



Essex County Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

7:00 PM

<https://video.isilive.ca/countyofessex/live.html>

- Council:
- Gary McNamara, Warden, Mayor, Town of Tecumseh
 - Joe Bachetti, Deputy Mayor, Town of Tecumseh
 - Tracey Bailey, Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Lakeshore
 - Tom Bain, Mayor, Municipality 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:
- Mike Galloway, Chief Administrative Officer
 - 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
 - Katherine Hebert, Deputy Clerk
 - Danielle Dunlop, Council and Community Services Administrative Assistant
 - Crystal Sylvestre, Council and Community Services Administrative Assistant
 - Don McArthur, Manager, Communication and Organizational Development

1. Closed Meeting

There was no Closed Meeting scheduled for March 17, 2021.

2. Moment of Reflection

3. Singing of 'O Canada'

4. Recording of Attendance

Warden McNamara attended the meeting virtually from the Essex County Civic Centre, Council Chambers. All other members of Council participated in the meeting virtually, via video conferencing from alternate remote locations.

5. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest raised.

6. Adoption of Regular Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2021 - Essex County Council, Regular Meeting Minutes

053-2021

Moved By Tom Bain

Seconded By Aldo DiCarlo

That the minutes of the March 3, 2021 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:

Good evening,

I would like to begin by offering my condolences to the family and friends of those we've lost to COVID-19.

This pandemic has now claimed the lives of 401 Windsor and Essex County residents and this community collectively mourns that great loss.

It's hard to believe it, but Monday will mark one year since I stood in these very chambers and declared a State of Emergency for the County of Essex in response to COVID-19.

So much has happened since then, both good and bad, but we have come together as a region and we have persevered.

We are still in the fight of our lives against an unseen enemy, but we are winning that fight.

Make no mistake. We are winning that fight and will continue to beat back COVID-19 with a mass vaccination campaign that has already seen 51,636 doses administered to Windsor and Essex County residents.

The pace of those vaccinations is only going to increase as the supply of vaccines ramps up. Our local municipalities have stepped up to ensure there are sites in the County ready to inoculate hundreds of thousands of residents.

Kudos to Essex-Windsor EMS Chief Bruce Krauter for spearheading that mass vaccination effort and kudos to the EMS paramedics who are now making house calls to bring the vaccine to our most vulnerable residents.

I can't say enough about how the residents of Essex County responded to this pandemic. They have abided by health restrictions and guidelines even when it was difficult to do so and they have looked out for each other with compassion and empathy.

They have supported the small businesses that have long supported them and they have cheered on our first responders. Their resolve and resilience has given strength to us all.

And words just can't do justice to the incredible work that has been done under incredibly trying circumstances by the employees of the County of Essex.

The staff at Sun Parlor Home have gone above and beyond keeping our most vulnerable residents safe and so have the paramedics with Essex-Windsor EMS.

These frontline heroes have donned PPE and plunged headlong into the unknown every day for a year, offering comfort and hope and most definitely saving lives.

The same can be said for our Infrastructure Services Department and the Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority. They have continued to maintain essential operations and complete big-ticket infrastructure projects despite the restrictions of COVID-19. They have pivoted whenever necessary to continue delivering the quality services Essex County residents expect.

And the administrative staff of the County of Essex, the backbone of everything we do, have stood tall behind the scenes and moved mountains to keep everything running smoothly and efficiently.

This has definitely been a challenging year, but I'm optimistic we have reached a turning point in the fight of our lives. Let's keep abiding by public health guidelines and let's keep taking the fight to COVID-19. I'm looking forward to continued progress as we begin year number two. Happy St. Patrick's Day everyone! Please celebrate safely.

8. Delegations and Presentations

There were no Delegations scheduled for the March 17, 2021 meeting.

9. Communications

9.1 Correspondence

054-2021

Moved By Tracey Bailey

Seconded By Hilda MacDonald

That the correspondence listed on the Regular Agenda for March 17, 2021, be received and any noted action approved.

Carried

9.1.1 Windsor Essex County Health Unit (WECHU)

Letter dated March 8, 2021 - Ultra Low Cold Freezer for Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine

9.1.2 Employment and Social Development Canada

Letter from the Hon. Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion acknowledging receipt of the January 19, 2021 letter from Essex County Council RE COVID-19 prevention measures within the local agricultural community.

9.1.3 SouthWestern Integrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT)

March 2021 - [SWIFT Newsletter](#)

9.1.4 Township of the Archipelago

Resolution RE Closure of Ontario Fire College, Gravenhurst

9.1.5 Town of Bracebridge

Resolution RE Closure of Ontario Fire College, Gravenhurst

9.1.6 Halton Region

Resolution RE Long Term Care Homes

9.1.7 Township of Howick

Resolution RE Closure of the Ontario Fire College,
Gravenhurst

9.1.8 Township of Lake of Bays

Resolution RE Restaurants in Stage II

9.1.9 Town of Mono

Resolution RE Closure of the Ontario Fire College in
Gravenhurst

9.1.10 Niagara Region

Resolution RE Homelessness, Mental Health and Addiction

9.1.11 Norfolk County

Resolution RE Carbon Tax

9.1.12 City of Sarnia

Resolution RE Colour Coded Capacity Limits and COVID-19

9.1.13 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

February 25, 2021 - [AMO Watchfile Online](#)

9.1.14 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

March 3, 2021 - [Training for Councillors RE Land Use Planning: Beyond the Basics, Three Dates to Choose from: March 25th, April 15th & 29th 2021](#)

9.1.15 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

March 4, 2021 - [AMO Policy Update – New 2021 COVID-19 Relief Funding](#)

9.1.16 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

March 4, 2021 - [AMO Watchfile Online](#)

9.1.17 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

March 5, 2021 - [AMO Policy Update – Phase II of Vaccinations Plan, Bill 257 – Supporting Broadband and Infrastructure Expansion Act, and Firefighter Training Modernization](#)

9.1.18 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

March 8, 2021 - [AMO Policy Update – Municipal Councillor Code of Conduct Consultations](#)

9.1.19 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

March 10, 2021 - AMO Policy Update - [More Social Services Relief Funding to Protect the Homeless during COVID-19 and Ontario Vaccine Rollout Update](#)

9.1.20 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

March 12, 2021 - [AMO Policy Update - New Support for Local Fire Services and Updated COVID-19 Vaccine Tools and Resources](#)

9.2 Resolutions

There were no resolutions for Council's consideration for March 17, 2021.

10. Consent Agenda

There were no items for the Consent Agenda for March 17, 2021.

11. Reports and Questions

11.1 Essex County Library Board

January 27, 2021 - Essex County Library Board Meeting Minutes, Nelson Santos, Chair

055-2021

Moved By Nelson Santos

Seconded By Marc Bondy

That the minutes of the Essex County Library Board for January 27, 2021 be received.

Carried

11.2 Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority (EWSWA)

February 2, 2021 - Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority (EWSWA) minutes of February 2, 2021 - Aldo DiCarlo, Chair.

056-2021

Moved By Aldo DiCarlo

Seconded By Joe Bachetti

That the minutes of the Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority for February 2, 2021 be received.

Carried

11.3 2021 Annual Repayment Limit

Report number 2021-0317-FIN-R04-SZ, 2021 Annual Repayment Limit, dated March 17, 2021 from Sandra Zwiers, Director of Financial Services/Treasurer.

Sandra Zwiers highlighted the 2021 Annual Repayment Limit, noting an adjustment relating to the SWIFT loan guarantee. Ms. Zwiers further noted the growth in revenue base and increase in repayment limits calculation.

057-2021

Moved By Marc Bondy

Seconded By Crystal Meloche

That Essex County Council receive the 2021 Annual Repayment Limit report for information.

Carried

11.4 Tender Summary - Concrete Pavement

Report number 2021-0317-ISD-R007-JM, Tender Summary - Concrete Pavement, dated March 17, 2021 from Jane Mustac, Director of Infrastructure Services Department/County Engineer.

Jane Mustac provided information regarding concrete pavement on County Road 22. Ms. Mustac indicated that the replacement is unlikely to experience weather related buckling. She explained that traffic would be reduced to one lane for the duration of the six (6) week project.

058-2021

Moved By Larry Snively

Seconded By Marc Bondy

That Essex County Council award the tender for Project Number 176-2021 Concrete Pavement on County Road 22 to Piera Con Enterprises Inc. for a total tender amount of \$654,785.00 plus H.S.T.

Carried

11.5 Tender Summary - Bridge Over Canard River (B-15-07)

Report number 2021-0317-isd-R008-JM, Tender Summary - Bridge Over Canard River (B-15-07), dated March 17, 2021 from Jane Mustac, Director of Infrastructure Services Department/County Engineer.

Jane Mustac provided information on the Tender Summary for the Bridge over River Canard, noting that the work would not impact Essex Region Conversation Authority and could be completed without delay. Discussion took place regarding the detour required and the impact of truck traffic on the local roads along the detour route.

059-2021

Moved By Richard Meloche

Seconded By Gord Queen

That Essex County Council award the tender for Project Number – 115-2021 – County Road 15 – Bridge over Canard River (B-15-07) to Intrepid General Limited for a total tender amount of \$452,326.24, plus H.S.T.

Carried

11.6 Tender Summary - Culvert on County Road 17 - Sullivan Creek (C-17-010)

Report number 2021-0317-isd-R009-JM, Tender Summary - Culvert on County Road 17 - Sullivan Creek (C-17-010), dated March 17, 2021 from Jane Mustac, Director of Infrastructure Services Department/County Engineer.

Jane Mustac provided information on the Culvert Repair at County Road 17, noting the requirement for a detour route over the course of the four (4) week project.

060-2021

Moved By Hilda MacDonald

Seconded By Larry Snively

That Essex County Council award the tender for Project Number 117-2021 County Road 17 Culvert over Sullivan Creek to Sterling Ridge Infrastructure Inc. for a total tender amount of \$458,800.00 plus H.S.T.

Carried

11.7 Council Question Regarding County Council Meeting Time

Report number 2021-0317-CCS-R003-MB, Council Question Regarding County Council Meeting Time, dated March 17, 2021 from Mary Birch, Director of Council and Community Services/Clerk

Mary Birch discussed the request from members of Council to adjust the start time of County Council meetings to earlier in the evening. Ms. Birch updated County Council on the results of a recent survey of Council members and the cable television service. Ms. Birch noted that the Procedure By-law would require amending to adjust the start time of Council meetings. Council was further advised that the change could be deferred to the next term of Council, given that two members of Council had identified the change in the start time would make it difficult for them to attend.

061-2021

Moved By Marc Bondy

Seconded By Leo Meloche

That the request to amend the start time for County Council meetings from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. be implemented for the next Term of Council.

Carried

11.8 Service Accountability Agreement Extension to March 31 2022

Report number 20210317-SPH-R002-JBK Service Accountability Agreement Extension to March 31, 2022, dated March 17, 2021 from Jayne Brooks-Keller, Administrator - Sun Parlor Home.

Jayne Brooks Keller provided background information on the Service Accountability Agreement and requested that the extension to March 31, 2022 be approved.

062-2021

Moved By Larry Verbeke

Seconded By Aldo DiCarlo

That Essex County Council accepts the terms of the Extending Letter from the Erie St. Clair Local Health Integration Network to amend the Service Accountability Agreement for Sun Parlor Home, for the period March 31, 2021- March 31, 2022 and authorizes the execution of the required documents acknowledging the extension.

Carried

12. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business for March 17, 2021.

13. New Business

13.1 Support for Wine Sector, Essex County

THAT the County of Essex calls on the Province of Ontario to create a level playing field and to provide Ontario's entrepreneurial wine industry with opportunities to invest more into innovation and job creation while providing consumer choice and convenience for the purchase of Ontario wines; and

THAT the Province be urged to undertake the following:

1. Eliminate the 6.1% tax applied to VQA (100% Ontario-grown) wines on sales in the 2021 Budget;
2. Enable Ontario wines to offer direct delivery, with margin, to grocery stores;
3. Establish long-term VQA wine support programs at the LCBO that would increase shelf space for VQA wines and;
4. Eliminate import taxes on 100% Ontario VQA wines.

THAT this motion be circulated to municipalities in Niagara and Prince Edward County and to MPP Taras Natyshak, MPP Rick Nicholls, the Premier, the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

063-2021

Moved By Nelson Santos

Seconded By Marc Bondy

That the County of Essex calls on the Province of Ontario to create a level playing field and to provide Ontario's entrepreneurial wine industry with opportunities to invest more into innovation and job creation while providing consumer choice and convenience for the purchase of Ontario wines, and

THAT the Province be urged to undertake the following:

1. Eliminate the 6.1% tax applied to VQA (100% Ontario-grown) wines on sales in the 2021 Budget;
2. Enable Ontario wines to offer direct delivery, with margin, to grocery stores;
3. Establish long-term VQA wine support programs at the LCBO that would increase shelf space for VQA wines and;
4. Eliminate import taxes on 100% Ontario VQA wines.

THAT this motion be circulated to municipalities in Niagara and Prince Edward County and to MPP Taras Natyshak, MPP Rick Nicholls, the Premier, the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

Carried

13.2 Public Reporting of Closed Meeting

13.2.1 Special Closed Meeting - March 10, 2021 Re: Education

A Special Closed Meeting of County Council was held on March 10, 2021, pursuant to Sections 239, subsection 3.1 of the Municipal Act, 2001 as amended. This meeting was held for the purpose of educating members of County Council on protocols developed for mass vaccination sites.

13.3 Essex-Windsor EMS COVID vaccine administration

Council thanked Essex-Windsor EMS Chief Bruce Krauter and all Paramedics for their hard work and dedication in administering the COVID vaccines.

Council further thanked Chief Krauter and his staff for their assistance with the vaccination of some seniors in residential buildings, who were not able to attend mass vaccination sites.

14. Adoption of By-Laws

064-2021

Moved By Richard Meloche

Seconded By Joe Bachetti

That By-law 2021-12, having been read a first, second and third time, be finally passed and enacted.

Carried

14.1 By-Law Number 2021-12

Being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Essex for the meeting of March 17, 2021.

15. Notice of Motion

15.1 School Safety Zone at Gosfield North Elementary

Gord Queen brought forward a Notice of Motion as follows:

WHEREAS the Health and Safety of all our Residents is important, regardless of age;

WHEREAS the present COVID has highlighted problems within our County;

WHEREAS our School Children, School Teachers and Parents are all experiencing challenges getting to school safety;

WHEREAS on more than one occasion concerns have been expressed about the speed and safety for Parents to drop off and pick up their Children at the Gosfield North Public School located on the Belle River Road, often referred to as County Road #27;

WHEREAS the Council of the Town of Kingsville is scheduled to discuss this issue at their next regular meeting on March 22;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

In the event support and concurrence of Kingsville Town Council is achieved,

1. THAT a School safety zone be established by or in front of the Gosfield North Public School, with appropriate signage.
2. FURTHER that the County of Essex review and make such other actions and recommendations that may aid in the safe passage of our students.

16. Adjournment

065-2021

Moved By Larry Verbeke

Seconded By Larry Snively

That the Essex County Council meeting for March 17, 2021 be adjourned at 7:38 PM.

Carried

Gary McNamara

Warden - County of Essex

Mary Birch

Director of Council and Community Services/Clerk

Date Signed