

**OXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL  
MINUTES**

**May 8, 2024**

Council Present	Deputy Warden Mark Peterson Councillor Jerry Acchione Councillor Deb Gilvesy Alternate Councillor Connie Lauder Councillor Bernia Martin Councillor David Mayberry Councillor Jim Palmer Councillor Brian Petrie Councillor Phil Schaefer
Council Absent	Warden Marcus Ryan Councillor Deborah Tait
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 G. Hough, Director of Community Planning 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 eighth day of May 2024, in the Council Chamber, County Administration Building, Woodstock at 9:30 a.m. with Deputy Warden Peterson in the chair.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

RESOLUTION NO. 1

Moved By: David Mayberry

Seconded By: Connie Lauder

Resolved that the agenda be approved.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

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

- 3.1 Alternate Councillor Connie Lauder discloses a Pecuniary Interest regarding item 8.2.1 HS 2024-05 - Housing Provider Strategy for End of Mortgage/Agreement as she is a member of the Woodstock Non-Profit Board for the Canterbury, Kent and Nellis apartments.

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

- 4.1 April 24, 2024

RESOLUTION NO. 2

Moved By: David Mayberry

Seconded By: Connie Lauder

Resolved that the Council Minutes of April 24, 2024 be adopted.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

**5. PUBLIC MEETINGS**

- 5.1 Resolution to go into a Public Meeting pursuant to the Development Charges Act

RESOLUTION NO. 3

Moved By: Connie Lauder

Seconded By: Deb Gilvesy

Resolved that Council rise and go into a Public Meeting pursuant to Section 12 of the Development Charges Act 1997, as amended, to consider the County of Oxford's 2024 Development Charges Background Study and proposed Development Charges By-law, and that the Deputy Warden chair the Public Meeting.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried at 9:32 a.m.

- 5.1.1 County of Oxford 2024 Development Charges

Background Study and Proposed Development Charges By-law for the County-wide and eleven Area-Specific Water and Wastewater Development Charges.

Sean-Michael Stephen of Watson and Associates Economists Ltd. comes forward and proceeds through a presentation, which formed part of the agenda.

The Chair opens the meeting to comments and questions from members of Council. S. Stephens responds to comments and questions from Councillor Gilvesy.

The Chair opens the meeting to comments and questions from members of the public.

Oxford County resident Peter Wright joins the meeting in the Council Chamber and expresses concern over the growth forecast as contained within the presentation, continuing residential and industrial growth, and the loss of farmland.

Oxford County Builder John Day joins the meeting in the Council Chamber and expresses concern over the high Development Charge fees home builders are facing in Oxford County, and how that impacts the affordability of housing. J. Day also expresses concern with the implementation of water and wastewater services and their impacts on affordability, suggesting a phased-in approach and asking that Council consider increasing costs when necessary, but to do so reasonably.

Oxford County resident Wendy Martin joins the meeting in the Council Chamber and expresses concern over the loss of the County's farmland in favour of industrial land and additional housing. W. Martin also expresses concern over waste management and water quality as the community continues to grow.

Oxford County resident Martin Driese joins the meeting in the Council Chamber and expresses concern over the loss of the County's farmland, adding that many areas of the province do not have ideal conditions for farming and suggests they be used as industrial land, keeping prime Oxford County lands as agricultural lands.

Oxford County resident Sheelagh Wall joins the meeting in the Council Chamber and expresses concern over the amount of consideration that large corporations are given as opposed to small companies, as well as to the number of people moving into the area from bigger cities, forcing out local residents, adding that residents who are interested in purchasing farmland or agricultural lands are being bought out by big industrial corporations. In closing, S. Wall expresses concern over the lack of rain collection, soil composting and green waste collection, and recommends that all of these initiatives be considered.

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

## 5.2 Resolution to adjourn the Public Meeting

### RESOLUTION NO. 4

Moved By: Connie Lauder  
Seconded By: Deb Gilvesy

Resolved that Council adjourn the public meeting and reconvene as Oxford County Council with the Deputy Warden in the chair.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried at 10:23 a.m.

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

### **6.1 Joanna Taylor and Robbie Savage**

Re: Concerns with Speeding on Oxford County Roads in the Village of Drumbo

Drumbo residents Joanna Taylor and Robbie Savage join the meeting in the Council Chamber and express concern with speeding on Oxford County roads in the village of Drumbo. The presenters indicate that since the speed limits on the four Oxford County roads that lead into Drumbo were moved from their previous locations to areas adjacent to the built-up areas of the village in July of 2023, residents are seriously concerned and frustrated. As a result, over one hundred residents were eager to add their names to a petition calling for the County to move the current 80km/h zones further away from the built up areas. The residents who signed the petition cited their frustration regarding the numerous, daily speed infractions that are occurring on the part of inbound and outbound drivers, especially commercial haulers. Presenters also expressed anxiety about the safety of their children playing on sidewalks, for whom distracted drivers pose a deadly threat, adding that the petitioners are anxious for their concerns to be addressed as quickly as possible before the school year ends in June, at which time and throughout the summer months, children playing outside will have greater exposure to reckless drivers who pose a grave risk to their lives. In addition to speed infractions, the presenters spoke of several incidents of distracted driving and suspected impaired driving. In closing, the presenters request that the speed limits be moved back to their previous locations to allow drivers time to slow down before entering the village.

Deputy Warden Peterson opens the meeting to comments and questions from members of Council. The presenters respond to comments and questions from Councillors Martin, Mayberry, Palmer, Petrie and Schaefer.

### RESOLUTION NO. 5

Moved By: Deb Gilvesy  
Seconded By: Bernia Martin

Resolved that the information provided in Delegation 6.1 be received and considered with Correspondence Item 7.1 on the Open meeting Agenda of May 8, 2024.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

**7. CONSIDERATION OF CORRESPONDENCE**

- 7.1 Township of Blandford-Blenheim  
April 30, 2024  
Re: Concerns with Speeding on Oxford County Roads in the Village of Drumbo

RESOLUTION NO. 6

Moved By: David Mayberry  
Seconded By: Connie Lauder

Resolved that Correspondence Item 7.1 on the Open meeting Agenda of May 8, 2024 be received.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

- 7.2 Township of Blandford-Blenheim  
April 30, 2024  
Re: Delegation Regarding Concerns with Wind Turbines

- 7.3 Grand River Conservation Authority  
April 29, 2024  
Re: Grand River Conservation Authority's Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy – Consultation Period

RESOLUTION NO. 7

Moved By: Deb Gilvesy  
Seconded By: Bernia Martin

Resolved that Correspondence Items 7.2 and 7.3 on the Open meeting Agenda of May 8, 2024 be received.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

- 7.4 Municipality of Huron Shores  
April 12, 2024  
Re: Urging the Government to Promptly Resume Assessment Cycle

RESOLUTION NO. 8

Moved By: Bernia Martin  
Seconded By: Phil Schaefer

Resolved that Oxford County Council acknowledges receipt of Correspondence item 7.4 on the Open meeting agenda of May 8, 2024, be received;

And further, considering the Provincial Government's ongoing review of Ontario's property tax and assessment system, aimed at fostering a competitive business environment, improving property assessment accuracy and stability, and enhancing governance and accountability within MPAC, and recognizing the suspension of reassessed property values implementation since 2020 to ensure stability amid economic challenges for property owners; that the Warden write to the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Finance requesting that the County of Oxford be included in the consultation process.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

## **8. REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS**

### **8.1 COMMUNITY PLANNING**

#### **8.1.1 CP 2024-147 - Bill 185 and Provincial Planning Statement**

##### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That the Director of Community Planning submit comments on behalf of the County in response to the Provincial consultations on Bill 185 (Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act) and the updated Provincial Planning Statement, as generally outlined in Report CP 2024-147;
2. And further, that Report CP 2024-147 be circulated to the Area Municipalities for information.

##### **RESOLUTION NO. 9**

Moved By: Bernia Martin

Seconded By: Phil Schaefer

Resolved that the recommendations contained in Report CP 2024-147, titled "Bill 185 and Provincial Planning Statement", be adopted.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

### **8.2 HUMAN SERVICES**

#### **8.2.1 HS 2024-05 - Housing Provider Strategy for End of Mortgage/Agreement**

##### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That the Strategy for End of Mortgage / Agreement, provided as Attachment 1 of Report HS 2024-05, be approved, subject to minor modifications authorized by the Director of Human Services, provided they support the long-term sustainability of the

community housing portfolio and do not commit to financial obligations that will impact the County's annual budget;

2. And further, that the Director of Human Services, be authorized to enter into new service agreements with housing providers for projects under the *Housing Services Act*, 2011, that reach End of Mortgage / Agreement (EOM/EOA) and execute any ancillary agreements to support the ongoing affordability and long-term sustainability of such projects, in accordance with annual budget commitments.

Alternate Councillor Lauder leaves the Council Chamber at 11:07 a.m.

RESOLUTION NO. 10

Moved By: Phil Schaefer

Seconded By: Jerry Acchione

Resolved that the recommendations contained in Report HS 2024-05, titled "Housing Provider Strategy for End of Mortgage/Agreement", be adopted.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

Alternate Councillor Lauder returns to the Council Chamber at 11:19 a.m.

8.3 CORPORATE SERVICES

8.3.1 CS 2024-14 - Internal Debt Financing – Blandford-Blenheim

RECOMMENDATION

1. That By-law No. 6631-2024, being a by-law to authorize the borrowing of funds in the amount of \$142,797.00 from the Landfill and Waste Diversion Reserve Fund, for the purposes of financing capital works associated with municipal drains authorized by Township of Blandford-Blenheim by-laws, be presented to Council for enactment.

RESOLUTION NO. 11

Moved By: Phil Schaefer

Seconded By: Jerry Acchione

Resolved that the recommendation contained in Report CS 2024-14, titled "Internal Debt Financing – Blandford-Blenheim", be adopted.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

8.3.2 CS 2024-15 - Internal Debt Financing – South-West Oxford

RECOMMENDATION

1. That By-law No. 6632-2024, being a by-law to authorize the borrowing of funds in the amount of \$61,139.00 from the Landfill and Waste Diversion Reserve Fund, for the purposes of financing capital works associated with municipal drains authorized by Township of South-West Oxford by-laws, be presented to Council for enactment.

RESOLUTION NO. 12

Moved By: Jerry Acchione

Seconded By: Jim Palmer

Resolved that the recommendation contained in Report CS 2024-15, titled "Internal Debt Financing – South-West Oxford", be adopted.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

**9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

9.1 Pending Items

No discussion takes place regarding the Pending Items list.

**10. MOTIONS**

NIL

**11. NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

NIL

**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. 6631-2024

Being a by-law to authorize the borrowing upon reserve funds in the amount of

\$142,797.00 for the purposes of The Corporation of the Township of Blandford-Blenheim.

- 15.2 By-law No. 6632-2024  
Being a by-law to authorize the borrowing upon reserve funds in the amount of \$61,139.00 for the purposes of The Corporation of the Township of South-West Oxford.
- 15.3 By-law No. 6633-2024  
Being a By-Law to remove certain lands from Part Lot Control.
- 15.4 By-law No. 6634-2024  
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. 13

Moved By: Jerry Acchione  
Seconded By: Jim Palmer

Resolved that the following by-laws be given a first and second reading: 6631-2024 to 6634-2024 inclusive.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 14

Moved By: Jerry Acchione  
Seconded By: Jim Palmer

Resolved that the following by-laws be given a third and final reading: 6631-2024 to 6634-2024 inclusive.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

RESOLUTION NO. 15

Moved By: Brian Petrie  
Seconded By: David Mayberry

Resolved that the Council meeting of May 8, 2024 be adjourned until the next meeting scheduled for May 8, 2024 11:45 a.m.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried at 11:22 a.m.

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

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WARDEN

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CLERK