

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MELANCTHON

The Council of the Corporation of the Township of Melancthon held a hybrid meeting on the 3rd day of October, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. Mayor Darren White, Deputy Mayor James McLean, Councillor Ralph Moore (virtual), Councillor Bill Neilson and Councillor Ruth Plowright were present. Sarah Culshaw, Treasurer/Deputy Clerk and Kaitlin Dinnick, Admin/Finance Assistant were also present. Mayor White presided and called the meeting to order.

Mayor White advised that the meeting was being recorded and would be posted to the Township's website under Council Agendas and Minutes.

Land Acknowledgement Statement

Mayor White shared the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

Announcements

Councillor Plowright reminded everyone of the Harvest Dinner (Roast Beef Dinner) on October 5, 2024 and encouraged all to attend.

Honeywood Arena is selling hats and lawn sign for fundraising on their Facebook page as well as at the Harvest Dinner.

Additions

Deputy Mayor McLean

- Update regarding meeting with the Mennonite community.
- Review with Township Boards and Committees.

Deletions

None.

Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Neilson, Seconded by McLean

That Council approve the Agenda as circulated. Carried.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

Mayor White advised that disclosure of pecuniary interest can be declared at this time or anytime throughout the meeting by giving the general nature thereof and that declarations must be submitted to the Clerk in writing.

Minutes – September 19th, 2024

Moved by Moore, Seconded by Neilson

That Council approve the minutes of the September 19th, 2024 Council meeting as circulated. Carried.

Business Arising from Minutes

None.

Point of Privilege or Personal Privilege

None.

Public Question Period

None

Public Works

Accounts

Craig Micks, Public Works Superintendent was in attendance and presented the accounts in the amount of \$87,518.41.

Moved by McLean, Seconded by Plowright

That Council receive the Public Works Accounts as presented by the Public Works Superintendent. Carried.

Councillor Plowright asked if it would be cheaper to purchase a woodchipper instead of renting one. Craig Micks said that we would look at it for the next budget as we are using it more often.

Deputy Mayor McLean asked about the invoice for new grader repairs. Craig stated that most repairs were covered, but that we agreed to pay for the bill presented with the accounts.

Recommendations from Roads Sub-Committee Meeting Held September 16th, 2024

Deputy Mayor McLean spoke to the recommendation.

Moved by McLean, Seconded by Neilson

That Council accepts the recommendation from the Roads Sub-Committee and that public engagement be undertaken in 2025 regarding the reduction in speed limit on the 5th Line OS from 80/km/hr to 60/km/hr and that we include monies in the 2025 budget for this initiative. Carried

Councillor Moore asked how much police presence we have on these roads that have reduced the speed and how much time do Dufferin OPP spend on Melancthon roads. It was stated that there are performance expectations on the OPP. They also have the availability to track the OPP officers. Other challenges for the OPP are the lack of resources not only in Dufferin but all of Ontario. Recruiting is ongoing but is facing challenges.

The paid duty officer was successful this year. In the past, the Township of Melancthon have paid for the base services as per our contract. This was the first year that we paid for extra paid duty.

Moved by Plowright, Seconded by McLean

That Council accepts the recommendation from the Roads Sub-Committee and directs Staff to include funding in the 2025 budget to continue the paid duty officer project. Carried.

Other

The paving is complete, the Roads Department will be working on shoulders next week.

Planning

Applications to Permit

None

Other

There was nothing for this matter.

Unfinished Business

Climate Change Initiatives

Nothing for this matter.

Police Services Board

Al Blundell, Chair was in attendance and spoke to the meeting on September 25th, 2024. He indicated that he was elected Chair for the remainder of this year. He also stated that Detective Di Pasquale will provide more detailed service hours for the Police Service Board meetings.

Sarah Culshaw asked if Council would like Staff to attend the 3M Board meetings if they are not the Recording Secretary for the Board. Council will leave it up to the Board to ask Staff member to attend when they feel it is necessary.

Mayor White indicated that he felt the County of Dufferin should contribute financially to add more policing on County Roads. The following motion was passed.

Moved by White , Seconded by McLean

Whereas the County of Dufferin has an extensive road network hosted by 8 local municipalities,

And whereas traffic volumes continue to increase on all roads in Dufferin with a corresponding increase in poor driving behaviors, including speeding, stunt driving, distracted driving, and others,

And whereas community safety and wellbeing is the responsibility of all levels of government,

And whereas local municipalities carry the burden of policing on roads within their respective jurisdictions regardless of ownership of the roads,

Therefore be it resolved that Council for the Township of Melancthon requests that the County of Dufferin set aside funding in its budget annually to secure additional equipment, resources and patrol officers to add enforcement to roads falling under the jurisdiction of the County of Dufferin, and that the County of Dufferin work with local police service boards, municipalities and relevant stakeholders to provide those additional resources,

And further that this motion be sent to all Dufferin municipalities, all Dufferin Police Service Boards, and the County of Dufferin for ratification. Carried.

Correspondence

Board, Committee & Working Group Minutes

1. Roads Sub-Committee – August 19th, 2024
2. Shelburne & District Fire Department – June 25th, 2024
3. Shelburne & District Fire Department – July 26, 2024

Update from Councillor Neilson regarding the Shelburne Fire Board. He stated that they are working on the 2025 budget, and although he expects an increase, he does not expect it to be as large as last year.

Moved by Plowright, Seconded by McLean

That the Board, Committee & Working Group minutes items 1-3 be received as information. Carried.

Items for Information Purposes

1. Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Regulation Procedures & Fee Policy Update
2. Township of Lake of Bays – Municipal Elections Act Update
3. Township of Mulmur – Council Endorsement of Township of Melancthon Motion regarding River Road
4. RJ Burnside & Associates – Drain Maintenance: Connor Drainage Works
5. County of Dufferin Resolution regarding the Provincial and Federal Governments Funding Agreement to Reduce the Cost of Childcare in Ontario
6. County of Dufferin Resolution regarding the Health Care Crisis in Ontario
7. Municipality of Tweed Resolution regarding the Canada Community Building Funds Administered by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario on Behalf of the Federal Government
8. County of Dufferin County Council Highlights – September 12th, 2024
9. Mulmur-Melancthon Fire Department 2023 Year End Report
10. Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Media Release – Help Shape NVCA’s Conservation Areas Strategy
11. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness – New Agricultural Workforce Equity and Diversity Initiative
12. Township of Southgate Notice of Virtual Public Meeting Concerning a Proposed Official Plan Amendment – OPA 2-24
13. Township Of Southgate Notice of Virtual Public Meeting Concerning a Proposed Zoning By-law Amendment – C9-24
14. Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) – 2025 Funding Allocation Notice

Moved by Plowright, Seconded by Neilson

That Correspondence Items 1-14, for information purposes, be received as information, except items 5 & 6, pulled for further discussion. Carried.

Councillor Neilson would like to support the motion from the County of Dufferin regarding the Provincial and Federal Governments Funding Agreement to Reduce the Cost of Childcare in Ontario. Councillor Neilson spoke to how alarming it was that there is currently over one thousand children on a waiting list to get childcare, and it is anticipated to get worse.

Moved by Nielson, Seconded by Plowright

That the Township of Melancthon support the motion put forth by the County of Dufferin

WHEREAS on March 22, 2022, the Federal & Provincial Governments announced a funding agreement that will reduce the cost of childcare in Ontario to an average of \$10 per day by March 2026;

AND WHEREAS the For-Profit/Not-For-Profit quotas [30/70] mandated by the federal government artificially limits the number of licences that can be given out and therefore limits the childcare spaces that can be created;

AND WHEREAS the waitlist in the County of Dufferin is over 1,000 children;

AND WHEREAS families are being forced to waitlist for \$10 per day childcare even though there is unspent budget for unrealized Not-For-Profit centres due to a lack of Not-For-Profits applying;

AND WHEREAS changing the ratios could unlock thousands of new \$10 per day childcare spaces immediately;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the County of Dufferin requests the Federal and Provincial Governments fix the archaic For-Profit/Not-For-Profit.

AND LASTLY THAT this resolution be circulated and brought to the attention of Kyle Seebach Member of Parliament, Dufferin-Caledon; The Honourable Jenna Sudds, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development; The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada; The Honourable Jill Dunlop, Minister of Education; and The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario. Carried.

Councillor Neilson has concerns with the state of Health Care in Ontario, and would like the Township of Melancthon to support the motion from the County of Dufferin.

Moved by Neilson, Seconded by McLean

That the Township of Melancthon support the motion put forth by the County of Dufferin.

WHEREAS the state of health care in Ontario is in crisis, with 2.3 million Ontarians lacking access to a family doctor, emergency room closures across the province, patients being de-rostered and 40% of family doctors considering retirement over the next five years; and

WHEREAS it has becoming increasingly challenging to attract and retain an adequate healthcare workforce throughout the health sector across Ontario; and

WHEREAS Ontario municipal governments plan an integral role in the health care system through responsibility in public health, long term care and paramedicine; and

WHEREAS the percentage of family physicians practicing comprehensive family medicine has declined from 77 in 2008 to 65 percent in 2022; and

WHEREAS per capita health-care spending in Ontario is the lowest of all provinces in Canada, and

WHEREAS a robust workforce developed through a provincial, sector-wide health human resources strategy would significantly improve access to health services across the province;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of Dufferin County urge the Province of Ontario to recognize the physician shortage in Dufferin and Ontario, to fund health care appropriately and ensure every Ontarian has access to physician care. Carried.

Items for Council Action

1. Mulmur-Melancthon Fire Department 2025 Draft Budget
Council agreed to table this to 2025 Budget Deliberations.

Accounts

Sarah Culshaw, Treasurer presented the accounts in the amount of \$245,066.49.

Moved by Neilson, Seconded by McLean

That Council receive the General Accounts as presented by the Treasurer. Carried.

Notice of Intent to Pass By-law

By-law to Appoint the Chief of the Shelburne and District Fire Department

Moved by Neilson, Seconded by White

That leave be given to introduce a By-law to appoint the Chief of the Shelburne and District Fire Department and it be hereby read a first and second time and numbered 38-2024. Carried.

New/Other Business/Additions

Southgate Operating Guidelines – Dundalk Fire Department Notification of Significant Events

Council are ok with the Operating Guidelines, direction to Staff to advise the Fire Chief of same. Staff will request that the subject line be changed to "Notification of Significant Events in Melancthon Township" and the reference to Dufferin County under Guideline Notification be changed to Melancthon Township.

County of Dufferin Multi-Jurisdictional Fire Protection and Prevention Modernization Plan.

Discussions ensued on the plan and each Council member was given an opportunity to speak to it. Council will ask the Fire Boards to have a discussion on it and get back to us. This will go back to the County of Dufferin for further discussions.

Community Emergency Preparedness Grant Round 2 launching in September 2024

Sarah Culshaw, Treasurer spoke to this. It was indicated that this grant is to assist in Emergency supplies, particularly in weather events. The application will include a trailer, extra chain saws and road signs.

Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund

Sarah Culshaw, Treasurer spoke to this. Sarah stated that we could apply for this grant to improve the Horning's Mills base ball diamond. She indicated that the grant is a 50/50 contribution grant, and that the minimum amount of project costing is \$300,000.00. This would mean that the Township would fund \$150,000 and that we would put this into next year's budget. Council directed the Treasurer to apply for this grant.

2025 Township Tree Program in partnership with GRCA

Discussions ensued as to whether the Township should take part in the Tree Program with the GRCA. Staff were instructed to move forward with this endeavor.

Other/Addition(s)

Mennonite Road Safety Meeting – Deputy Mayor McLean

Working with Denise Holmes, CAO/Clerk and Scott Burns at the County of Dufferin to coordinate a follow-up meeting with the Mennonite Community. This meeting will be held tentatively on Thursday October 24, 6 – 8 pm. at Horning's Mills Hall. Council is invited to participate. MTO have confirmed attendance. OPP will be invited shortly.

Review of Township Boards/Committees – Deputy Mayor McLean

Deputy Mayor McLean advised us that every year the County sends an email to see what Boards and Committees Council are interested in participating. Deputy Mayor McLean believes that it may be advantageous to review boards. It was decided that the Council could discuss this at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

Mayor White advised that he will have to step down off the Shelburne Fire Board as he has a scheduling conflict due to other commitments. Discussion on this can take place at the Committee of the Whole meeting. Council directed Staff to provide the names of all the boards and all the members.

Mayor White indicated that he could not attend the (OTF) Ontario West Municipal Conference Friday October 25, 2024, and to let either himself and the CAO/Clerk know if they are interested in attending.

Unfinished Business

Tabled Motion from April 18, 2024 Council Meeting - Dissolving the Horning's Mills Park Board and Corbetton Park Board to Establish a Melancthon Park Board. It was stated that this could be discussed at the Committee of the Whole and to schedule a park meeting with both Park committees at that time.

NDCC – Request from Mulmur Township for a capital contribution towards the Ice Floor Replacement

Discussion ensued on this matter and it will be discussed further during the 2025

Budget deliberations.

Delegations

None

Closed Session

Moved by McLean, Seconded by Plowright

That Council move into a Closed Session Meeting at 6:32 p.m. pursuant to Section 239(2) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended for the following reason: Application(s) for the vacancy on the Horning’s Mills Community Hall Board – Section 239(2)(b) – personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees.

Rise With or Without Report from Closed Session

Moved Moore, by Seconded by Plowright

That Council rise from Closed Session at 6:48 p.m. without report. Carried.

At this time during the meeting, Mayor White indicated that we will be having a Legal Representative at the next Council meeting with regards to aggregate applications to explain how the process works and answer questions from Council.

Third Reading of By-laws

There were no third readings of By-laws.

Notice of Motion

None for this meeting.

Confirmation By-law

Moved by McLean, Seconded by Neilson

That leave be given to introduce a By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Melancthon at its Council meeting held on October 3rd, 2024 and it be given the required number of readings and numbered 39-2024. Carried.

Adjournment and Date of Next Meeting

Moved by Moore, Seconded by Plowright

That Council adjourn this meeting at 7.03 p.m., to meet again on Thursday, October 17, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. or at the call of the Mayor. Carried.

MAYOR

CLERK