



**Elgin County Council**

**Minutes**

**January 14, 2025, 9:00 a.m.  
Council Chambers  
450 Sunset Drive  
St. Thomas ON**

Members Present: Warden Grant Jones  
Deputy Warden Ed Ketchabaw  
Councillor Dominique Giguère  
Councillor Mark Widner  
Councillor Jack Couckuyt (virtual)  
Councillor Todd Noble  
Councillor Mike Hentz  
Councillor Richard Leatham

Members Absent: Councillor Andrew Sloan

Staff Present: Blaine Parkin, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk (virtual)  
Nicholas Loeb, Director of Legal Services  
Michele Harris, Director of Homes and Seniors Services (virtual)  
Brian Masschaele, Director of Community & Cultural Services (virtual)  
Peter Dutchak, Director of Engineering Services  
Mat Vaughan, Director of Planning and Development  
Andrea Loughlean, Manager of Emergency Management & Elgin-Middlesex Regional Fire School (virtual)  
Katherine Thompson, Manager of Administrative Services/Deputy Clerk  
Jenna Fentie, Legislative Services Coordinator  
Stefanie Heide, Legislative Services Coordinator

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**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. with Warden Jones in the chair.

**2. Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by: Councillor Leatham  
Seconded by: Councillor Hentz

RESOLVED THAT the December 10, 2024 and December 12, 2024 open session minutes and the December 12, 2024 closed session minutes be adopted.

Motion Carried.

**3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof**

None.

**4. Presenting Petitions, Presentations and Delegations**

None.

**5. Committee of the Whole**

Moved by: Councillor Noble  
Seconded by: Deputy Warden Ketchabaw

RESOLVED THAT we do now move into Committee of the Whole.

Motion Carried.

## **6. Reports of Council, Outside Boards and Staff**

### **6.1 Warden Jones - Warden's Activity Report (December 2024)**

Warden Jones presented the report detailing his activities for the month of December 2024.

Moved by: Councillor Hentz  
Seconded by: Councillor Noble

RESOLVED THAT the report titled "Warden's Activity Report (December 2024)" dated January 14, 2025 from Warden Jones be received and filed.

Motion Carried.

### **6.2 Warden Jones - 2025 Council Committee Appointments**

Warden Jones presented the report seeking Council's approval for the Councillor appointments to Committees and Local Boards for 2025.

Moved by: Councillor Hentz  
Seconded by: Councillor Noble

RESOLVED THAT County Council approve the Council Committee and Local Board Appointments for 2025 as recommended by Warden Jones; and

THAT Schedule F of By-Law No. 23-01 be repealed and replaced with Appendix 1 as attached to the January 14, 2025 report titled "2025 Council Committee Appointments".

Motion Carried.

### **6.3 Director of Engineering Services - East Road Pedestrian Crossing Update**

The Director of Engineering Services presented the report seeking Council's approval to remove the stop sign on Joseph Street at East Road in the Village of Port Stanley in order to reinstate the three-way stop controlled intersection, and also seeks Council's approval to reduce the posted speed limit from 40km/hr to 30km/hr on Joseph Street.

Moved by: Councillor Noble  
Seconded by: Councillor Giguère

RESOLVED THAT the report titled "East Road Pedestrian Crossing Update" from the Director of Engineering Services dated January 14, 2025 be received and filed, and

THAT the stop sign on Joseph Street at East Road be retained as a four-way stop; and

THAT the posted speed limit be reduced from 40km/h to 30km/h on Joseph Street and that the necessary by-law be amended.

Motion Carried.

## **7. Council Correspondence**

### **7.1 Items for Consideration**

**7.1.1 Letter from the Municipality of Central Elgin requesting that the County of Elgin investigate speeding concerns on Centennial Road between Elm Street and Southdale Line.**

Moved by: Councillor Noble  
Seconded by: Councillor Hentz

RESOLVED THAT the Director of Engineering Services work with Central Elgin staff to investigate speeding concerns along Centennial Road between Elm Street and Southdale Line and formulate a solution.

Motion Carried.

**7.1.2 Letter from Dutton & District Lions Non-Profit Housing Inc. requesting that a sidewalk be installed on Pioneer Line between Miller Road and Currie Road in Dutton.**

Moved by: Deputy Warden Ketchabaw  
Seconded by: Councillor Leatham

RESOLVED THAT the Director of Engineering Services work with Dutton Dunwich staff to formulate a local solution to the request for sidewalks.

Motion Carried.

**7.1.3 Letter from Southwestern Public Health requesting a delegation to County Council at its January 28, 2025 meeting.**

Moved by: Councillor Noble  
Seconded by: Councillor Couckuyt

RESOLVED THAT the request for delegation from Southwestern Public Health be received and filed.

Motion Carried.

**7.1.4 Letter from the Elgin Federation of Agriculture requesting that County Council maintain the Farm Class Tax rate at 0.23 percent.**

Moved by: Councillor Widner  
Seconded by: Councillor Leatham

RESOLVED THAT Elgin County Council maintain the farm class tax ratio at 0.23 percent in 2025; and

THAT the Warden send a letter to the Elgin Federation of Agriculture confirming this decision.

Motion Carried.

**7.1.5 Letter from the Middlesex and Elgin Federations of Agriculture requesting improved signage for agricultural equipment on County roads.**

Moved by: Councillor Widner  
Seconded by: Councillor Hentz

RESOLVED THAT a meeting of the Rural Initiatives and Planning Advisory Committee be called to initiate discussions with the Elgin Federation of Agriculture regarding the issue of unsafe passing of agricultural equipment.

Motion Carried.

## **7.2 Items for Information (Consent Agenda)**

Moved by: Councillor Noble  
Seconded by: Councillor Hentz

RESOLVED THAT Correspondence Items #7.2.2 - 7.2.7 be received and filed.

Motion Carried.

### **7.2.1 Letter from Hon. Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, introducing the proposed Municipal Accountability Act, 2024.**

Moved by: Councillor Giguère  
Seconded by: Councillor Couckuyt

RESOLVED THAT staff be directed to collect Council's comments regarding the proposed Municipal Accountability Act, 2024, and to compile those and present to Council for consideration at the January 28, 2025 meeting.

Motion Carried.

### **7.2.2 Letter from the Municipality of Central Elgin supporting the appointment of Carleen Green to the Elgin/Central Elgin Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee.**

### **7.2.3 Letter from Hon. Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, regarding the Encampment Response Initiative and Last Mile Funding.**

### **7.2.4 Resolution from the Town of Cobalt requesting that the Province of Ontario resume the assessment cycle.**

### **7.2.5 Invitation from the County of Middlesex to attend the Official Plan Public Meeting on Tuesday, January 14, 2025.**

### **7.2.6 Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus December 2024 Newsletter.**

## **8. Other Business**

### **8.1 Statements/Inquiries by Members**

#### **8.1.1 Deputy Warden Ketchabaw - Pre - Budget Consultation with Minister of Finance**

Deputy Warden Ketchabaw advised that the Minister of Finance will be holding a pre-budget consultation roundtable in St. Thomas on January 28, 2025, and suggested that Council may wish to submit comments similar to Council's submission in 2023, regarding infrastructure funding, returning the assessment roll, and HST reform at the provincial level. Council consented to adding this item to the January 24, 2025 agenda of the Growth Planning Steering Committee for further discussion.

### **8.2 Notice of Motion**

None.

### **8.3 Matters of Urgency**

None.

## **9. Closed Meeting Items**

### **9.1 Closed Meeting Minutes - December 12, 2024**

## **10. Motion to Rise and Report**

None.

**11. Motion to Adopt Recommendations from the Committee of the Whole**

Moved by: Councillor Giguère  
Seconded by: Councillor Noble

RESOLVED THAT we do now adopt recommendations of the Committee of the Whole.

Motion Carried.

**12. Consideration of By-Laws**

**12.1 By-Law No. 25-01 Committee By-Law Amendment**

BEING a By-Law to Amend By-Law No. 23-01 Being a By-Law to Define the Mandate and Meeting Procedures for Committees Established by the Corporation of the County of Elgin and to Repeal By-Law No. 24-01.

Moved by: Councillor Leatham  
Seconded by: Councillor Hentz

RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 25-01 be now read a first, second, and third time and finally passed.

Motion Carried.

**12.2 By-Law No. 25-02 Operation of the Elgin County Museum**

BEING a By-Law to Provide for the Operation of the Elgin County Museum and to Repeal By-Law No. 21-38.

Moved by: Councillor Hentz  
Seconded by: Councillor Giguère

RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 25-02 be now read a first, second, and third time and finally passed.

Motion Carried.

**12.3 By-Law No. 25-03 Confirmation**

BEING a By-Law to Confirm Proceedings of the Municipal Council of the Corporation of the County of Elgin at the January 14, 2025 Meeting.

Moved by: Councillor Noble  
Seconded by: Councillor Couckuyt

RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 25-03 be now read a first, second, and third time and finally passed.

Motion Carried.

**13. Adjournment**

Moved by: Councillor Widner  
Seconded by: Councillor Couckuyt

RESOLVED THAT we do now adjourn at 9:56 a.m. to meet again on January 28, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

Motion Carried.

Blaine Parkin,  
Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk.

Grant Jones,  
Warden.