

The regular meeting of Council was held on March 6, 2019, with all members of Council present, except Councillor Forbes.

### **Delegations**

Bernia Wheaton of Rural Oxford Economic Development Corporation was present for Council's discussion surrounding a surcharge of 2% of the county tax levied in 2019 and 2020 being added to the Oxford County Council Budget to fund additional fibre optic installation through additional funding of the SWIFT program commonly known as SWIFT Plus. Since the vast majority of the SWIFT program is to be installed in rural and remote areas, the five rural municipalities are required to apply a two percent of tax levy surcharge to their respective budgets both years if they want to be eligible to access the county funds raised by this surcharge. The County contribution will be made available to the five rural lower tiers in the same percentage as each contributes to the additional funding. Council endorsed this proposition and a 2% levy surcharge will be applied in 2019.

James Turple appeared before Council to request permission to host the Ford Invasion Car Show at North Park and to have permission for food trucks at the event. Council approved both requests.

### **Public Meetings**

#### **1991120 Ontario Ltd. (Doug Granger), Minor Variance Application, 243 Dundas Street**

The applicant has requested relief from the provisions of **Section 16.2 – Zone Provisions of the Highway Commercial Zone (HC)** as follows:

1. Reduce the minimum required rear yard depth from 10 m (32.8 ft) to 1.0 m (3.28 ft);
2. Reduce the minimum required interior side yard width from 5 m (16.4 ft) to 1.0 m (3.28 ft)
3. Increase the maximum permitted lot coverage for all buildings from 25% to 28%

The variances are requested to construction of a new accessory building for storage related to the existing gas station. The subject property is described as Part Lot 21, Concession 1 (North Dorchester); Part 1, Reference Plan 41R-6297 (North Dorchester), The lands are located on the south side of Dundas Street, between Stanley Street and Middleton Street and are known municipally as 243 Dundas Street, in the Village of Thamesford. Council sitting as the Committee of Adjustment approved the application.

### **Department Reports**

#### **Fire**

Zorra Fire & Emergency Services responded to five calls in February totalling 20 for 2019. For the same period in 2018, ZF&ES responded to 26 calls.

#### **Recreation**

The halls and multi-use rooms continue to see regular use from reoccurring users: Sportball, kickboxing, carpet bowling, Friendship Club and Lions meetings. In addition to business meetings and youth dances, new outside programs, such as Hungarian Cooking

Classes, are also starting to utilize the kitchen facilities. Township also provided space this month for Southwestern Public health to facilitate testing for those who are required to complete the regulated Food Safety Handling training. Hall rentals have included annual events such as Camp Tanner's Dinner & Auction and the Embro Zorra Agricultural Society's Dinner Theatre production of 'Stag & Doe'.

### Building and Drainage

The Building Department issued a total of four permits in February and a total of ten for this year. During the same period in 2018, there were 19 permits issued. One new housing permit was issued in February for a total of four for the year. During the same period in 2018, there were seven new housing starts. To date, the Township has collected \$12,314 in building permit fees compared to \$26,254 for the same period in 2018.

### Public Works

On February 14-18, 2019, the sand/salt sheds were refilled with winter abrasive materials. 809 tonnes of salt and 1,021 tonnes of sand were stockpiled in Embro while 118 tonnes of salt and 1,385 tonnes were stockpiled in Kintore. Winter totals are now 510 tonnes of salt and 4,609 tonnes of sand.

### Finance

No reports.

### Corporate Services

#### Senior & Volunteer of Year Awards

Since 2011, the Township has been awarding a Senior of the Year through the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration. The Township wishes to continue with the award as well as the Volunteer of the Year award which began in 2018. The Township is now seeking nominations for both awards and forms are available on the Township website. Deadline to submit nominations is April 1, 2019.

### Insurance Renewal

Council approved renewal of the 2019/2020 insurance program at a cost of \$188,041. There was a 4.93% increase from the expiring 2018/2019 premium.

### Decoy Car Project

Zorra Community Policing Committee supported a proposal for the Township to implement a program whereby a retired police cruiser would act as a decoy vehicle with the intended goal of speed reduction. Council approved a pilot project for 2019.

### Development Charges

A summary of a draft Development Charges Background Study was considered by Council. The proposed charge for a dwelling unit is \$4,188. The draft report will be issued on April 11, 2019, and a public meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2019.

### Next Meeting

The next Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 20, 2019, at 6:00 pm.