



**DUFFERIN COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**Thursday, October 22, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.**  
**Video Conference**

**Council Members Present:**

Warden Darren White (Melancthon)  
Councillor Sandy Brown (Orangeville)  
Councillor John Creelman (Mono)  
Councillor Bob Currie (Amaranth)  
Councillor Guy Gardhouse (East Garafraxa)  
Councillor Chris Gerrits (Amaranth)  
Councillor Earl Hawkins (Mulmur)  
Councillor Janet Horner (Mulmur)  
Councillor Andy Macintosh (Orangeville)  
Councillor Wade Mills (Shelburne)  
Councillor Philip Rentsch (Grand Valley)  
Councillor Laura Ryan (Mono)  
Councillor Steve Soloman (Grand Valley)

**Council Members Absent:**

Councillor Steve Anderson (Shelburne)(prior notice)

**Staff Present:**

Sonya Pritchard, Chief Administrative Officer  
Pam Hillock, Clerk/Director of Corporate Services  
Aimee Raves, Acting Treasurer  
Anna McGregor, Director of Community Services  
Scott Burns, Director of Public Works/County Engineer  
Brenda Wagner, Administrator of Dufferin Oaks  
Darrell Keenie, Director of Planning, Economic Development & Culture  
Cheri French, Director of Human Resources  
Tom Reid, Chief, Paramedic Service  
Michelle Dunne, Deputy Clerk

Warden White called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

Warden White announced that this meeting is being live streamed and publicly broadcast. The recording of this meeting will also be available on our website in the future.

**1. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT**

Warden White shared the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

**2. ROLL CALL**

The Clerk verbally took a roll call of the Councillors in attendance.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**Moved by Councillor Gardhouse, seconded by Councillor Hawkins**

**THAT the Agenda and any Addendum distributed for the October 22, 2020 meeting of Council, be approved.**

**-Carried-**

**4. DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

Members of Council are required to state any pecuniary interest in accordance with the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act.

**PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS**

**5. Chief Administrative Officer's Report - Council Priority Setting Guide**

A report from the Chief Administrative Officer, dated October 22, 2020, to provide Council with a guide to assist with the strategic priority setting discussion.

**Moved by Councillor Horner, seconded by Councillor Macintosh**

**THAT the report of the Chief Administrative Officer, regarding the Council Priority Setting Guide, dated October 22, 2020, be received.**

**-Carried-**

**6. Strategic Priorities Discussion**

Members of Council participated in a discussion to establish priorities and objectives for the County of Dufferin for the remaining two years of the Council term.

### **County Transit:**

Council discussed the concept of a County wide public transit solution. Currently, the Town of Orangeville is working on developing an Orangeville Transit hub. The Director of Public Works noted he is meeting with Town of Orangeville staff next week regarding said transit hub.

The Chief Administrative Officer noted as per Council's direction at the October 8, 2020 Council meeting, staff has begun a procurement process to hire a consultant to investigate County transit opportunities.

### **Additional Long Term Care and Affordable Housing:**

The Director of Community Services noted there are currently 725 families on the wait list for Dufferin County Community Housing. Council may wish to consider providing assistance/allowances to individual and/or partners instead of a capital investment of building and maintaining a structure.

Councillor Brown advised the Town of Orangeville has recently heard from three different companies wishing to build long-term care homes in Orangeville. Currently, all three companies are waiting on operational support from the Province. The Administrator of Dufferin Oaks noted there is an application process that must be followed for new long term care homes through the Ministry of Long Term Care. Council noted it may be beneficial to advocate for these applications to be proceeded with help from the MPP.

Councillor Creelman noted there are no shelter options for men in Dufferin County. The Director of Community Services noted a by name list of the homeless population is kept for the County. Currently, staff and partner agencies can provide hotel vouchers for men in need. The Director noted the department is currently creating material to send to local providers and community partners with a phone number for quick access for those in need.

### **Economic Development & Tourism Initiatives:**

Councillors agreed there is a need to encourage economic development in the area and attract businesses to the area as well as the installation of broadband.

### **Broadband Internet:**

Broadband internet connectivity was identified by Council as a priority.

Councillor Gerrits noted an option could be to directly contact those companies who received SWIFT (SouthWest Integrated Fibre Technology). SWIFT is supportive of companies extending beyond what they have been granted or for secondary development.

Councillor Creelman noted he found a program called Improving Connectivity for Ontario (ICON) through the Province. He has been attempting to investigate this program closer; however, the application is not easily accessible.

### **Employee Well-Being & Diversity & Inclusion:**

Staff noted the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) has been beneficial for staff during the pandemic and time of isolation. The Chief Administrative Officer and Director of Human Resources noted the investment in funds and time is returned through employee productivity and satisfaction.

Council agreed continuing to look after the well-being of employees is a priority and beneficial to operations.

### **Committee Structure:**

Council agreed that the standing Committee structure can be reviewed, noting the formation of an economic development, tourism and museum focused committee could be an option.

The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) noted planning and economic development are relatively new functions to the County and initially slated to report directly to Council. The CAO noted the Service Delivery Review currently being undertaken by Dufferin County may note other changes that are warranted. Recommendations will be brought forth to Council over the next few months as a result of the Service Delivery Review.

**Infrastructure:**

Warden White noted infrastructure improvements are a high cost but have different levels of impact. The Director of Public Works/County Engineer reported that over the past few years, the County's infrastructure has been dealt with in a more structured way and staff are working to close the infrastructure gap. The Director advised that costs should be levelling out. Managing assets properly will allow the County to shift more into a maintenance mode.

**Climate Lens:**

Council agreed climate change should not be a stand-alone issue and that a climate lens should be applied to all decisions made in Dufferin County. Reducing carbon impact often results in cost savings. As Dufferin County imbeds a climate lens into maintenance, it will allow for emergency conservation as well.

The Director of Planning, Economic Development and Culture noted there is a climate change component to the Municipal Comprehensive Review currently being undertaken by Dufferin County. The work of the Dufferin County Climate Change Coordinator is being directly fed into the Review.

**Providing Services:**

Council considered the question – do we continue to directly provide services or become a facilitator to aid other agencies to provide the services. Earlier this year, Council made the difficult decision to close the Jean Hamlyn Day Care Centre. This has allowed Dufferin County to offer more children's day care subsidy spaces.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, it has allowed Dufferin County to review services and how they are currently being offered. For example, the EarlyON services have had to make a shift toward online programming and support.

Council agreed they would like to continue to provide services but the end result is most important.

**7. CLOSED SESSION**

**Moved by Councillor Horner, seconded by Councillor Ryan**

**THAT Council move into Closed Session (3:33 p.m.) in accordance with the Municipal Act Section 239 (2)(c) – Proposed or pending acquisition.**

**-Carried-**

While in Closed Session, Council a verbal report from the Director of Planning, Economic Development and Culture regarding a potential purchase of property.

**Moved by Councillor Macintosh, seconded by Councillor Horner**

**THAT Council move into open session (4:08 p.m.).**

**-Carried-**

**8. CONFIRMATORY BY-LAW**

2020-65      A by-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Dufferin at its meeting held on October 22, 2020.

**Moved by Councillor Hawkins, seconded by Councillor Ryan**

**THAT By-Law 2020-65, be read a first, second and third time and enacted.**

**-Carried-**

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by Councillor Gardhouse, seconded by Councillor Brown**

**THAT the meeting adjourn.**

**-Carried-**

The meeting adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

Next meeting: Thursday, October 28, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.  
Video Conference

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Darren White, Warden

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Pam Hillock, Clerk