

County Council Summary

October 28, 2024

Special Meeting of County Council

Key highlights

A meeting was held October 28, 2024 to discuss the proposed changes to the County of Renfrew Procedural By-law. The County's Asset Management Plan and Long-term Financial Plan were also discussed, highlighted by a proposed 2025 Capital Advancement Plan.

The full [Special Meeting Council Package](#) can be found on our website. View the meeting on YouTube: [Special meeting](#) Link.

October 30, 2024

Below you will find highlights of the County of Renfrew County Council meeting October 30, 2024.

Please note that this summary does not constitute the official record of the meeting and approved minutes should be consulted for that purpose.

The full [October County Council package](#) can be found on our website.

[October meeting](#) YouTube link.

Warden's Address

Key highlights

During the month of October, Warden Peter Emon attended 35 meetings on County business:

- On October 1 and 2, the Warden and senior staff attended the AMO Knowledge Exchange on Community and Social Housing. He felt it was a valuable meeting for conversations and presentations regarding insights and actions to advance and grow Ontario's community and supportive housing, with over 200 municipal, Indigenous and sector leaders in attendance.
- The County hosted the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus Board Directors meeting at Calabogie Peaks Resort, October 17 and 18. The County of Renfrew Paramedics presented on our paramedic services in a rural community, as well as highlighting the RCVTAC and Mesa initiatives.
- On October 25, the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus participated in the Western Ontario Wardens' Conference. This event provided a valuable opportunity to exchange insights and support efforts aimed at enhancing rural communities across Ontario and advocating for improvements in the two regions.

Delegations

- Jason Hagan, Program Manager, and Keith Taylor Chief Investment Officer, from One Investments, overviewed the not-for-profit organization which has been dedicated to serving the investment needs of the Ontario municipal sector for more than 30 years.
- Jennifer White, Executive Director, Family and Children’s Services of Renfrew County, gave an update on the services provided by the child welfare agency, and highlighted the funding challenges the organization is currently facing.

Development & Property Committee

Presented by: James Brose, Chair

- An increasing number of issues are arising on forested land owned by the County of Renfrew. With the recently revised By-law to Prohibit Certain Activities on County of Renfrew-Owned Forests, the activities not permitted are clear and fines have been increased, but significant resources are needed to enforce this By-law.
New/ongoing and unresolved major issues in 2024 include, frequent dumping of garbage, bonfires (out of control), encroachments and uncertainty about legal access at Centennial Lake Tract.
Ontario Provincial Police and municipal fire services have been enlisted in dumping, fires and trespassing where there is a risk of encountering volatile perpetrators with varying levels of success. The extent of many of these issues is beyond the capacity of staff and additional information (e.g. surveys) is needed before encroachments can be fully dealt with. To date, letters have been sent to request encroachments be rectified.
- County Council directed staff to issue a Request for Proposal for architectural services for the design of a paramedic base within the Pembroke area. The County of Renfrew currently leases the paramedic building at the Pembroke Regional Hospital, with the lease set to expire on September 30, 2025.
- County staff are currently working to identify the costs associated with transitioning the Esri Small Local Government License Agreement (ELA) to a post-term solution and will be working with local municipalities on the potential budget impacts in 2025.

Finance & Administration Committee

Presented by: Jennifer Murphy, Chair

- The County of Renfrew hosted an Open House and Career Fair on Monday, October 21, 2024 as part of Local Government Week. This dynamic event was attended by over 100 visitors and showcased the many roles within local government and offered a unique opportunity to explore careers in public service. From interactive booths and information sessions to a "Touch a Truck" exhibit featuring municipal vehicles, there was something for everyone. Attendees met professionals from various departments, learned about the vital services provided, and discovered pathways to rewarding careers. The event was targeted to students, job seekers, staff and family, and community members, to offer an engaging way to connect with local government.

- County Council considers the increased costs of OPP billing as a matter of shared advocacy on behalf of the local municipalities. The Finance and Administration Committee acknowledged ongoing discussions and concerns among all local municipalities related to the increased OPP billing costs. While the County of Renfrew is not directly impacted it was brought forward for further discussion. The issue will further be raised with the ROMA Board, Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Health Committee

Presented by: Michael Donohue, Chair

- Since March 2024, Mesa Paramedic outreach teams, with the County of Renfrew's Emergency Services Department, have had approximately 1,480 encounters with individuals. Of these encounters, approximately 1,257 occurred in the City of Pembroke; 1,229 were with an individual who identified as experiencing homelessness, addictions, and mental health challenges; 96 were follow-ups post 911 activation and 282 resulted in 911 and emergency department diversions.
Mesa continues to be a collaborative approach between the Paramedic Service, Caseworkers from Community Mental Health (Pembroke Regional Hospital), Addictions (Mackay Manor, and Renfrew Victoria Hospital), and the Community Services Department with referrals flowing through the partners.
- As a participating member of the Collaborative Project to Sustain a Palliative Approach to Care in Long-Term Care, the Bonnechere Manor team was recently awarded a Certificate of Achievement in recognition of efforts undertaken to integrate a palliative approach to care. The project focuses on strategies to improve resident quality of life; support families during the illness of their loved ones and during bereavement; provide team members support and education; and support the continuous improvement of palliative care.

Community Services Committee

Presented by: Anne Giardini, Chair

- County Council passed a resolution in relation to Child Welfare Funding, directing the County of Renfrew and the City of Pembroke to formally request the Province of Ontario to consult with and collaborate with Child Welfare agencies to develop an updated and equitable Child Welfare funding formula. The resolution further asks that the newly developed funding formula be structured to ensure an equitable and proportionate distribution that meets the diverse, unique, individual, and complex needs of the communities and populations served and directs the Warden of the County of Renfrew and the Mayor of the City of Pembroke to write a letter to the Honourable Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services. This resolution be shared with Premier Doug Ford, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke MPP John Yakabuski, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC), Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus (EOMC), Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies (OACAS), and local municipalities.
- County Council adopted a By-law to approve a two-year collective agreement between the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 4425, the Renfrew County Housing Corporation and the County of Renfrew for the term January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025. The agreement was ratified by the CUPE membership on October 28, 2024.

Operations Committee

Presented by: Glenn Doncaster, Chair

- County Council passed a resolution to table discussion on Development Charges, and continue to utilize Corporate Policy GA-14, Infrastructure Expansion, and the Growth Reserve resolution approved by County Council on May 16, 2024, to address growth related infrastructure pressures.
- County Council discussed staff direction from the Operations Committee to explore the options of a Dual-Purpose Transit Solution, including convening a meeting amongst all local and regional suppliers of transit options. This includes contacting the appropriate Ministries to determine funding that may be available and developing terms of reference for a Transit Solution Ad-Hoc Committee in order to address a critical gap in rural regional transit.
- County Council County passed a resolution to incorporate the development of Recreational Trails into the Capital Asset Management Plan going forward and that an annual Capital Budget be developed based on an approved Asset Management Plan for Recreational Trails.
- County Council adopted a By-law to govern the use of the County of Renfrew Recreational Trails. Staff has been in consultation with the Ministry of the Attorney General with regards to having fines implemented and has received some feedback with regards to additional wording that is required to implement the fee structure.
- County Council adopted a By-law to authorize speed limits on County Roads in order to reinstate the speed limit of 80 km/h on a section of County Road 512 (Foymount Road) following the completion of reconstruction. The posted speed limit on County Road 512 (Foymount Road), from civic address 3467 Foymount Road to Lake Clear Road, was reduced to 60km/h prior to reconstruction of the roadway due to the poor condition of this section of road.
- County Council approved a contract for the supply of one tandem truck and plow unit as submitted by Viking Cives Ltd., Mount Forest, Ontario, in the amount of \$451,130, plus applicable taxes.

Additional Information

Craig Kelley, Chief Administrative Officer/Deputy Clerk

613-735-7288