



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SOUTHWOLD

MINUTES

Regular Council Meeting
Monday February 26, 2024
7:00 p.m. Council Chambers, Fingal/Via Video Link

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Grant Jones
Deputy Mayor Justin Pennings
Councillor John Adzija
Councillor Sarah Emons
Councillor Scott Fellows

ALSO PRESENT: Lisa Higgs, CAO/Clerk
Michele Lant, Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer
Aaron VanOorspronk, Director of Infrastructure & Development
Services
June McLarty, Deputy Clerk

Mayor Jones called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ADDENDUM TO AGENDA: None

DISCLOSURES: None

ADOPTION AND REVIEW OF MINUTES:

Council Minutes – Adopt

2024-051 Councillor Emons – Deputy Mayor Pennings

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of February 12, 2024 are hereby adopted.

CARRIED

Court of Revision – Palmer Drain 2023

2024-052 Councillor Adzija – Deputy Mayor Pennings

THAT the Minutes of the Court of Revision for the Palmer Drain 2023 are hereby adopted

CARRIED

Committee Minutes – Review

2024-053 Councillor Emons – Councillor Fellows

THAT Council has reviewed the draft minutes of the Economic Development Committee Meeting of February 8, 2024.

CARRIED

DRAINAGE:

DRA 2024-01 2023 Drainage Reapportionments

2024-054 Councillor Adzija – Councillor Fellows

THAT Council for the Township of Southwold hereby accepts the drainage reapportionment undertaken for the Consent Applications E47/22, E58/22, E70/22, E97/22, E98/22, E11/23 and E60-23; and

THAT these reapportionments will become effective upon stamping of the applicable deed; and,

THAT a copy of this resolution and drainage reapportionment be filed in each applicable drain file.

CARRIED

Section 78(1.1) – Jones Drain

2024-055 Councillor Emons – Deputy Mayor Pennings

THAT Council of the Township of Southwold receives and decides to proceed with the petition under Section 78 (1.1) of the Drainage Act that was received from the Township of Southwold;

AND THAT Council instruct the Clerk to send required notice under Section 5(1)(b) of the Drainage Act to the Kettle Creek Conservation Authority, OMAFRA and the requesters notifying them that they intend to appoint an Engineer to prepare the necessary reports under the appropriate

section of the Drainage Act upon the passing of the 30 days notification specified in sections 6(1) and 7(1) of the Drainage Act.

CARRIED

REPORTS:

PW 2024-01 Gravel Tender Award

2024-056 Deputy Mayor Pennings – Councillor Adzija

THAT Council accepts the supply and delivery of granular materials tender submitted from Jeff Campbell Trucking in the amount of \$514 375.00, excluding HST.

CARRIED

DELEGATION:

7:15 p.m. – 7:30

Michele Lant, Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer

2024 Budget

Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer Michele Lant presented the 2024 budget to Council, staff and the public.

Mayor Jones commented that the new Talbotville Firehall project was started before COVID with hopes prices would decrease. Unfortunately, prices almost doubled, but the estimates were correct. The cost for the site prep is over \$1 million dollars. The land for the firewall was donated. The new Talbotville Firehall is well below the costs of the firehalls that were constructed in the neighbouring municipalities.

REPORTS:

ENG 2024-14 Canoe Group Procurement

2024-057 Deputy Mayor Pennings – Councillor Emons

THAT Report ENG 2024-14 relating to Canoe Group Procurement, be received for information; and,

THAT Council give consideration to By-Law 2024-15, a By-Law to Amend the Township's Procurement Policy.

CARRIED

ENG 2024-15 Highway 3 Twinning TESR Comments

2024-058 Deputy Mayor Pennings – Councillor Adzija

THAT Report ENG 2024-15 relating to Highway 3 Twinning Transportation Environmental Study Report (TESR), be received for information; and,

THAT Council direct Staff to prepare and submit comments to the project team.

CARRIED

FIN 2024-06 Section 357/Tax Incentive Approval Applications

2024-059 Councillor Emons – Councillor Fellows

THAT Council approves the total adjustment of taxes for the 2023 tax year resulting from Municipal Act, Sec.357/Tax Incentive Approval adjustments as presented, in the amount of \$23,482.31.

CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Fee Waiver Request Golden Acres – Eastern Star
- Town of Petrolia Resolution to Combine the ROMA and OGRA Conferences
- County of Renfrew Resolution to Afford Water and Wastewater Systems
- Notice of Public Meeting - Elgin County Draft Official Plan

Fee Waiver Request Golden Acres – Eastern Star

2024-060 Deputy Mayor Pennings – Councillor Adzija

THAT Council of the Township of Southwold approves the \$265.00 fee waiver request from the Golden Acres Chapter #305 – Order of the Eastern Star meeting to be held on Wednesday February 28th, 2024 at the Keystone Complex.

CARRIED

Support for County of Renfrew Resolution to Afford Water and Wastewater Systems

2024-061 Councillor Emons – Deputy Mayor Pennings

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Southwold

supports the attached resolution that was passed by the County of Renfrew regarding the affordability of water and wastewater systems; and,

THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to Honourable Premier Doug Ford, ; the Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure (Ontario); the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities (Canada); the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (Ontario), the Honourable Karen Vecchio, MP, Elgin-Middlesex-London, John Yakabuski, MPP, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Rob Flack, MP, Elgin-Middlesex-London; AMO; ROMA; FCM; and the County of Renfrew.

CARRIED

Council reviewed the other items under Correspondence

BY-LAWS:

- By-law No. 2024-13, being a by-law to appoint members to Township Boards and Committees
- By-law No. 2024-14, being a by-law to adopt the Budget Estimates and Capital Projects for the year 2024
- By-law No. 2024-15, being a by-law to amend By-law No. 2018-82, Procurement Policy

By-law

2024-062 Councillor Emons – Deputy Mayor Pennings

THAT By-law Nos. 2024-13, 2024-14 and 2024-15 be read a first and second time, considered read a third time and finally passed this 26th day of February, 2024.

CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Ministry of Transportation RE: Licence Plate Renewal
- Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks RE: Ontario's Environmental Assessment (EA) Program
- City of St. Thomas RE: Notice of Commencement St. Thomas Pollution Prevention Control Plant Master Plan
- Ontario Farmland Trust Farmland Forum 2024
- Community Breakfast with Violence Against Women Services Elgin County

Council reviewed the items under Other Business.

CLOSED SESSION:

2024-063 Councillor Emons – Councillor Adzija

THAT Council of the Township of Southwold now moves again into a session of the meeting that shall be closed to the public at **7:54 p.m.** in accordance with Section 239 (2) of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, c. 25 for discussion of the following matters;

- Personal Matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees (Section 239) (b)) – Development Staffing
- A proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board (Section 239 (2)(c)) – Shedden Development Lands
- A position, plan, procedure, criteria or instructions to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality or local board (Section 239 (2)(k)) – Shared Services – Fire Administration

CARRIED

Adjournment of Closed Session

2024-064 Councillor Adzija – Councillor Emons

THAT Council of the Township of Southwold adjourns the Closed Session of the Regular Council meeting at **9:16 p.m.**

CARRIED

STAFF DIRECTION

Staff were directed by Council to the 3 items that were discussed in the Closed Session.

Confirming By-law

- By-law No. 2024-16, being a By-law to confirm the resolutions and motions of the Council of the Township of Southwold, which were adopted on February 26, 2024

Confirming By-law

2024-065 Councillor Emons- Deputy Mayor Pennings

THAT By-law No. 2024-16 be read a first and second time, considered read a third time and finally passed this 26th day of February, 2024.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT:

2024-066 Councillor Fellows – Councillor Adzija

THAT Council for the Township of Southwold adjourns this Regular meeting of Council at **9:17 p.m.**

CARRIED

Mayor
Grant Jones

CAO/Clerk
Lisa Higgs