



## **Council Minutes October 2, 2024 – 9:00 AM**

Council Present: Mayor Horner, Deputy Mayor Hawkins, Councillors Clark, Cunningham, and Lyon

Staff Present: Tracey Atkinson, Heather Boston, Roseann Knechtel, Chris Wolnik

### **1.0 Call to Order**

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

### **2.0 Land Acknowledgement**

We begin this meeting by acknowledging that we are meeting upon the traditional Indigenous lands of the Tionontati (Petun) and Treaty 18 territory of the Anishinaabe peoples. We recognize and deeply appreciate their historic connection to this place and we also recognize the contributions Indigenous peoples have made, both in shaping and strengthening our community, province and country as a whole.

### **3.0 Approval of the Agenda**

**Moved by Lyon and Seconded by Clark**

That Council approve the agenda.

**Carried.**

### **4.0 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**Moved by Clark and Seconded by Hawkins**

That the minutes of September 4, 2024 are approved.

**Carried.**

### **5.0 Discussion Arising out of the Minutes - None**

### **6.0 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests**

Councillor Cunningham declared pecuniary interest to item 9.3 County Fire Service Delivery Review.

### **7.0 Public Question Period**

Cheryl Russel commented on item 9.2 being Mulmur's Strategic Plan noting conflict between recreational growth and conservation of water and expressed appreciation to the County's investigation of an automated speed enforcement program.

Russel sought clarification on the Township's process to paving and expressed resident concerns and desire for public input. Chris Wolnik, Director of Infrastructure noted the Township's paving plan is systematic and approved by all, with no current plans to pave 1<sup>st</sup> line EHS and 8 Sideroad.

## **8.0 Presentations and Deputations**

### **8.1 Nancy Matthews: Traffic Concerns**

Council welcomed Nancy Matthews who presented a petition and community concerns related to traffic on County Road 21 and 2<sup>nd</sup> Line WHS. Community concerns and requests included:

- Creating a Community Safety Zone;
- Implementing double yellow no passing lines;
- Lowering speed limits;
- Greater police monitoring; and
- Installation of crosswalks at the bus stop/mailboxes and the arena.

Matthews confirmed that a delegation to the County of Dufferin is also scheduled for October 10, 2024

Council discussion ensued on various traffic calming measures and encouraged Matthews to include the bus lines and Upper Grand District School Board in her appeal.

### **Moved by Hawkins Seconded by Cunningham**

THAT Council receive the presentation from Nancy Matthews with thanks, regarding traffic concerns around the areas of County Road 21 and 2<sup>nd</sup> Line EHS;

AND THAT Council direct staff to investigate the concerns raised by residents and report back to Council on their findings and recommendations by February 2025.

**Carried.**

### **8.2 Matthew Betik, KPMG: 2023 Financial Statements**

Council welcomed Matthew Betik from KPMG who presented the 2023 Draft Financial Statements noting the following:

- Landfill liability and asset retirement obligation;

- Taxation revenue;
- Grant funding and Development Charges; and
- Increased expenses.

Betik also presented the 2023 audit findings noting a clear audit statement with no significant risks being identified. Betik further confirmed that Mulmur was showcasing strong cash balances, low debt levels, and that the financial management appeared sound.

**Moved by Cunningham and Seconded by Lyon**

That Council approve the 2023 Township of Mulmur financial statements as presented by Matthew Betik, KPMG.

**Carried.**

Council recessed at: 10:10 a.m. and returned at 10:21 a.m.

**8.3 Jane Hawkins, Mansfield Women’s Institute (11:00 am)**

Council welcomed Jane Hawkins and the members of the Mansfield Women’s Institute, who presented the Township of Mulmur with a \$1,000 donation to the North Dufferin Community Centre.

Council thanked the members of the Mansfield Women’s Institute for their hard work and dedication to the community.

**9.0 Reports for Decision**

**9.1 Community Sports and Recreation Infrastructure Fund**

Chris Wolnik spoke to the electrical safety, and installation of netting being proposed as part of the grant. Council discussion the project scope, municipal contribution and reserve levels.

**Moved by Cunningham and Seconded by Lyon**

That Council endorses the Township of Mulmur’s application to the 2024 Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund for improvements to the baseball diamonds in Mulmur.

**Carried.**

**9.2 Mulmur’s Strategic Plan**

Tracey Atkinson presented Mulmur’s Strategic Plan proposed Key Performance Indicator’s, noting the intent for the plan to act as a living document.

**Moved by Lyon and Seconded by Cunningham**

That Council approve Mulmur's Strategic Plan as presented, in substantially the same format.

**Carried.**

**9.3 County Fire Service Delivery Review**

Councillor Cunningham declared pecuniary interested to item 9.3 and left the Council Chambers at 10:27 a.m.

Council discussed ensued on the pros and cons to fire boards noting the following:

- Greater purchasing power
- Consistency in salaries and training
- Greater efficiency
- Asset management
- Loss of authority
- Emotional impacts to department units

The following public comments were received:

- Mulmur has shared interests within north Dufferin and Town of Mono
- Potential for increased communications as a whole
- Concerns with the expertise of those appointed to Boards
- The need to look to the future and outside the box
- Amalgamation is not a cheaper option

Council expressed a desire to coordinate discussions with interested parties to determine if our partnering municipalities share similar views.

**Moved by Lyon and Seconded by Clark**

THAT Council receive the County of Dufferin Fire Service Delivery Report and recommendations made within;

AND THAT Council direct the CAO to coordinate discussions with participating lower tier municipalities, Fire Chiefs and Councils and report back on applicable options for the Township of Mulmur by the December meeting.

**Carried.**

Councillor Cunningham returned to the Council Chambers at 11:18 a.m.

#### **9.4 Mulmur-Melancthon Fire Board Budget**

**Moved by Lyon and Seconded by Clark**

That Council approve the Mulmur-Melancthon Fire Board 2025 Operating Budget in the amount of \$296,216 and Capital Budget of \$234,284 as presented.

**Carried.**

#### **10.0 Committee Minutes and Reports**

- 10.1 Ontario Climate Caucus: April Meeting Notes**
- 10.2 AMO Conference Report – Patty Clark**
- 10.3 Shelburne & District Fire Board Minutes: June 25, 2024**
- 10.4 Shelburne & District Fire Board Minutes: July 26, 2024**
- 10.5 Dufferin County Council Minutes: August 27, 2024**
- 10.6 Dufferin County Council Minutes: September 12, 2024**
- 10.7 Mulmur-Melancthon Fire Department Minutes: September 17, 2024**
- 10.8 NDCC Campaign Cabinet Update**

**Moved by Cunningham and Seconded by Lyon**

That Council receives the committee minutes and reports.

**Carried.**

#### **11.0 Information Items**

- 11.1 2024 Q2 OPP Report**
- 11.2 2023 Year End Report: Mulmur-Melancthon Fire Department**
- 11.3 Shepherds Cupboard Foodbank: Sponsorship Opportunity**
- 11.4 Abigail Wilson: Sponsorship Opportunity**
- 11.5 Peter Domes: Partial Waiving of Parkland Dedication Request**
- 11.6 1000077207 Ontario Inc. Correspondence: Dufferin County Official Plan Amendment No. 3**
- 11.7 Official Plan Update and Workplan**
- 11.8 NVCA Regulation Procedures & Fee Policy Update**
- 11.9 Upcoming Township Events**
- 11.10 Tay Valley Township: Jurisdiction of Ontario's Ombudsman**
- 11.11 Dufferin County: Child Care Spaces**
- 11.12 AMCTO: Updating the Municipal Elections Act**

**Moved by Cunningham and Seconded by Hawkins**

That Council receives the information items.

Carried.

**Moved by Clark and Seconded by Horner**

Whereas elections rules need to be clear, supporting candidates and voters in their electoral participation and election administrators in running elections.

Whereas legislation needs to strike the right balance between providing clear rules and frameworks to ensure the integrity of the electoral process, Whereas the legislation must also reduce administrative and operational burden for municipal staff ensuring that local election administrators can run elections in a way that responds to the unique circumstances of their local communities.

Whereas the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* (MEA) will be 30 years old by the next municipal and school board elections in 2026.

Whereas the MEA sets out the rules for local elections, the *Assessment Act, 1990* and the *Education Act, 1990* also contain provisions impacting local elections adding more places for voters, candidates, and administrators to look for the rules that bind the local democratic process in Ontario.

Whereas with rules across three pieces of legislation, and the *MEA* containing a patchwork of clauses, there are interpretation challenges, inconsistencies, and Whereas to fill.

Whereas the Act can pose difficulties for voters, candidates, contributors and third-party advertisers to read, to interpret, to comply with and for election administrators to enforce.

Whereas while local elections are run as efficiently and effectively as can be within the current legislative framework, modernization and continuous improvement is needed to ensure the Act is responsive to today's needs and tomorrow's challenges.

Whereas to keep public trust and improve safeguards the Act should be reviewed considering the ever-changing landscape which impacts elections administration including privacy, the threats of foreign interference, increased spread of mis/disinformation and the increased use of technologies like artificial intelligence and use of digital identities.

Whereas the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks, and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) reviewed the Act and has provided several recommendations including modernizing the legislation, harmonizing rules, and streamlining and simplifying administration.

And whereas AMCTO put forward recommendations for amendments ahead of the 2026 elections and longer-term recommendations for amendments ahead of the 2030 elections.

Therefore be it resolved that the Township of Mulmur calls for the Province to update the MEA with priority amendments as outlined by AMCTO before Summer 2025 and commence work to review and re-write the MEA with longer-term recommendations ahead of the 2030 elections.

And be it further resolved that this resolution will be forwarded to all municipalities in Ontario for support and that each endorsement be then forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing ([minister.mah@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.mah@ontario.ca)), the Minister of Education ([minister.edu@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.edu@ontario.ca)), the Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery ([todd.mccarthy@ontario.ca](mailto:todd.mccarthy@ontario.ca)), Minister of Finance ([Minister.fin@ontario.ca](mailto:Minister.fin@ontario.ca)) the Premier of Ontario ([premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)), Township of Mulmur MPP and AMCTO ([advocacy@amcto.com](mailto:advocacy@amcto.com)).

**Carried.**

Council recessed at 11:56 a.m. and returned at 12:02 p.m.

## **12.0 Closed Session**

### **12.1 NDCC Agreement**

**Moved by Lyon Seconded by Cunningham**

That Council adjourn to closed session at 12:04 p.m. pursuant to Section 239 of the Municipal Act, 2001 as amended for one (1) matter relating to a position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations under section 239(2)(k).

**Carried.**

**Moved by Lyon and Seconded by Cunningham**

That Council do rise out of closed session into open session at 12:57 p.m. with the following motion:

That Council direct staff to proceed as discussed in closed session.

**Carried.**

## **13.0 Items for Future Meetings**

### **13.1 Fire Service Delivery Review**

### **13.2 Traffic Concerns: County Uploading/Downloading, Street Art Impacts and Honeywood Resident Concerns**

**13.4 2025 Draft Budget**

**13.5 User Fees**

**14.0 Passing of By-laws**

**14.1 By-law to Appoint Fire Chief for the Shelburne & District Fire Department**

**14.2 Planning Pre-consultation Repealing By-law**

**14.3 Confirmatory By-Law**

**Moved by Cunningham and Seconded by Hawkins**

That By-laws 14.1 to 14.3 be approved.

**Carried.**

**15.0 Adjournment**

**Moved by Lyon and Seconded by Andrew**

That Council adjourns the meeting at 2:37 p.m. to meet again on November 6, 2024 or at the call of the Chair.

**Carried.**

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Mayor

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Clerk