversion program and the Low Acuity Transport initiative, which all allowed for resources to be more available for "life and limb" (code 4) responses.

Chief Krauter noted the postponement of the EWEMS Master Plan Realignment Project due to the pandemic. He stated that the planned realignment would instead take place in 2021. It was anticipated that the realignment would further lower response times by improving resource utilization.

Chief Krauter advised that 'Treat and Release' and 'Treat and Refer' projects were being explored, with the hope of replicating the VPN model and ensuring additional resource availability. Essex-Windsor EMS would continue to collaborate and innovate with community partners.

Aldo DiCarlo thanked Chief Krauter for his report and noted that page 63 - Town of Amherstburg statistics are identical to the City of Windsor statistics. Chief Krauter indicated he would review that section for errors and advise.

Richard Meloche thanked Chief Krauter for the detailed information and noted that staff in Essex would be working hard to explore alternative measures for non-emergent transport.

Nelson Santos thanked Chief Krauter and noted the mental health piece as a focus for future care. He requested shared data with community partners to help identify areas to address the growing mental health concerns.

Chief Krauter noted that an alternate destination protocol was implemented during the pandemic to transport mental health

patients to Hotel Dieu Grace (the governing facility for the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA)). He further noted that EWEMS piloted a low acuity and non-injured patient referral, but with little success. He advised that the Ontario Health Team (previously the ESC LHIN) were meeting weekly to discuss offload delays and mental health concerns. WRH Met campus was also adding 10 beds, and was set to focus psychiatric health at Ouellette campus. Chief Krauter indicated that budget requests would include funds for expanding mental health patient focus.

Warden McNamara extended thanks to Essex-Windsor EMS on behalf of the County and Administration, for their continued efforts to focus on both physical and mental health patient care. He noted the pressures of the opioid crisis and the need for continued monitoring.

**229-2020**

**Moved By** Richard Meloche

**Seconded By** Tom Bain

That Essex County receive the 2020 Essex Windsor EMS Response Information Report.

**Carried**

**11.3 County Road 19 Notice of Expropriation**

Report number 2020-1104-ISC-R032-JM County Road 19 Notice of Expropriation, dated November 4, 2020 from Jane Mustac, Director of Infrastructure Services Department/County Engineer.

Jane Mustac summarized the report on County Road 19 and the formal expropriation process pursuant to By-law 2020-04.

Ms. Mustac updated Council on the steps that were taken to prepare for the expropriation of lands 1-32 and 1-7 and requested authorization to register the expropriation and proceed with negotiations.

**230-2020**

**Moved By** Joe Bachetti

**Seconded By** Richard Meloche

That County Council approve By-law 2020-45 to grant approval for the expropriation of the lands designated as Parts 1 to 32 on Reference Plan 12R-28329 and Parts 1 to 7 on Reference Plan 12R-

28331, and authorizes the Clerk to, among other things, register an Expropriation Plan to finalize the taking of the lands; and

County Council authorize the Director of Infrastructure Services, through the County Solicitor, to negotiate an agreement of purchase and sale with each affected property owner.

**Carried**

#### **11.4 2021 Rehabilitation Program - Early Release**

Report number 2020-1104-IS-R031-JM 2021 Rehabilitation Program - Early Release, dated November 4, 2020 from Jane Mustac, Director of Infrastructure Services/County Engineer

Jane Mustac highlighted current projects for the 2021 Rehabilitation Program - Early Release.

Ms. Mustac summarized the 2020 projects, noting that the early release program authorized in December 2019 supported a shovel-ready season in early March, 2020, which assisted with moving projects along at a steady pace. Projects were successfully completed, even through the pandemic.

Ms. Mustac shared pictures of 2020 projects that were taken with a drone. Ms. Mustac noted construction challenges with asphalt repairs, but indicated that traffic challenges were slightly reduced due to lack of road traffic during the pandemic.

Ms. Mustac advised that a review and comparison of all roads took place as part of the 2021 Rehabilitation planning, noting that some roads, by their nature were more difficult to predict and may require repair sooner than expected. As such, the program has built-in contingencies for these situations.

Ms. Mustac requested the early release of the estimated value for Road Rehabilitation and approval of the paved shoulder program. She indicated that additional road needs were identified and noted in the County Asset Management Plan for 2021, as well as included in budget consideration. She noted that a formal budget document would be presented to County Council during budget season.

**231-2020**

**Moved By** Marc Bondy

**Seconded By** Nelson Santos

That the 2021 Rehabilitation Program be approved as presented and the highlighted projects with an estimated value of \$6,718,000 be advanced as early release projects; and

That the Paved Shoulder Program be approved, and advanced as early release projects to coincide with the rehabilitation projects.

**Carried**

**12. Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business for November 4, 2020.

**13. New Business**

**13.1 Public Reporting of Closed Meeting**

A Closed Meeting of Essex County Council was held at 6:00 p.m., prior to the regular Council meeting, pursuant to Section 239 (2) (d), (e) and (f) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended.

Council was provided with updates regarding:

- property acquisitions, including expropriation;
- a matter before an Administrative tribunal;
- a matter involving litigation;
- a contractual matter requiring legal advice and subject to client solicitor privilege; and
- employee negotiations

**14. Adoption of By-Laws**

**232-2020**

**Moved By** Gord Queen

**Seconded By** Crystal Meloche

That By-laws 2020-45 through 2020-47, having been read a first, second and third time, be finally passed and enacted.

**Carried**

**14.1 By-law Number 2020-45**

Being a By-law to Authorize the Expropriation of Certain Lands for the Widening of a Portion of County Road 19 from County Road 22 Southerly to South of Jamsyl Drive.

**14.2 By-law Number 2020-46**

Being a By-law to Authorize the Execution of an Agreement Between the Corporation of the County of Essex and the Teamsters Local 879.

**14.3 By-law Number 2020-47**

Being a By-law to Confirm the Proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Essex for November 4, 2020.

**15. Notice of Motion**

There were no notices of motion for November 4, 2020.

**16. Adjournment**

**233-2020**

**Moved By** Tracey Bailey

**Seconded By** Larry Verbeke

That the Essex County Council meeting for November 4, 2020 be adjourned at 8:15 PM.

**Carried**

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Gary McNamara

Warden - County of Essex

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Mary Birch

Director of Council and Community Services/Clerk

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Date Signed