

County Council Summary

September 25, 2024

Below you will find highlights of the County of Renfrew County Council meeting September 25, 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 [September County Council package](#) can be found on our website.

[September](#) meeting YouTube link.

Warden's Address

Key highlights

- Warden Peter Emon congratulated former Warden Bob Sweet on receiving the Upper Ottawa Valley Chamber of Commerce Lifetime Achievement Award at the annual gala on September 28 in recognition of his contributions to the business world. The event will acknowledge the decades that Mr. Sweet dedicated to fostering economic growth and commitment to the Petawawa and County of Renfrew community.
- On behalf of Council, the Warden expressed sincere condolences to the Lentz family on the passing of Norman Lentz, on September 21. He noted Mr. Lentz proudly served in municipal politics from 1967-2014.

During the month of September, Warden Peter Emon attended 17 meetings on County business:

- From September 5-7, along with Paramedic Service Chief Michael Nolan, he convened with 90 leaders from across the country in Timmins to discuss the substance use crisis in small communities and villages. The purpose of this event was to start the conversation about creating guidelines and templates, for policies and strategies related to treatment, harm reduction, recovery, prevention, and enforcement. These guidelines and templates when developed could and may be applied locally for municipalities, especially in small and rural settings, to assist in receiving government support.
- The Ontario East Municipal Conference from September 11-13 in Ottawa, noting the sessions were well organized and provided information on a diverse number of topics including economic development and housing; special events and perilous partnerships; accelerating bio-based manufacturing in Canadian municipalities; enabling stickiness with youth and the youth population; workforce development – programs and services supporting business growth and attraction.
- The grand opening of the Men's Shed in McNab/Braeside. The Men's Shed aims to improve the mental and physical health of members through activities men will actually join, in this case through camaraderie while completing woodworking projects.
- The grand opening of the Whitewater Senior Active Living Centre, which is located in the former Ross Township office.

Announcements

- The County of Renfrew will be launching the Warden's Community Service Awards early next month. These awards provide an opportunity to recognize individuals, not-for-profit organizations and for-profit businesses who go above and beyond in their communities. Nominations will be open in early October so watch for additional information. We look forward to presenting these awards at the November session of County Council.

Delegations

- Allison Miller, Project Officer with the Labour Market Group of Renfrew and Lanark, provided an overview of the organization, a labour market update for Renfrew County and she highlighted the Labour Market Planning Session with guest speaker David Colletto on October 10 and encouraged elected officials and economic development partners to attend to be part of the discussion.
- Ayden Townsend of Roth IAMS presented the Building Conditions Assessment report following an assessment of the assets within the Renfrew County Housing Corporation portfolio. The report set out capital renewal costs required within the housing portfolio and encouraged a longer-term strategic plan to guide how to invest in or divest assets over the next 20 to 30 years be developed.
- Aimee Bailey of Circle of Turtle Lodge and others were on hand for a Truth and Reconciliation recognition event at the Noojimokamig [new-JIH-mah GAH-mig] Garden, which included a tobacco ceremony for members of County Council and County staff. Participants were asked to offer prayers to the Creator and show their respect for the children who did not make it home from Residential Schools ahead of the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation on September 30. An orange flag was raised outside the County Administration Building as part of the ceremony and it will be lowered on September 30 to honour the lives lost.

Operations Committee

Presented by: Glenn Doncaster, Chair

- County Council directed staff to proceed with the purchase and installation of flashing beacon lights for the stop signs at the intersection of County Road 2 (White Lake Road), County Road 52 (Burnstown Road), Point Road and Bellamy Road in the hamlet of White Lake in the Township of McNab/Braeside. The cost will be shared 50/50 with the Township of McNab/Braeside per County of Renfrew Policy for Enhanced Traffic Warning Devices.
- County Council directed staff to proceed with submitting an application for funding under the \$400 million Housing-Enabling Core Servicing stream, recently announced by the Province of Ontario, for the reconstruction of County Road 51 (Petawawa Boulevard), County 26 (Doran Road), Hilda Street and Mohns Avenue to a roundabout intersection, in the Town of Petawawa.
- County Council approved a contract as submitted by Planmac Engineering Incorporated, Mississauga, Ontario, in the amount of \$196,831, plus applicable taxes, for Engineering Services for the reconstruction of County Structure B053 (Constant Creek Bridge), located on Ferguson Lake Road, approximately 5.3 km north of County Road 508 (Calabogie Road), Township of Greater Madawaska.

- County Council adopted a By-law to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Renfrew and the Townships of Laurentian Valley and Whitewater Region for the sale of certain properties formerly owned by CN Rail. It is proposed that this property will become part of the County of Renfrew's recreational trail system.
- County Council approved a Road Access Agreement between 2833868 Ontario Inc., on County Road 37 (Murphy Road), on Part of Lot 18, Concession 7, in the geographic Township of Petawawa, Town of Petawawa, County of Renfrew. The owners have made application for the severance of two new lots fronting onto Murphy Road (County Road 37). The creation of the new lots has been granted on the condition that the applicant enters into an agreement with the County of Renfrew regarding access to County Road 37 due to restrictions in entrance spacing and sight-line requirements.

Community Services Committee

Presented by: Anne Giardini, Chair

- Council reviewed the memorandum with the Early Years and Child Care Division of the Ministry of Education detailing information about the implementation of a new cost-based approach to Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) funding, effective January 1, 2025. The County of Renfrew has been lobbying for more CWELCC spaces, as it has not received any additional spaces in 2025 or 2026. Chair Giardini noted three centres in Renfrew County are at risk of closure if the County is not allocated more spaces so these centres are allowed to enroll in CWELCC to receive provincial funding. This memorandum has impact on non-CWELCC centres.
- The Renfrew County Housing Corporation engaged OrgCode Consulting to develop a comprehensive 10-Year Homelessness and Housing Plan. The plan is intended to guide the development of future service pathways for homelessness and housing supports, with strategies aimed at achieving the following goals:
 - Provide Housing – secure stable housing - with supports if needed - for individuals without homes.
 - Prevent Future Homelessness – identify evidence-informed strategies to assist people in retaining their current housing to prevent future homelessness.
 - Expand Housing Options – increase the availability of diverse housing options, particularly those with support services.
 - Enhance the Homelessness Response System – improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the overall system for addressing housing crises and homelessness.
- County Council approved the County of Renfrew taking a leadership role with respect to the operations of a Warming Centre located in the City of Pembroke for the 2024/2025 winter season; with some conditions:
 - The Warming Centre ad-hoc committee be again stood up as the oversight committee, with a review of the Terms of Reference to determine if updates are required;
 - The municipalities that participated in last year's Warming Centre model contribute funding equal to 2023/2024 amounts;
 - That staff be directed to work with the City of Pembroke on an appropriate location that provides for a more cohesive and effective delivery of services;
 - The City of Pembroke initiates the appropriate steps with respect to their zoning by-law to allow flexibility on placement of a Warming Centre;

- Staff be directed to apply the allocated funds from the Homelessness Prevention Program funding envelope toward this initiative to a maximum of \$100,000.

The County of Renfrew worked with Mesa community partners in Mental Health, Addiction and Treatment, to identify a lead applicant for a Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hub in Renfrew County. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing/Ministry of Health recently announced the Province of Ontario was investing up to \$378 million over four years in support of a Demonstration Project that will create 10 new Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hubs. A full proposal was submitted by the September 20, 2024 deadline, naming the County of Renfrew and Pembroke Regional Hospital as co-applicants for this funding.

Development & Property Committee

Presented by: James Brose, Chair

- Registration is now open for the [Municipal Agriculture Economic Development & Planning Forum](#) (MAEDPF) being held October 22-24, 2024, in Pembroke and co-hosted by the County of Renfrew and Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness. The event kicks off with a welcome reception the evening of October 22; with a bus tour to various agricultural sites, farm-to-fork lunch and dinner on October 23; and conference day featuring speakers and presentations on October 24. Early-bird pricing is in effect until September 29, and includes a variety of pricing options. The MAEDPF is open to municipal and First Nations economic development and planning staff from across rural Ontario who support the agriculture sector, individuals involved with agriculture economic development and policy making and those working in the food, farming and agri-food value chain.
- Staff has met with the City of Pembroke to review a draft agreement outlining the expectations of the Ottawa Valley Tourist Association (OVTA) as the eligible tourism entity to receive municipal accommodation tax funds. The proposed draft agreement is for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2027. Effective January 1, 2025, a municipal accommodation tax of 4% will be applied to all stays of 30 days or less at hotels, motels, short-term rentals, and campsites at Riverside Park. The projected annual revenue, based on a 50% occupancy rate, is \$397,142 of which the OVTA is to receive 50%, less the cost of administration and collection. Staff also met with the Town of Petawawa regarding the implementation of a municipal accommodation tax in the Town and naming the OVTA as the eligible tourism entity to receive 50% of the funds.
- On August 13, 2024, staff entered into a data-sharing agreement with Esri Canada to contribute data to their Community Maps of Canada. This collaboration will enhance Esri's base map information for our region. The County will provide only publicly available data, including roads, property parcel outlines, trails, forest tracts, municipal boundaries, and other points of interest. Additionally, under our current Enterprise License Agreement (ELA) with Esri, the County can share data on behalf of lower-tier municipalities if they wish to contribute, such as trails, municipal parks, sidewalks, parking lots, and other points of interest on the base maps. There is no cost to join or participate in this program.
- On August 20, 2024, the Province of Ontario released the final version of the Provincial Planning Statement 2024, which is set to take effect on October 20, 2024. The PPS is a set of directions provided by the province that municipal planners, planning boards, and decision makers follow for land-use planning and development in Ontario. Planning approval authorities are required to be consistent with the PPS when making decisions under the Planning Act.

The new PPS 2024 replaces the Provincial Policy Statement, 2020 and A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for Greater Golden Horseshoe, integrating them into a single planning document which applies to the entire province. Based on staff's review, the amended planning statement will have minimal policy impacts to the County of Renfrew and our local municipalities. The provincial summary of the changes and a copy of the revised PPS is available at [Provincial Planning Statement, 2024 | ontario.ca](https://www.ontario.ca/provincial-planning-statement-2024).

- County Council directed staff to undertake an Official Plan Amendment, to enable policies that would allow the County to provide grants/loans to local Community Improvement Plan (CIP) initiatives, which includes: the preparation of a Regional Incentives Program; that the Regional Incentives Program have a staff-delegated governance structure; and that the Regional Incentives Program include a recommended funding amount for Council to consider in the 2025 budget.

Finance & Administration Committee

Presented by: Jennifer Murphy, Chair

- County Council directed the Warden to convene a special meeting of County Council for a review of the proposed draft Procedure By-law and the provision of a preliminary update on the Asset Management and Long-Term Financial Plans on October 28, 2024.
- County Council approved the 2025 Budget Guidelines with a 3.25% annual levy target increase. The budget development process will culminate with a two-day budget workshop in early 2025.
- County Council approved that the County of Renfrew's non-union salary grid be adjusted annually based on the June 12-month average of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Ontario (all items) as determined by Statistics Canada. The adjustment will be effective for Pay Period #1 each year. The 2025 adjustment is calculated to be 3.08%.

Health Committee

Presented by: Michael Donohue, Chair

- Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre (RC VTAC) opened a new Clinical Assessment Centre (CAC) on September 9, 2024, at the Petawawa Centennial Family Health Centre at 154 Civic Centre Road. It will be open every Monday from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon and patients can make an appointment by calling RC VTAC. The Paramedic-Led clinic will offer respiratory/ear/nose/throat assessments, specialized injections, minor procedures such as structure removal, tick removal/Lyme disease management and a Paramedic Health Review for unattached patients.

With the opening of the new Eganville Paramedic Base, the team is also working on plans to open another Clinical Assessment Centre in Eganville in the coming months. RC VTAC services remain in demand as four more physicians have recently retired.

Additional Information

Craig Kelley, Chief Administrative Officer/Deputy Clerk

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