



Elgin County Council

Minutes

**March 25, 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 (virtual)
Councillor Jack Couckuyt
Councillor Andrew Sloan (virtual)
Councillor Todd Noble
Councillor Mike Hentz
Councillor Richard Leatham (virtual)

Staff Present: Blaine Parkin, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk
Nicholas Loeb, Director of Legal Services
Brian Masschaele, Director of Community & Cultural Services
Jennifer Ford, Director of Financial Services/Treasurer
Peter Dutchak, Director of Engineering Services
Mat Vaughan, Director of Planning and Development
Holly Hurley, Director of People & Culture
Katherine Thompson, Manager of Administrative Services/Deputy Clerk
Natalie Marlowe, Manager of Library Services
Jenna Fentie, Legislative Services Coordinator
Stefanie Heide, Legislative Services Coordinator

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 Hentz
Seconded by: Deputy Warden Ketchabaw

RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the meeting held on March 11, 2025 be adopted.

Motion Carried.

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

None.

4. Presenting Petitions, Presentations and Delegations

4.1 Cynthia St. John, Chief Executive Officer of Southwestern Public Health - Health Status Highlights from Our Communities

The Chief Executive Officer of Southwestern Public Health, Cynthia St. John, provided a presentation on Health Status Highlights for the Oxford - Elgin - St. Thomas region.

Moved by: Councillor Couckuyt
Seconded by: Deputy Warden Ketchabaw

RESOLVED THAT the presentation from the Chief Executive Officer of Southwestern Public Health be received and filed.

Motion Carried.

4.2 Cynthia Grant - Aylmer Library Relocation

Cynthia Grant, a resident of the Town of Aylmer, provided a presentation to Council regarding the Aylmer Library Relocation.

Moved by: Councillor Noble
Seconded by: Councillor Hentz

RESOLVED THAT the presentation from Cynthia Grant regarding the Aylmer Library Relocation be received and filed.

Motion Carried.

5. Committee of the Whole

Council recessed at 9:59 a.m. and reconvened at 10:09 a.m.

Moved by: Councillor Couckuyt
Seconded by: Councillor Noble

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

Motion Carried.

6. Reports of Council, Outside Boards and Staff

6.1 Director of Financial Services/Treasurer - Server Infrastructure Refresh Project – Contract Award

The Director of Financial Services/Treasurer presented a report providing details on the Request for Proposal (RFP) that was issued to solicit proposals from two technology firms to replace servers for the County of Elgin for Council's approval.

Moved by: Councillor Couckuyt
Seconded by: Councillor Hentz

RESOLVED THAT the contract for the Server Infrastructure Refresh project, Request for Proposal 2024-P37 be awarded to CDW Canada Corp. in the amount of \$349,985.00 (excluding HST); and

THAT the Warden and Chief Administrative Officer be directed and authorized to sign the contract.

Motion Carried.

6.2 Director of Financial Services/Treasurer - 2024 Council and Outside Boards Remuneration and Expenses

The Director of Financial Services/Treasurer presented a report providing an itemized statement on remuneration and expenses paid in the previous year to each member of Council, in compliance with Section 284 of the Municipal Act.

Moved by: Councillor Leatham
Seconded by: Councillor Widner

RESOLVED THAT the report titled "2024 Council and Outside Boards and Remuneration Expenses" from the Director of Financial Services/Treasurer dated March 25, 2025 be received and filed.

Motion Carried.

6.3 Legislative Services Coordinator - Elgin County Sponsorship Program 2025 Application Submissions

Legislative Services Coordinator Jenna Fentie presented a report providing Council with the sponsorship application submissions for 2025 and a recommendation for Council's authorization to award funding to the eligible applicants and to amend the Elgin County Grant and Sponsorship Policy to indicate that applications under the Sponsorship category be reviewed directly by Council.

Moved by: Deputy Warden Ketchabaw

Seconded by: Councillor Sloan

RESOLVED THAT County Council approve the sponsorship funding allocations totalling \$46,000 as recommended in the report titled "Elgin County Sponsorship Program 2025 Application Submissions"; and

THAT the Elgin County Grant and Sponsorship Policy be amended to indicate that applications under the Sponsorship category be reviewed directly by Council.

Motion Carried.

6.4 Director of Planning and Development - Letter to MMAH Re Official Plan Update

The Director of Planning and Development presented a report seeking Council's approval of a draft letter to be sent to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. This letter outlines requested changes to the County of Elgin's adopted Official Plan to accommodate the County's updated population and employment projections and lands needs assessment.

Moved by: Councillor Hentz

Seconded by: Councillor Giguère

RESOLVED THAT the report titled "Letter to MMAH Re Official Plan Update" from the Director of Planning and Development dated March 25, 2025 be received and filed; and

THAT Council endorses the proposed modifications to the adopted Elgin County Official Plan and directs staff to forward said modifications to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing for his consideration when approving the Official Plan.

Motion Carried.

6.5 Director of Legal Services - LS 25-1 Administrative Services Agreement – Elgin OPP Detachment Board

The Director of Legal Services presented a report providing a draft Agreement for the County to provide Administrative Services to the Elgin OPP Detachment Board for Council's approval.

Moved by: Councillor Noble

Seconded by: Councillor Leatham

RESOLVED THAT the report titled "LS 25-1 Administrative Services Agreement – Elgin OPP Detachment Board" from the Director of Legal Services dated March 25, 2025 be received and filed; and

THAT the draft Administrative Services Agreement attached as Appendix 1 to the report be approved for presentation to the Elgin OPP Detachment Board Chair and that the Warden and Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to sign the Agreement.

Motion Carried.

7. Council Correspondence

7.1 Items for Consideration

None.

7.2 Items for Information (Consent Agenda)

Moved by: Councillor Hentz

Seconded by: Councillor Giguère

RESOLVED THAT correspondence items 7.2.1 - 7.2.3 be received and filed.

Motion Carried.

7.2.1 Letter from Kirk Barons, Chair of Downtown Aylmer Library Expansion Supporters re: Downtown Aylmer Library

7.2.2 Letter from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario to the Honourable Doug Ford re: Social Housing Stimulus

7.2.3 Email from Thames Valley District School Board re: Community Planning and Facility Collaboration Opportunities Meeting

8. Other Business

8.1 Statements/Inquiries by Members

None.

8.2 Notice of Motion

None.

8.3 Matters of Urgency

Moved by: Deputy Warden Ketchabaw

Seconded by: Councillor Hentz

RESOLVED THAT a verbal report regarding Ontario Nurses' Association (ONA) arbitration from the Director of Legal Services be added to the agenda as a matter of urgency.

Motion Carried.

8.3.1 Director of Legal Services - ONA Interest Arbitration

The Director of Legal Services provided a high level verbal report on the ONA Interest Arbitration including the following summary:

An interest arbitration hearing was held before the Hospital Labour Disputes Arbitration Act Board in December 2024 seeking resolution for outstanding issues between ONA and the County of Elgin. The Director of Legal Services received the decision on the ONA interest arbitration on March 24, 2025, and it is now a public award as of March 25, 2025. The award reflects patterning of the central hospital agreement and also includes some adjustments to other benefits and shift premiums. Further analysis of legal, financial, and labour relations implications will be presented to Council in the future.

Moved by: Councillor Sloan

Seconded by: Councillor Widner

RESOLVED THAT the verbal update regarding ONA interest arbitration from the Director of Legal Services be received and filed.

Motion Carried.

9. Closed Meeting Items

Moved by: Councillor Noble
Seconded by: Councillor Sloan

RESOLVED THAT we do now proceed into closed meeting session in accordance with the Municipal Act to discuss the following matters under Municipal Act Section 239 (2):

Closed Meeting Item #1 - Closed Meeting Minutes

Closed Meeting Item #2 - Human Resources Matter (verbal)

(b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees.

Motion Carried.

9.1 Closed Meeting Minutes - March 11, 2025

9.2 Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk - Human Resources Matter (verbal)

10. Motion to Rise and Report

Moved by: Councillor Leatham
Seconded by: Councillor Giguère

RESOLVED THAT we do now rise and report.

Motion Carried.

Closed Meeting Item #1 - Closed Meeting Minutes - March 11, 2025

Moved by: Councillor Hentz
Seconded by: Deputy Warden Ketchabaw

RESOLVED THAT the closed meeting minutes from the meeting held on March 11, 2025 be adopted.

Motion Carried.

Closed Meeting Item #2 - Human Resources Matter (verbal)

Moved by: Councillor Giguère
Seconded by: Councillor Hentz

RESOLVED THAT the confidential verbal update from the Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk be received and filed.

Motion Carried.

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

Moved by: Councillor Sloan
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. 25-13 Committee By-Law

Being a By-Law to Define the Mandate and Meeting Procedures for Committees Established by the Corporation of the County of Elgin.

Moved by: Councillor Noble
Seconded by: Councillor Sloan

RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 25-13 be now read a first, second, and third time and finally passed.

Motion Carried.

12.2 By-Law No. 25-14 Confirmation

Being a By-Law to Confirm Proceedings of the Municipal Council of the Corporation of the County of Elgin at the March 25, 2025 Meeting.

Moved by: Councillor Noble
Seconded by: Councillor Couckuyt

RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 25-14 be now read a first, second and third time and finally passed.

Motion Carried.

13. Adjournment

Moved by: Councillor Hentz
Seconded by: Councillor Sloan

RESOLVED THAT we do now adjourn at 11:08 a.m. to meet again on April 8, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Motion Carried.

Blaine Parkin,
Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk.

Grant Jones,
Warden.