



## THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SOUTHWOLD

### MINUTES

Regular Council Meeting  
Tuesday October 15, 2024  
7:00 p.m. Council Chambers, Fingal/Via Video Link

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

ALSO PRESENT: Lisa Higgs, CAO/Clerk (7:37 p.m.)  
Michele Lant, Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer  
Aaron VanOorspronk, Director of Infrastructure & Development  
Services  
Jeff McArthur, Director of Emergency Services/Fire Chief  
Brent Clutterbuck, Drainage Superintendent  
June McLarty, Deputy Clerk

GUEST: Mike Szilagyi, Planner

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Mayor Jones called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

#### **ADDENDUM TO AGENDA:**

##### **12. Closed Session:**

(c) Education and Training Sessions Section 239 (3.1) - Information on purchasing models – Talbotville WWTP.

**DISCLOSURES:** None

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

**Council Minutes – Adopt**

**2024-297 Deputy Mayor Pennings – Councillor Emons**

**THAT** the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of September 23, 2024 are hereby adopted.

**CARRIED**

**Committee Minutes – Review**

**2024-298 Councillor Emons – Councillor Fellows**

**THAT** Council had reviewed the Minutes of the Southwold 175 Meeting of September 16, 2024, the draft Minutes of the Young at Heart Committee Meeting of September 26, 2024 and draft Minutes of the Family Day/Winterfest Committee Meeting of September 30, 2024.

**PLANNING:**

**MV 2024-05**

**In attendance: R. Singh, M. Kaur Bajwa**

**MV 2024-05, R. Singh and M. Kaur Bajwa, 10868 Sunset Road**

**2024-299 Councillor Fellows – Deputy Mayor Pennings**

**THAT** the regular Council meeting adjourn to sit as a Committee of Adjustment to hear minor variance applications MV 2024-05, R. Singh and M. Kaur Bajwa, 10868 Sunset Road at **7: 14 p.m.**

**CARRIED**

**MV 2024-05, Adjournment of Committee of Adjustment**

**2024-300 Councillor Emons – Councillor Adzija**

**THAT** the meeting of the Committee of Adjustment to hear applications MV 2024-05, R. Singh and M. Kaur Bajwa, 10868 Sunset Road and the regular meeting of council reconvenes at **7:25p.m.**

**CARRIED**

**PLA 2024-15, Consent Application E69-24, Caranci C/O Oakview Land Use Planning, 10263 Talbotville Gore Road**

**2024 -301 Councillor Adzija – Deputy Mayor Pennings**

**THAT** Council recommend approval to the Elgin County Land Division Committee for Consent Application E69-24 subject to the recommended conditions provided in Appendix 2 of Report PLA 2024-15.

**CARRIED**

**DRAINAGE:**

**DRA 2024-04 Request under Section 65(3) to add land to the Keith Drain**

**2024-302 Councillor Emons – Councillor Fellows**

**THAT** Council receives the request from Mr. Kevin Vanderveen the owner of Roll#002-09401 located on Edward Street (formally William Street) in Iona and decides to proceed with the request to add land to the Keith Drain, and;

**THAT** Council instructs the Clerk to forward the request to Spriet Engineers and Associates to review and prepare the necessary reports.

**CARRIED**

**REPORTS:**

**FIR 2024-11 Activity Report – September 2024**

Jeff McArthur, Director of Emergency Services/Fire Chief presented this report to Council. He also reported the Fire Prevention Open House at the Shedden Fire Station will be held on October 19<sup>th</sup>.

**ENG 2024-51 Activity Report – September 2024**

Director of Infrastructure and Development Services Aaron VanOorspronk presented this report to Council.

**DELEGATION:**

Clayton Watters, CD Watters Engineering Ltd

**7:31 p.m. – 7:52 p.m.**

## **Roads Needs Study**

### **2024-303 Deputy Mayor Pennings – Councillor Adzija**

**THAT** Council receives the Roads Needs Study prepared by CD Watters Engineering Ltd for information purposes.

**CARRIED**

## **REPORTS:**

### **ENG 2024-52 Parks and Trails Master Plan**

#### **2024-304 Deputy Mayor Pennings – Councillor Adzija**

**THAT** Report ENG 2024-52 relating to the Parks and Trails Master Plan, be received for information; and

**THAT** Council direct Staff to issue a Request for Proposal.

**CARRIED**

### **ENG 2024-53 Flood Mapping Grant Opportunity**

#### **2024-305 Councillor Emons – Councillor Fellows**

**THAT** Council direct Staff to apply for a grant through the Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping Program and;

**THAT** Council approve a Township contribution of \$67,500 to be requested from Green Lane Community Trust Fund.

**CARRIED**

### **ENG 2024-54 North Shedden Sanitary System Design**

#### **2024-306 Councillor Emons – Deputy Mayor Pennings**

**THAT** Council award engineering services for the North Shedden Sanitary System to Cyril J. Demeyere Ltd for a budget amount of \$335,000 excluding HST and;

**THAT** Council provide an allowance of \$70,000 for geotechnical services to be awarded at a later date.

**CARRIED**

**ENG 2024-55 Teetzel Farm Sale**

**2024-307 Deputy Mayor Pennings – Councillor Fellows**

**THAT** Council Authorize the Mayor and CAO to sign the Agreement of Purchase and Sale for the Teetzel Farm, and;

**THAT** Council approve By-Law 2024-50 being a By-law to Authorize the Sale of Land.

**CARRIED**

**ENG 2024-56 DWQMA Operational Plan Re-endorsement**

**2024-308 Councillor Adzija – Councillor Emons**

**THAT** Report ENG 2024-56 relating to the DWQMS Element 3, be received for information; and

**THAT** the Mayor and Council of the Township of Southwold authorize Township Staff to sign Element 3 of the DWQMS Operational Plan.

**CARRIED**

**FIN 2024-20 Auditor Appointment 2024**

**2024-309 Councillor Fellows – Deputy Mayor Pennings**

**THAT** Council appoint Graham Scott Enns, LLP Chartered Professional Accountants to provide audit services for the 2024 Fiscal Year.

**CARRIED**

**FIN 2024-21 Accrual Budget**

**2024-310 Councillor Emons – Councillor Fellows**

**THAT** Council approve the 2024 Accrual Budget as presented for Financial Statement purposes.

**CARRIED**

**FIN 2024-22 Section 357 Applications**

**2024-311 Councillor Adzija – Councillor Emons**

**THAT** Council approves the total adjustment of taxes for the 2023 tax year resulting from Municipal Act, Sec.357 adjustments as presented, in the amount of \$193.49, and;

**THAT** Council approves the total adjustment of taxes for the 2024 tax year resulting from Municipal Act, Sec.357 adjustments as presented, in the amount of \$2,027.74.

**CARRIED**

**FIN 2024-23 2025 OPP Estimates**

**2024-312 Councillor Adzija – Councillor Fellows**

**THAT** the 2025 OPP Cost Estimate be received for information purpose.

**CARRIED**

**CBO 2024-14 Activity Report – September 2024**

This report was presented to Council

**CAO 2024-71 Activity Report – September 2024**

CAO/Clerk Lisa Higgs presented this report to Council.

**CAO 2024-72 Integrity Commissioner and Closed Meeting Investigator Renewal**

**2024-313 Councillor Emons – Deputy Mayor Pennings**

**THAT** the report titled “CAO 2024-71 Extension of Agreement for Integrity Commissioner and Closed Meeting Investigator Services” from the CAO/Clerk be received; and

**THAT** the contract with Aird & Berlis LLP for Integrity Commissioner and Closed Meeting Investigator Services be extended for a 2 ½ year term to end on May 31, 2027.

**CARRIED**

**CAO 2024-73 Backyard Hens By-law Adoption**

**2024 -314 Deputy Mayor Pennings – Councillor Emons**

**THAT** Council provide feedback to By-Law No. 2024-52, a By-Law adopting a licensing system to permit Backyard Hens in R1 Zones in the Township of Southwold; and,

**THAT** Council give consideration to By-Law No. 2024-53, a By-Law to amend the User Fee By-Law at the October 28, 2024 meeting; and,

**THAT** Council directs staff to include wording in the next housekeeping amendment to the Zoning By-Law to amend section 3.16, the “Keeping of

Animals”, to permit backyard hens in certain R1 Zones, subject to a license being issued; and,

**THAT** staff be directed to cease enforcement of chickens listed in section 3.16 of the Zoning By-Law, so long as the regulations of By-Law 2024-52 are complied with, until such time as the housekeeping Zoning By-Law can be adopted.

**CARRIED**

### **CAO 2024-74 Updates to Southwold 175 Committee**

#### **2024-315 Councillor Fellows – Councillor Adzija**

**THAT** the Council of the Township of Southwold receives the report “Updates to the Southwold 175 Committee” as information, and;

**THAT** Council appoints Councillor Emons and Janice Fisher to the committee to replace outgoing committee members Deputy Mayor Pennings and John Coleman.

**CARRIED**

### **CAO 2024-75 HR Policy Updates**

#### **2024-316 Councillor Emons – Councillor Adzija**

**THAT** Council approve the HR Policies as listed in this report.

**CARRIED**

### **CAO 2024-76 Housing Enabling Core Services Fund**

#### **2024-317 Councillor Adzija – Councillor Emons**

**THAT** Council provide direction to staff on a submission for an Application for Funding under the Ontario Housing Core Services Fund.

**CARRIED**

### **STAFF DIRECTION**

Staff was directed by Council to partner with Elgin County to file an application under the Housing Enabling Core Services Fund.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness RE: Agricultural Workforce Equity and Diversity Initiative (AWEDI)
- Fingal-Shedden & District Optimist Club RE: 2025 Rosy Rhubarb Run

- Fingal-Shedden & District Optimist Club RE: Annual Santa Claus Parade
- Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness RE: International Agri-food Workers (IAW)
- Good Roads RE: Establishment of an Ontario Rural Road Safety Program
- Support for Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM) Solve the Crisis Campaign

### **Fingal-Shedden & District Optimist Club 2025 Rosy Rhubarb Run**

#### **2024-318 Councillor Adzija – Councillor Emons**

**THAT** Council of the Township of Southwold grants permission to the Optimist Club of Fingal-Shedden & District to hold a 1k, 5k /10 k run during the Rosy Rhubarb Festival in the Villages of Shedden and Fingal along Union Road on Sunday June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 beginning at 9:00 a.m. until approximately 10:30 a.m.; acknowledging that traffic will be stopped along Township and County roads as part of the run route as per the request; and

**THAT** the Clerk be authorized to sign the Road Closure Agreement with Elgin County for the purpose of the run.

**CARRIED**

### **Optimist Club of Fingal-Shedden & District RE: Annual Santa Claus Parade**

#### **2024-319 Councillor Fellows – Deputy Mayor Pennings**

**THAT** Council of the Township of Southwold grants permission to the Optimist Club of Fingal-Shedden & District to hold the annual Santa Claus parade in the Village of Fingal on Sunday December 1, 2024 beginning at 2:00 p.m. until approximately 3:00 p.m.; acknowledging that traffic will be stopped along Township and County roads as part of the parade route as per the request; and

**THAT** the Clerk be authorized to sign the Road Closure Agreement with Elgin County for the purpose of the parade.

**CARRIED**

### **Establishment of Ontario Rural Road Program**

#### **2024-320 Councillor Fellows – Councillor Adzija**

**WHEREAS** official statistics from the Government of Ontario confirm that rural roads are inherently more dangerous than other roads;

**AND WHEREAS**, despite only having 17% of the population, 55% of the road fatalities occur on rural roads;

**AND WHEREAS**, rural, northern, and remote municipalities are fiscally strained by maintaining extensive road networks on a smaller tax base;

**AND WHEREAS**, preventing crashes reduces the burden on Ontario's already strained rural strained health care system;

**AND WHEREAS**, roadway collisions and associated lawsuits are significant factors in runaway municipal insurance premiums. Preventing crashes can have a significant impact in improving municipal risk profiles;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Township of Southwold requests that the Government of Ontario take action to implement the rural road safety program that Good Roads has committed to lead. It will allow Ontario's rural municipalities to make the critical investments needed to reduce the high number of people being killed and seriously injured on Ontario's rural roads; and

**FURTHER THAT** a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation, Hon. King Surma, Minister of Infrastructure, Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs, Hon. Trevor Jones, Associate Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response, and Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health, and Good Roads; and

**FURTHER THAT** this resolution be circulated to all municipalities in Ontario requesting their support.

**CARRIED**

### **OBCM SolvethetheCrisis.ca Campaign**

#### **2024 – 321 Deputy Mayor Pennings – Councillor Fellows**

**THAT** the Corporation of the Township of Southwold supports the SolvethetheCrisis.ca Campaign and requests that the Provincial and Federal Governments take Action to Address the Growing Mental Health, Addictions and Homelessness Crisis in Ontario;

**AND WHEREAS** there is a humanitarian crisis unfolding on the streets in our cities, large and small, urban and rural, across Ontario. The time for words is over, we need immediate action at all levels of government, starting with the Province of Ontario;

**AND WHEREAS** the homelessness, mental health and addictions crisis continues to grow with 3432 drug related deaths in Ontario in 2023 and over 1400 homeless encampments across Ontario communities in 2023;

**AND WHEREAS** the province has provided additional funding and supports, such as the recent investment of \$378 million for HART Hubs and approximately 375 beds with wraparound supports, it does not adequately address the growing crisis and the financial and social impact on municipalities and regions across the province; and

**AND WHEREAS** municipalities and regions are stepping up and working with community partners to put in place community-specific solutions to address this crisis, but municipalities and regions lack the expertise, capacity, or resources to address these increasingly complex health care and housing issues alone;

**AND WHEREAS** this is primarily a health issue that falls under provincial jurisdiction and municipalities and regions should not be using the property tax base to fund these programs;

**AND WHEREAS** there is no provincial lead focused on this crisis leading to unanswered questions that span over a dozen ministries, and a lack of support to manage the increasing needs of those who are unhoused.

**THEREFORE , BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Corporation of the Township of Southwold supports the SolvethCrisis.ca Campaign;

**AND** calls on provincial and federal governments to commit to immediate action to solve the Humanitarian Crisis that Ontario is facing as the numbers of unhoused individuals and those suffering with mental health & addictions grows exponentially;

**AND** that the province officially makes Homelessness a Health Priority;

**AND** appoints a responsible Minister and Ministry with the appropriate funding and powers as a single point of contact to address the full spectrum of housing needs as well as mental health, addictions and wrap around supports;

**AND** that the provincial government strike a task force with broad sector representatives including municipalities, regions, healthcare, first

responders, community services, the business community and the tourism industry to develop a Made in Ontario Action Plan;

**AND that** this provincial task force reviews current programs developed by municipalities, regions and community partners that have proven successful in our communities , to ensure that solutions can be implemented quickly and effectively to tackle this crisis;

**AND that** the federal government is included in these conversations;

**AND THAT** both levels of government provide adequate, sufficient and sustainable funding to ensure the municipalities have the tools and resources to support individuals suffering with mental health and addictions, including unhoused people and those from vulnerable populations that may be disproportionately impacted;

**AND THAT** this Council calls on the residents of the Township of Southwold to just us in appealing to the provincial and federal governments for support by visiting [SolveTheCrisis.ca](https://SolveTheCrisis.ca) and showing your support;

**AND THAT** further a copy of this motion be sent to:

- The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada
- The Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities of Canada
- The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
- The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
- The Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- The Honourable Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
- The Honourable Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
- Local MPs
- Local MPPs and
- Ontario's Big City Mayors

**CARRIED**

Council reviewed the other items under Correspondence.

**BY-LAWS:**

- By-law No. 2024-50, being a by-law to enter into an agreement of purchase and sale.
- By-law No. 2024-51, being a by-law to appoint an Integrity Commissioner and Closed Meeting Investigator

**By-laws**

**2024-322 Councillor Fellows – Deputy Mayor Pennings**

**THAT** By-law Nos. 2024-50, and 2024-51, be read a first and second time, considered read a third time and finally passed this 15<sup>th</sup> day of October , 2024.

**CARRIED**

**Break – 9:35 p.m. – 9:42 p.m.**

**CLOSED SESSION:**

**2024-323 Deputy Mayor Pennings – Councillor Fellows**

**THAT** Council of the Township of Southwold now moves again into a session of the meeting that shall be closed to the public at **9:42 p.m.** in accordance with Section 239 (2) of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, c. 25 for discussion of the following matters;

- A proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board (Section 239 (2)(c)) – 2 items – WWTP Lands and Talbotville Park Lands
- Advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose (Section 239 (2) (f)) – 2 Items – Cleaning and Clearing By-law and Legal Update
- Education and Training Sessions Section 239 (3.1)- Information on purchasing models – Talbotville WWTP.

**CARRIED**

**Adjournment of Closed Session**

**2024-324 Councillor Adzija – Councillor Fellows**

**THAT** Council of the Township of Southwold adjourns the Closed Session of the Regular Council meeting at **11:00 p.m.**

**CARRIED**

**STAFF DIRECTION**

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

**Confirming By-law**

- By-law No. 2024-54, being a By-law to confirm the resolutions and motions of the Council of the Township of Southwold, which were adopted on October 15, 2024

**Confirming By-law**

**2024-325 Councillor Emons – Councillor Adzija**

**THAT** By-law No. 2024-54 be read a first and second time, considered read a third time and finally passed this 15<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2024.

**CARRIED**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**2024-326 Deputy Mayor Pennings – Councillor Emons**

**THAT** Council for the Township of Southwold adjourns this Regular meeting of Council at **11:00 p.m.**

**CARRIED**

Original signed by:  
Mayor  
Grant Jones

Original signed by:  
CAO/Clerk  
Lisa Higgs