

## OXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES

**December 13, 2023**

Council Present	Warden Marcus Ryan Deputy Warden Jerry Acchione Councillor Deb Gilvesy Councillor Bernia Martin Councillor David Mayberry Councillor Jim Palmer Councillor Mark Peterson Councillor Brian Petrie Councillor Phil Schaefer Councillor Deborah Tait
Council Absent	N/A
Staff Present	B. Addley, Chief Administrative Officer K. Black, Director of Human Services L. Buchner, Director of Corporate Services M. Cowan, Manager of Information Services M. Dager, Director of Woodingford Lodge R. Hall, Director of Paramedic Services G. Hough, Director of Community Planning C. King, Manager of Finance J. Lavallee, Manager of Asset Management C. Senior, Clerk D. Simpson, Director of Public Works A. Smith, Director of Human Resources

### 1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Oxford County Council meets in regular session this thirteenth day of December, 2023, in the Council Chamber, County Administration Building, Woodstock at 9:30 a.m. with Warden Ryan in the chair.

### 2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

#### RESOLUTION NO. 1

Moved By: Deborah Tait

Seconded By: Deb Gilvesy

Resolved that the agenda be approved as amended by changing the order of business to consider Motions during deliberation of Report CS 2023-51, titled "2024 Business Plans and Budget".

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 2

Moved By: Deborah Tait  
Seconded By: Deb Gilvesy

Resolved that the motion to adjourn the Council meeting of December 13, 2023 be extended to 2:30 p.m.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

**3. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF**

NIL

**4. ADOPTION OF COUNCIL MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

4.1 November 22, 2023

RESOLUTION NO. 3

Moved By: Mark Peterson  
Seconded By: Deborah Tait

Resolved that the Council minutes of November 22, 2023 be adopted.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

4.2 November 29, 2023 Special Council Meeting

RESOLUTION NO. 4

Moved By: Mark Peterson  
Seconded By: Deborah Tait

Resolved that the Minutes of the Special Council meeting held November 29, 2023 be adopted.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

## 5. PUBLIC MEETINGS

- 5.1 Resolution to go into a Public Meeting pursuant to Section 35 of the Municipal Act, 2001.

### RESOLUTION NO. 5

Moved By: David Mayberry

Seconded By: Mark Peterson

Resolved that Council rise and go into a Public Meeting pursuant to Section 35 of the Municipal Act, 2001, and that the Warden chair the Public Meeting.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried at 9:31 a.m.

#### 5.1.1 Notice of Closure of Road Allowance

To consider the adoption of By-law 6596-2023 to close part of the road allowance adjacent to Dereham Line south of Delmer in the Township of South-West Oxford (SWOX), which is part of County owned former railway lands.

The Chair asks Frank Gross, Manager of Transportation and Waste Management to come forward. F. Gross, through use of a map, indicates that part of the County-owned abandoned railway corridor adjacent to Dereham Line south of Delmer in the Township of South-West Oxford (SWOX), was declared surplus and has been subdivided for sale to adjacent landowners. The County's Solicitor advised that the lands in question are designated as part of the road allowance and need to be closed by municipal by-law before they can be sold to the adjacent landowner. In closing, F. Gross indicates that following closure of the road allowance and final sale to the adjacent landowner, disposal of the full limits of Section A14 will be complete.

The Chair opens the meeting to questions from members of Council.  
There are none.

There were no members of the public present with respect to this Public Meeting.

- 5.2 Resolution to adjourn the Public Meeting

### RESOLUTION NO. 6

Moved By: David Mayberry

Seconded By: Mark Peterson

Resolved that Council adjourn the Public Meeting and reconvene as Oxford County Council with the Warden in the chair.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried at 9:33 a.m.

- 5.3 Consideration of Report PW 2023-48 - Dereham Line Road Allowance Closure, Township of South-West Oxford

RESOLUTION NO. 7

Moved By: David Mayberry

Seconded By: Mark Peterson

Resolved that the recommendation contained in Report PW 2023-48, titled "Dereham Line Road Allowance Closure, Township of South-West Oxford", be adopted.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

**6. DELEGATIONS, PRESENTATIONS AND CONSIDERATION THEREOF**

- 6.1 Oxford Housing Action Collaborative (OHAC)  
Stephanie Ellens-Clark - Co-Chair  
Re: Supportive / Transitional Housing in 2024 Budget

S. Ellens-Clark is joined by Justin Dewaard from Indwell in the Council Chamber and proceed through a presentation which formed part of the agenda.

Warden Ryan opens the meeting to questions from members of Council.  
There are none.

RESOLUTION NO. 8

Moved By: Brian Petrie

Seconded By: David Mayberry

Resolved that the information provided in Delegation 6.1 on the Open meeting agenda of December 13, 2023 be received.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

**7. CONSIDERATION OF CORRESPONDENCE**

- 7.1 Safe and Well Oxford Steering Committee and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Action Coalition  
Re: Updates
- 7.2 South Central Ontario Region (SCOR) Economic Development Corporation  
Re: Redirection of resources

RESOLUTION NO. 9

Moved By: Brian Petrie  
Seconded By: David Mayberry

Resolved that the information provided in Correspondence Items 7.1 and 7.2 on the Open meeting agenda of December 13, 2023 be received.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

- 7.3 Catfish Creek Conservation Authority  
Re: Preliminary Draft 2024 Budget

RESOLUTION NO. 10

Moved By: Brian Petrie  
Seconded By: David Mayberry

Resolved that the information provided in Correspondence Item 7.3 on the Open meeting agenda of December 13, 2023 be received and referred to 2024 Budget and Business Plan deliberations.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

**8. REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS**

8.1 PUBLIC WORKS

- 8.1.1 PW 2023-48 - Dereham Line Road Allowance Closure, Township of South-West Oxford

RECOMMENDATION

1. That County Council enact By-law 6596-2023 to close part of the road allowance legally described as Part 2 on Plan 41R-10448, South-West Oxford.

The Report was dealt with following the Public Meeting.

8.2 PARAMEDIC SERVICES

- 8.2.1 PS 2023-02 - Single Source Contract Award – Oxford County 911 Primary Public Safety Answering Point Contract

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That, pursuant to Section 7.3 of the County's Procurement Policy 6.07, County Council approve the single-source award of a contract for the provision of 911 Primary Public Safety Answering Point services for a period of five years with an option to extend for an additional five years, commencing on January 12, 2024, to Woodstock Police Services;

2. And further, that the Chief Administrative Officer and Director of Paramedic Services be authorized to execute a service agreement with Woodstock Police Services as outlined in this report.

RESOLUTION NO. 11

Moved By: Brian Petrie  
Seconded By: David Mayberry

Resolved that the recommendations contained in Report PS 2023-02, titled "Single Source Contract Award – Oxford County 911 Primary Public Safety Answering Point Contract", be adopted.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

8.3 CORPORATE SERVICES

8.3.1 CS 2023-48 - Multi-Year Accessibility Plan Update

RECOMMENDATION

1. That County Council receive Report CS 2023-48 entitled "Multi-Year Accessibility Plan Update" and approve amendments to the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan Policy 9.04 as set out in Attachment 1.

RESOLUTION NO. 12

Moved By: Jim Palmer  
Seconded By: Brian Petrie

Resolved that the recommendation contained in Report CS 2023-48, titled "Multi-Year Accessibility Plan Update", be adopted.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

8.3.2 CS 2023-49 - 2024 Insurance Program

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That County Council approve the 2024 General Insurance Program proposed by Intact Public Entities at a base premium rate of \$2,092,704, plus applicable taxes;
2. And further, that County Council approve the 2024 Social Housing Insurance Program proposed by the Housing Services Corporation (HSC) Group at a base premium of \$163,949, plus applicable taxes.

RESOLUTION NO. 13

Moved By: Jim Palmer  
Seconded By: Brian Petrie

Resolved that the recommendations contained in Report CS 2023-49 ,  
titled "2024 Insurance Program", be adopted.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

8.3.3 CS 2023-50 - 2024 Borrowing By-law

RECOMMENDATION

1. That By-law No. 6597-2023, being a by-law to authorize the borrowing of money to meet current expenditures of the County of Oxford for the 2024 fiscal year, be presented to Council for enactment.

RESOLUTION NO. 14

Moved By: Jim Palmer  
Seconded By: Brian Petrie

Resolved that the recommendation contained in Report CS 2023-50,  
titled "2024 Borrowing By-law", be adopted.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

8.3.4 CS 2023-51 - 2024 Business Plans and Budget

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Oxford County Business Plans be adopted as amended;
2. And further, that Oxford County Council approves the Budget with a general purpose levy of \$\_\_\_\_\_;
3. And further, that Oxford County Council approves a special levy for Library purposes in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_, levied against all area municipalities with the exception of the City of Woodstock;
4. And further, that Oxford County Council approves a special levy to fund a Woodstock Police Services Grant for court security and prisoner transportation services in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_, levied against all area municipalities with the exception of the City of Woodstock;

5. And further, that the following grant requests, totalling \$ \_\_\_\_\_, be included in the 2024 general purpose levy:
  - Agricultural Award of Excellence \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Oxford Connection - Economic Development \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Oxford County Physician Recruitment \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Oxford Health Team \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Oxford Creative Connections \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Social Planning Council Oxford \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - The Small Business Centre \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - North Oxford Intercommunity Bus Transit \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Ingersoll Pipe Band \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Indigenous Solidarity & Awareness Network \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Oxford County Youth Initiatives \$ \_\_\_\_\_;
6. And further, that the following grant requests be funded under the Oxford County Youth Initiatives grant:
  - Oxford Invitational Youth Robotics Challenge \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - International Student Exchange Ontario \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Oxford Plowmen's Match \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ;
7. And further, that a by-law to adopt the 2024 water and wastewater rates as set out in Report CS 2023-44 effective January 1, 2024, be presented to Council for enactment at their regular meeting scheduled for January 10, 2024;
8. And further, that a by-law to adopt the estimated expenditures for the year as set out in Report CS 2023-51 be presented to Council for enactment at their regular meeting scheduled for January 10, 2024;
9. And further, that staff be authorized to proceed with implementing the incremental full-time equivalent positions as presented in the Full-time Equivalent Plan, as part of the Preliminary Budget Information and further explained in Report CS (CS) 2023-42.

RESOLUTION NO. 15

Moved By: Jim Palmer  
Seconded By: Brian Petrie



Resolved that the recommendations contained in Report CS 2023-51, titled "2024 Business Plans and Budget", be adopted.

DISPOSITION: See Action of Council following Resolution No. 54.

The motions listed under the Motions section of the agenda are brought forward to be heard during deliberation of Report CS 2023-51.

RESOLUTION NO. 16

Moved By: Bernia Martin

Seconded By: Phil Schaefer

Whereas Project Number 930079 Cycling Infrastructure is identified as funded by grants;

And whereas funds necessary to cover the cost of paved shoulder Bike Lanes on OR24 are unlikely to be granted;

Therefore be it resolved, that the 2024 Business Plan and Budget be amended to remove \$500,000 budget request for Project 930079 Cycling Infrastructure.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 17

Moved By: Bernia Martin

Seconded By: Phil Schaefer

Therefore be it resolved, that the 2024 Business Plan and Budget be amended to defer the Minor Capital purchase of \$25,000 for FAC – Council Chambers Chairs to the 2025 Business Plan and Budget.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 18

Moved By: Bernia Martin

Seconded By: Mark Peterson

Whereas Interest Rates administered by CF Oxford on behalf of the Future Oxford Legacy Fund are rising to 9 percent;

And whereas CF Oxford may require a personal guarantee in the form of a second mortgage, thus reducing the lender's risk associated with the loan if a business fails to repay the debt;

And whereas businesses may be placed in a precarious situation if too much capital is consumed paying off high-interest debt;

Therefore be it resolved, that the 2024 Business Plan and Budget be amended to omit the \$100,000 contribution to the Future Oxford Legacy Fund.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 19

Moved By: Bernia Martin

Seconded By: Mark Peterson

Whereas County Council took immediate action in April, 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic by developing a \$1.5 million Economic Stimulus Fund in partnership with Community Futures Oxford to assist small and medium-sized businesses in the county to regain their vitality and expedite recovery of our community's overall wellbeing;

And whereas, the two-year commitment has concluded and all of the funds were effectively invested in support of the community as planned and the loan repayment obligations are now flowing back to Community Futures Oxford in accordance with the loan agreements;

Therefore, be it resolved that staff, in collaboration with Community Futures Oxford, facilitate repatriation of the principal investment used for loans as repaid, on the basis of the same proportionate share as the fund contributions between the County and Community Futures Oxford, being 67% and 33% respectively;

And further, that the repatriated funds be credited to the General Reserve, being the source of the original \$1 million in funding, to assist in narrowing the significant shortfall from the reserve's target balance to be available for use in future year's tax stabilization;

And further, that the repatriation of net principal funds be reported to Council as part of the quarterly Business Plan and Budget updates.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 20

Moved By: David Mayberry

Seconded By: Brian Petrie

Whereas County Council recognizes the critical importance of addressing the housing crisis affecting our community and have, in their 2023-2026 Strategic Plan, committed to a goal to *“Invest capital funds and leverage provincial, federal, and partner funding in support of the Master Housing Strategy and Housing for All Plan”*;

And whereas, a significant number of residents in our municipality are struggling to find safe, affordable, and stable housing, leading to increased homelessness and housing insecurity;

Therefore be it resolved, that the “base” amount of funding for Human Services affordable housing development be increased to \$4 million annually with an additional \$1 million to be added to the 2024 draft budget, funded by the levy;

And further, that Council and staff increase efforts in actively pursuing matching annual contributions from upper levels of government that are necessary to maximize impact and achieve long-term sustainability in housing security.

DISPOSITION: Motion Not Carried

Councillor Mayberry withdraws Motion 6 on the Open Meeting agenda of December 13, 2023.

RESOLUTION NO. 21

Moved By: Brian Petrie

Seconded By: Deb Gilvesy

Resolved that the following grant requests be denied:

- Oxford Physician Recruitment (\$7,500);
- Oxford Ontario Health Team (\$30,000);
- ISAN Oxford (specific amount not provided); and
- Ingersoll Pipe Band (\$10,000).

And further, that the Agricultural Awards of Excellence be funded through the Council budget as a sponsor of the event;

And further, that:

- Oxford Creative Connections (\$60,000);
- Oxford County Youth Initiatives (\$15,000); and

- Social Planning Council Oxford (\$80,000)

Be funded for the 2024 budget year, but that notice be given that funding will cease after;

And further, that the grant requests from:

- Economic Development (Oxford Connection) (\$50,000); and
- Small Business Centre (\$50,000)

Be funded as was agreed to by Resolution 12 from the September 13, 2023 Council meeting through a service agreement between the County and the two organizations, rather than the grants program;

And further, that the North Oxford Intercommunity Bus Transit grant be approved, as this item was previously approved by Council for a specific timeframe;

And further, that Staff bring forward a policy for Council's consideration, prior to 2025 budget deliberations for considering grant requests to the County.

DISPOSITION: See Resolutions 22 to 41 inclusive.

#### RESOLUTION NO. 22

Moved By: Bernia Martin  
Seconded By: Mark Peterson

Resolved that the Motion regarding 2024 grant requests be divided.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

#### RESOLUTION NO. 23

Moved By: Brian Petrie  
Seconded By: Deb Gilvesy

Resolved that the Oxford Physician Recruitment (\$7,500) grant request be denied.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

#### RESOLUTION NO. 24

Moved By: Brian Petrie  
Seconded By: Deb Gilvesy

Resolved that the Oxford Ontario Health Team (\$30,000) grant request be denied.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 25

Moved By: Brian Petrie

Seconded By: Deb Gilvesy

Resolved that the ISAN Oxford (specific amount not provided) grant request be denied.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 26

Moved By: Brian Petrie

Seconded By: Deb Gilvesy

Resolved that the Ingersoll Pipe Band (\$10,000) grant request be denied.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 27

Moved By: Brian Petrie

Seconded By: Deb Gilvesy

Resolved that the Agricultural Awards of Excellence be funded through the Council budget as a sponsor of the event.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 28

Moved By: Brian Petrie

Seconded By: Deb Gilvesy

Resolved that the Oxford Creative Connections (\$60,000) grant be funded for the 2024 budget year, but that notice be given that funding will cease after.

DISPOSITION: See Action of Council following Resolution No. 30.

RESOLUTION NO. 29

Moved By: Bernia Martin

Seconded By: Mark Peterson

Resolved that the grant to Oxford Creative Connections be amended to \$30,000.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 30

Moved By: Brian Petrie

Seconded By: Deb Gilvesy

Resolved that the Oxford Creative Connections (\$30,000) grant be funded for the 2024 budget year, but that notice be given that funding will cease after.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 31

Moved By: Brian Petrie

Seconded By: Deb Gilvesy

Resolved that the Oxford County Youth Initiatives (\$15,000) be funded for the 2024 budget year, but that notice be given that funding will cease after.

DISPOSITION: Motion Not Carried

Warden Ryan calls for a recess at 10:49 a.m.

Staff and members of Council return to the Council Chamber at 10:55 a.m. All members of Council present.

RESOLUTION NO. 32

Moved By: Deborah Tait

Seconded By: Bernia Martin

Resolved that Resolution No. 31 regarding the Oxford County Youth Initiatives (\$15,000) be reconsidered.

DISPOSITION: Motion Not Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 33

Moved By: Brian Petrie

Seconded By: Deb Gilvesy

Resolved that the Social Planning Council Oxford (\$80,000) grant be funded for the 2024 budget year, but that notice be given that funding will cease after.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 34

Moved By: Brian Petrie

Seconded By: Deb Gilvesy

Resolved that the grant request from Economic Development (Oxford Connection) (\$50,000) be funded as was agreed to by Resolution 12 from the September 13, 2023 Council meeting through a service agreement between the County and Oxford Connection, rather than the grants program.

DISPOSITION: See Action of Council following Resolution No. 36

RESOLUTION NO. 35

Moved By: Bernia Martin

Seconded By: David Mayberry

Resolved that the grant request from Economic Development (Oxford Connection) be amended to \$20,000 to allow focus on the 2024 familiarization tour and that notice be given to cease funding thereafter.

DISPOSITION: Motion Not Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 36

Moved By: Brian Petrie

Seconded By: Deb Gilvesy

Resolved that the grant request from Economic Development (Oxford Connection) (\$50,000) be funded as was agreed to by Resolution 12 from the September 13, 2023 Council meeting through a service agreement between the County and Oxford Connection, rather than the grants program.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 37

Moved By: Brian Petrie

Seconded By: Deb Gilvesy

Resolved that the grant request from The Small Business Centre (\$50,000) be funded as was agreed to by Resolution 12 from the September 13, 2023 Council meeting through a service agreement

between the County and The Small Business Centre, rather than the grants program.

DISPOSITION: See Action of Council following Resolution No. 39.

RESOLUTION NO. 38

Moved By: Bernia Martin  
Seconded By: David Mayberry

Resolved that the 2024 grant request for The Small Business Centre be amended to \$ 11,000 to support core mandate initiatives.

DISPOSITION: Motion Not Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 39

Moved By: Brian Petrie  
Seconded By: Deb Gilvesy

Resolved that the grant request from The Small Business Centre (\$50,000) be funded as was agreed to by Resolution 12 from the September 13, 2023 Council meeting through a service agreement between the County and The Small Business Centre, rather than the grants program.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 40

Moved By: Brian Petrie  
Seconded By: Deb Gilvesy

Resolved that the North Oxford Intercommunity Bus Transit grant be approved, as this item was previously approved by Council for a specific timeframe.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 41

Moved By: Brian Petrie  
Seconded By: David Mayberry

Resolved that Staff bring forward a policy for Council's consideration, prior to 2025 budget deliberations for considering grant requests to the County.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried



RESOLUTION NO. 42

Moved By: Deborah Tait  
Seconded By: Deb Gilvesy

Whereas, County Council recognizes the critical importance of addressing the housing crisis affecting our community and have, in their 2023-2026 Strategic Plan, committed to a goal to *“Invest capital funds and leverage provincial, federal, and partner funding in support of the Master Housing Strategy and Housing for All Plan”*;

And whereas, the draft 2024 Business Plan and Budget proposes a New Initiative – Homelessness Response Strategy (NI 2024-10) to invest \$2.8 million to reduce homelessness in Oxford County through a collaborative approach that will develop low-barrier housing with access to supports to improve the overall health and well-being of individuals and communities;

Therefore be it resolved, that the NI 2024-10 - Homelessness Response Strategy as proposed be removed from the 2024 draft Business Plan and Budget;

And further, that the \$2.3 million of the proposed \$2.8 million investment in NI 2024-10, funded by the County’s remaining Federal Safe Restart Grant, be committed to homelessness initiatives as presented to County Council in 2024 for approval, in keeping with the commitment under the Federal Restart Grant Program;

And further, that the remaining \$500,000 in funding that was proposed for the NI 2024-10 be allocated to the Affordable Housing Reserve for investment in housing related initiatives, subject to Council approval.

DISPOSITION: Motion Not Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 43

Moved By: Deb Gilvesy  
Seconded By: Deborah Tait

Resolved that the proposed position of Community Environmental Sustainability Specialist be removed from the 2024 Business and Budget Plan.

DISPOSITION: A Recorded Vote is requested by Councillor Tait with the following results:

<b>Those in Favour of the Motion</b>	<b>Those Opposed to the Motion</b>
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Deputy Warden Acchione and Councillors Gilvesy, Schaefer and Tait	Warden Ryan and Councillors Martin, Mayberry, Palmer, Petrie, and Peterson
Total 4	Total 6

DISPOSITION: Motion Not Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 44

Moved By: Deb Gilvesy  
Seconded By: Deborah Tait

Whereas the Oxford County Library is currently conducting a two year Mobile Outreach Library Services pilot project;

Therefore it would be reasonable for Council to wait until final results are presented to determine if a service level increase in operating hours is warranted at village branches or if the mobile program effectively offsets the request for extended hours;

Be it resolved that branch hours at Village branches not be extended at this time to allow for the conclusion of the Mobile Outreach Library Pilot project to better inform Council in the decision making process.

DISPOSITION: Motion Not Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 45

Moved By: Jerry Acchione  
Seconded By: Deborah Tait

Be it resolved that the purchase of any battery electric vehicles (BEV) be delayed until such time that there are more BEV options from varying manufacturers to meet the needs of the fleet requirements and provide more cost-effective choices as a result of competitive pricing and range requirements;

And further, that the purchase of BEVs in the 2024 Business Plan and Budget be converted to unleaded vehicles or hybrid electric vehicles (HEV), whichever is more cost effective;

And further, that staff be directed to report back to Council ahead of the 2025 Business Plan and Budget outlining any improvements to electric vehicle options and pricing that could be incorporated into the fleet moving forward.

DISPOSITION: A Recorded Vote is requested by Councillor Tait with the following results:

<b>Those in Favour of the Motion</b>	<b>Those Opposed to the Motion</b>
Deputy Warden Acchione and Councillors Gilvesy and Tait	Warden Ryan and Councillors Martin, Mayberry, Palmer, Petrie, Peterson and Schaefer
Total 3	Total 7

DISPOSITION: Motion Not Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 46

Moved By: Deborah Tait  
Seconded By: Deb Gilvesy

Whereas economical budgets from all levels of government are required to balance the economic hardships and pressures currently impacting taxpayers in Oxford County;

Therefore be it resolved that FTE2024-17 - Paramedic Educator, FTE2024-18 - Emergency Management Coordinator, and FTE2024-19 - Community Paramedicine (Superintendent, Logistics Coordinator) be deferred to the 2025 Business Plan and Budget for consideration.

DISPOSITION: A Recorded Vote is requested by Councillor Tait with the following results:

<b>Those in Favour of the Motion</b>	<b>Those Opposed to the Motion</b>
Deputy Warden Acchione and Councillors Gilvesy and Tait	Warden Ryan and Councillors Martin, Mayberry, Palmer, Petrie, Peterson and Schaefer
Total 3	Total 7

DISPOSITION: Motion Not Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 47

Moved By: Mark Peterson  
Seconded By: Deborah Tait

Resolved that New Initiative \$60,000 OCAB Space Optimization not be approved.

DISPOSITION: Motion Not Carried

Warden Ryan calls for a recess at 12:18 p.m.  
Staff and members of Council return to the Council Chamber at 1:02 p.m.  
All members of Council present.

**RESOLUTION NO. 48**

Moved By: Jim Palmer  
Seconded By: Brian Petrie

Resolved that the recommendations contained in Report CS 2023-51, titled "2024 Business Plans and Budget", be adopted as amended.

DISPOSITION: A Recorded Vote is requested by Councillor Gilvesy with the following results:

<b>Those in Favour of the Motion</b>	<b>Those Opposed to the Motion</b>
Warden Ryan and Councillors Martin, Mayberry, Palmer, Petrie, Peterson and Schaefer	Deputy Warden Acchione and Councillors Gilvesy and Tait
Total 7	Total 3

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

**RESOLUTION NO. 49**

Moved By: Brian Petrie  
Seconded By: Jim Palmer

Resolved that Oxford County Council approves the 2024 Budget with a general purpose levy of \$82,566,456.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

**RESOLUTION NO. 50**

Moved By: Brian Petrie  
Seconded By: Jim Palmer

Resolved that Oxford County Council approves a 2024 special levy for Library purposes in the amount of \$5,223,742 levied against all area municipalities with the exception of the City of Woodstock.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

**RESOLUTION NO. 51**

Moved By: Phil Schaefer  
Seconded By: Jerry Acchione

Resolved that Oxford County Council approves a 2024 special levy to fund a Woodstock Police Services Grant for court security and prisoner transportation services in the amount of \$82,936, levied against all area municipalities with the exception of the City of Woodstock.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 52

Moved By: Phil Schaefer  
Seconded By: Jerry Acchione

Resolved that a by-law to adopt the 2024 water and wastewater rates as set out in Report CS 2023-44 effective January 1, 2024, be presented to Council for enactment at their regular meeting scheduled for January 10, 2024.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 53

Moved By: Phil Schaefer  
Seconded By: Jerry Acchione

Resolved that a by-law to adopt the estimated expenditures for the year 2024 as set out in Report CS 2023-51 be presented to Council for enactment at their regular meeting scheduled for January 10, 2024.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 54

Moved By: Phil Schaefer  
Seconded By: Jerry Acchione

Resolved that staff be authorized to proceed with implementing the incremental full-time equivalent positions as presented in the Full-time Equivalent Plan, as part of the 2024 Preliminary Budget Information and further explained in Report CS (CS) 2023-42.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

**9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

9.1 Pending Items

No discussion takes place regarding the Pending Items list.

9.2 CS 2023-39 - 2024 Business Plans and Budget

Report No. [CS 2023-39](#), titled 2024 Business Plans and Budget was received for discussion purposes by Council on November 8, 2023.

9.3 CS 2023-40 - 2024 Oxford County Library Business Plan and Budget

Report No. [CS 2023-40](#), titled 2024 Oxford County Library Business Plan and Budget was received for discussion purposes by Council on November 8, 2023.

9.4 CS 2023-41 - Court Security Grant Special Tax Levy

Report No. [CS 2023-41](#), titled Court Security Grant Special Tax Levy was received for discussion purposes by Council on November 8, 2023.

9.5 CS (CS) 2023-42

Report No. CS (CS) 2023-42 [Closed Session Document] was received for discussion purposes by Council on November 8, 2023.

**10. MOTIONS**

Motions were heard during deliberation of Report CS 2023-51 titled "2024 Business Plans and Budget" – item 8.3.4.

10.1 Notice of Motion 1

Councillor Martin  
Re: Bike Lanes

Whereas Project Number 930079 Cycling Infrastructure is identified as funded by grants;

And whereas funds necessary to cover the cost of paved shoulder Bike Lanes on OR24 are unlikely to be granted;

Therefore be it resolved, that the 2024 Business Plan and Budget be amended to remove \$500,000 budget request for Project 930079 Cycling Infrastructure.

10.2 Notice of Motion 2

Councillor Martin  
Re: Council Chairs

Therefore be it resolved, that the 2024 Business Plan and Budget be amended to defer the Minor Capital purchase of \$25,000 for FAC - Council Chambers Chairs to the 2025 Business Plan and Budget.

10.3 Notice of Motion 3

Councillor Martin  
Re: Future Oxford Legacy Fund

Whereas Interest Rates administered by CF Oxford on behalf of the Future Oxford Legacy Fund are rising to 9 percent;

And whereas CF Oxford may require a personal guarantee in the form of a second mortgage, thus reducing the lender's risk associated with the loan if a business fails to repay the debt;

And whereas businesses may be placed in a precarious situation if too much capital is consumed paying off high-interest debt;

Therefore be it resolved, that the 2024 Business Plan and Budget be amended to omit the \$100,000 contribution to the Future Oxford Legacy Fund.

10.4 Notice of Motion 4

Councillor Martin  
Re: Stimulus Fund

Whereas County Council took immediate action in April, 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic by developing a \$1.5 million Economic Stimulus Fund in partnership with Community Futures Oxford to assist small and medium-sized businesses in the county to regain their vitality and expedite recovery of our community's overall wellbeing;

And whereas, the two-year commitment has concluded and all of the funds were effectively invested in support of the community as planned and the loan repayment obligations are now flowing back to Community Futures Oxford in accordance with the loan agreements;

Therefore, be it resolved that staff, in collaboration with Community Futures Oxford, facilitate repatriation of the principal investment used for loans as repaid, on the basis of the same proportionate share as the fund contributions between the County and Community Futures Oxford, being 67% and 33% respectively;

And further, that the repatriated funds be credited to the General Reserve, being the source of the original \$1 million in funding, to assist in narrowing the significant shortfall from the reserve's target balance to be available for use in future year's tax stabilization;

And further, that the repatriation of net principal funds be reported to Council as part of the quarterly Business Plan and Budget updates.

10.5 Notice of Motion 5

Councillor Mayberry  
Re: Affordable Housing development

Whereas County Council recognizes the critical importance of addressing the housing crisis affecting our community and have, in their 2023-2026 Strategic Plan, committed to a goal to *“Invest capital funds and leverage provincial, federal, and partner funding in support of the Master Housing Strategy and Housing for All Plan”*;

And whereas, a significant number of residents in our municipality are struggling to find safe, affordable, and stable housing, leading to increased homelessness and housing insecurity;

Therefore be it resolved, that the “base” amount of funding for Human Services affordable housing development be increased to \$4 million annually with an additional \$1 million to be added to the 2024 draft budget, funded by the levy;

And further, that Council and staff increase efforts in actively pursuing matching annual contributions from upper levels of government that are necessary to maximize impact and achieve long-term sustainability in housing security.

10.6 Notice of Motion 6

Councillor Mayberry

Re: 2024 Business Plan and Budget impact on General Levy

Whereas County Council adopted a new 2023-2026 Strategic Plan designed to direct Council decisions and administration in developing policy, business plan and budgets to advance the Strategic Plan goals and objectives;

And whereas staff have presented Council with a draft 2024 Business Plan and Budget that identifies the resources that would be required to deliver the services to achieve the Strategic Plan direction;

And whereas Council and staff acknowledge that the current economic instability and challenges faced by taxpayers due to high inflation needs to be balanced by similar pressures on the County’s budget in addition to significant growth in population adding pressure on levels of service such as housing, long-term care, paramedic services and County infrastructure;

Therefore, be it resolved that Council commits to reducing the amount required from taxation in the draft 2024 budget to provide immediate relief to taxpayers without a direct reduction to the proposed initiatives designed to advance the vision of the 2023-2026 Strategic Plan “working together for a healthy, vibrant and sustainable future”;

And further, that Council direct staff to conduct a thorough review of the capital reserves that fund the County’s Asset Management Plan to identify \$2 million that can be drawn upon, by delaying improvements without unduly jeopardizing the state of good repair, to reduce the draft 2024 budget general levy requirement.

10.7 Notice of Motion 7



Councillor Petrie  
Re: 2024 Grants

Resolved that the following grant requests be denied:

- Oxford Physician Recruitment (\$7,500);
- Oxford Ontario Health Team (\$30,000);
- ISAN Oxford (specific amount not provided); and
- Ingersoll Pipe Band (\$10,000).

And further, that the Agricultural Awards of Excellence be funded through the Council budget as a sponsor of the event;

And further, that:

- Oxford Creative Connections (\$60,000);
- Oxford County Youth Initiatives (\$15,000); and
- Social Planning Council Oxford (\$80,000)

Be funded for the 2024 budget year, but that notice be given that funding will cease after;

And further, that the grant requests from:

- Economic Development (Oxford Connection) (\$50,000); and
- Small Business Centre (\$50,000)

Be funded as was agreed to by Resolution 12 from the September 13, 2023 Council meeting through a service agreement between the County and the two organizations, rather than the grants program;

And further, that the North Oxford Intercommunity Bus Transit grant be approved, as this item was previously approved by Council for a specific timeframe;

And further, that Staff bring forward a policy for Council's consideration, prior to 2025 budget deliberations for considering grant requests to the County.

#### 10.8 Notice of Motion 8

Councillor Tait  
Re: Homelessness Response Strategy

Whereas, County Council recognizes the critical importance of addressing the housing crisis affecting our community and have, in their 2023-2026 Strategic Plan, committed to a goal to *“Invest capital funds and leverage provincial, federal, and partner funding in support of the Master Housing Strategy and Housing for All Plan”*;

And whereas, the draft 2024 Business Plan and Budget proposes a New Initiative – Homelessness Response Strategy (NI 2024-10) to invest \$2.8 million to reduce homelessness in Oxford County through a collaborative approach that will develop low-barrier housing with access to supports to improve the overall health and well-being of individuals and communities;

Therefore be it resolved, that the NI 2024-10 - Homelessness Response Strategy as proposed be removed from the 2024 draft Business Plan and Budget;

And further, that the \$2.3 million of the proposed \$2.8 million investment in NI 2024-10, funded by the County's remaining Federal Safe Restart Grant, be committed to homelessness initiatives as presented to County Council in 2024 for approval, in keeping with the commitment under the Federal Restart Grant Program;

And further, that the remaining \$500,000 in funding that was proposed for the NI 2024-10 be allocated to the Affordable Housing Reserve for investment in housing related initiatives, subject to Council approval.

10.9 Notice of Motion 9

Councillor Gilvesy

Re: Community Environmental Sustainability Specialist

Resolved that the proposed position of Community Environmental Sustainability Specialist be removed from the 2024 Business and Budget Plan.

10.10 Notice of Motion 10

Councillor Gilvesy

Re: Village Library Branch Hours

Whereas the Oxford County Library is currently conducting a two year Mobile Outreach Library Services pilot project.

Therefore it would be reasonable for Council to wait until final results are presented to determine if a service level increase in operating hours is warranted at village branches or if the mobile program effectively offsets the request for extended hours.

Be it resolved that branch hours at Village branches not be extended at this time to allow for the conclusion of the Mobile Outreach Library Pilot project to better inform Council in the decision making process.

10.11 Notice of Motion 11

Deputy Warden Acchione

Re: Battery Electric Vehicles

Be it resolved that the purchase of any battery electric vehicles (BEV) be delayed until such time that there are more BEV options from varying manufacturers to meet the needs of the fleet requirements and provide more cost-effective choices as a result of competitive pricing and range requirements;

And further, that the purchase of BEVs in the 2024 Business Plan and Budget be converted to unleaded vehicles or hybrid electric vehicles (HEV), whichever is more cost effective;

And further, that staff be directed to report back to Council ahead of the 2025 Business Plan and Budget outlining any improvements to electric vehicle options and pricing that could be incorporated into the fleet moving forward.

10.12 Notice of Motion 12

Councillor Tait  
Re: Paramedic Services FTE's

Whereas economical budgets from all levels of government are required to balance the economic hardships and pressures currently impacting taxpayers in Oxford County;

Therefore be it resolved that FTE2024-17 - Paramedic Educator, FTE2024-18 - Emergency Management Coordinator, and FTE2024-19 - Community Paramedicine (Superintendent, Logistics Coordinator) be deferred to the 2025 Business Plan and Budget for consideration.

10.13 Notice of Motion 13

Councillor Peterson  
Re: Space Optimization

Resolved that New Initiative \$60,000 OCAB Space Optimization not be approved.

**11. NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

11.1 Election of Deputy Warden

RESOLUTION NO. 55

Moved By: Jerry Acchione  
Seconded By: Jim Palmer

Resolved that Council proceed to elect a Deputy Warden in accordance with Section 5 of Oxford County Procedure By-law No. 6268-2020 as amended and Resolution No. 3 dated November 23, 2022 resolving that the term of office for the position of Deputy Warden be one year with subsequent nomination dates to occur on December 13, 2023, December 11, 2024 and December 10, 2025.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 56

Moved By: Brian Petrie  
Seconded By: Deborah Tait

Resolved that Mark Peterson be nominated for the position of Deputy Warden for the term 2024.

RESOLUTION NO. 57

Moved By: Jerry Acchione  
Seconded By: Jim Palmer

Resolved that nominations for the Office of Deputy Warden be closed.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

Warden Ryan declares Councillor Mark Peterson Deputy Warden Elect for the 2024 term.

**12. ENQUIRIES**

NIL

**13. CLOSED SESSION**

NIL

**14. CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CLOSED SESSION**

NIL

**15. BY-LAWS**

15.1 By-law No. 6596-2023

Being a By-law to close the portion of the open road allowance legally described as Part Road Allowance between Lots 14 & 15 Concession 11 Dereham, designated as Part 2, Plan 41R-10448; South-West Oxford, County of Oxford; being Part of PIN 00025-0702 (LT).

15.2 By-law No. 6597-2023

Being a By-law to authorize the borrowing of money to meet current expenditures of the Council of the County of Oxford (the "Municipality").

15.3 By-law No. 6598-2023

Being a By-law to further amend By-law No. 6507-2023, passed on February 8, 2023, being a By-law to remove certain lands from Part Lot Control.

15.4 By-law No. 6599-2023

Being a By-law to amend By-law No. 3741-98 by establishing an all-way stop

condition at the intersection of Oxford Road 7 and North Town Line in the Town of Ingersoll.

15.5 By-law No. 6600-2023  
Being a By-law to amend Schedules “C” and “D” of By-law 5725-2015, as amended, to provide for speed limits on County Roads.

15.6 By-law No. 6601-2023  
Being a By-law to confirm all actions and proceedings of the Council of the County of Oxford at the meeting at which this By-law is passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 58

Moved By: Deb Gilvesy  
Seconded By: Deborah Tait

Resolved that the following By-laws be read a first and second time: 6596-2023 to 6601-2023 inclusive.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 59

Moved By: Deb Gilvesy  
Seconded By: Deborah Tait

Resolved that the following By-laws be given a third and final reading: 6596-2023 to 6601-2023 inclusive.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

RESOLUTION NO. 60

Moved By: Mark Peterson  
Seconded By: David Mayberry

Resolved that the Council meeting of December 13, 2023 be adjourned until the next meeting scheduled for January 10, 2024.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried at 1:37 p.m.

Minutes adopted on \_\_\_\_\_ by Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
WARDEN

\_\_\_\_\_  
CLERK