



**DUFFERIN COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.**

**W & M Edelbrock Centre, 30 Centre Street, Orangeville ON**

**Council Members Present:**

Warden Darren White (Melancthon)  
Councillor John Creelman (Mono)  
Councillor Guy Gardhouse (East Garafraxa)  
Councillor Chris Gerrits (Amaranth)  
Councillor Earl Hawkins (Mulmur)  
Councillor Janet Horner (Mulmur)  
Councillor Gail Little (Amaranth)  
Councillor James McLean (Melancthon)  
Councillor Wade Mills (Shelburne)  
Councillor Fred Nix (Mono)  
Councillor Lisa Post (Orangeville)  
Councillor Philip Rentsch (Grand Valley)(joined at 7:09 pm)  
Councillor Steve Soloman (Grand Valley)

**Council Members Absent:**

Councillor Shane Hall (Shelburne)  
Councillor Todd Taylor (Orangeville)(prior notice)

**Staff Present:**

Sonya Pritchard, Chief Administrative Officer  
Michelle Dunne, Clerk  
Rebecca Whelan, Deputy Clerk  
Aimee Raves, Manager of Corporate Finance, Treasurer  
Scott Burns, Director of Public Works/County Engineer  
Rohan Thompson, Director of People & Equity  
Anna McGregor, Director of Community Services  
Brenda Wagner, Administrator of Dufferin Oaks

Warden White called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Warden White announced that the meeting is being live streamed and publicly broadcast.

The recording of this meeting will also be available on our website in the future.

Upcoming committee meetings will be held in the Dufferin Room at 30 Centre St, Orangeville on Thursday, January 25, 2024 at the following times:

Infrastructure and Environmental Services – 9:00 am

General Government Services Committee – 11:00 am

Health & Human Services Committee – 1:00 pm

Community Development & Tourism Committee – 3:00 pm

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**

Warden White noted a proclamation and correspondence were added to the agenda.

**Moved by Councillor McLean, seconded by Councillor Nix**

**THAT the Agenda and any Addendum distributed for the January 11, 2024 meeting of Council, be approved, as amended.**

**-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.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**Moved by Councillor Mills, seconded by Councillor Post**

**THAT the minutes of the Council meetings of December 14, 2023, be adopted.**

**-Carried-**

**PROCLAMATIONS, DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

6. **Black History Month – February 2024**

Warden White proclaimed the month of February 2024 to be Black History Month in the County of Dufferin. He noted there will be a ceremonial flag raising of the

Pan African Flag on February 1, 2024 at the Museum of Dufferin at 10:00 am and at 55 Zina Street at 1:00 pm.

Councillor Rentsch joined the meeting at 7:09 pm.

7. **Upper Grand District School Board**

Ralf Mesenbrink, Chair, and Lynn Topping, Trustee, Upper Grand District School Board, presented a summary of the Boundary Review process, as well as the Long-Term Accommodation Plan process.

8. **PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD**

Rick Ugolini, an Orangeville resident, asked if the County had plans to build affordable housing. Warden White noted that Council is starting the process and will be reviewing a report later in the agenda regarding housing stability. Creating affordable housing is a very large part of the County's strategic plan. Mr. Ugolini also inquired about relief for those struggling to make ends meet and if there were any programs in place to help them to stay in their housing accommodations. Warden White noted the County and other levels of government offer homelessness prevention programs to assist with those experiencing hardship. The County Community Services department can point residents in the right direction.

Councillor Post added there is an advocacy plan at the County and Orangeville Councillors have a scheduled delegation coming up regarding Ontario works rates, affordable housing and mental health supports.

**PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATIONS OF REPORTS**

9. **Manager of Corporate Finance, Treasurer – Asset Retirement Obligations Policy**

A report from the Manager of Corporate Finance, Treasurer, dated January 11, 2024, to adopt the attached Asset Retirement Obligation (ARO) policy as required per the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) Handbook Section 3280.

**Moved by Councillor Nix, seconded by Councillor Gardhouse**

**THAT the report of the Manager of Corporate Finance, Treasurer, dated January 11, 2024, regarding Asset Retirement Obligations, be received;**

**AND THAT Policy #3-03-14 Asset Retirement Obligations, be approved.**

**-Carried-**

10. **Manager of Corporate Finance, Treasurer & Procurement Manager’s Report – Fourth Quarter Procurement Report**

A report from the Manager of Corporate Finance, Treasurer and Procurement Manager, dated January 11, 2024, to provide the quarterly update on all Request for Tenders and Request for Proposals in accordance with By-law 2017-33 Procurement of Goods and Services 2017, Section (4.2.7).

**Moved by Councillor Post, seconded by Councillor Gardhouse**

**THAT the Third Quarter Procurement Report, from the Manager of Corporate Finance, Treasurer, and the Procurement Manager, dated January 11, 2024, be received.**

**-Carried-**

11. **STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE**

A report from the Chief Administrative Officer, dated January 11, 2024, to provide an update regarding the County’s Strategic Plan implementation.

**Moved by Councillor Post, seconded by Councillor Mills**

**THAT the report of the Chief Administrative Officer, dated January 11, 2024, with respect to Strategic Plan Monthly Update #4 – Housing Strategy, be received;**

**AND THAT staff be directed to proceed with a Housing Strategy RFP that requires asset and non-asset based solutions to increase housing affordability and attainability;**

**AND THAT each local municipality be requested to participate in creating an inventory of available land/properties for potential affordable housing development to be used in the development of the Housing Strategy.**

A recorded vote was requested and taken as follows:

	Yay	Nay
Councillor Creelman (3)	x	
Councillor Gardhouse (2)	x	
Councillor Gerrits (1)		x
Councillor Hall (2)	ABSENT	-
Councillor Hawkins (1)	x	
Councillor Horner (1)	x	
Councillor Little (1)		X

	Yay	Nay
Councillor McLean (1)	x	
Councillor Mills (2)	x	
Councillor Nix (2)	x	
Councillor Post (8)	x	
Councillor Rentsch (1)		x
Councillor Soloman (1)		x
Councillor Taylor (7)	ABSENT	-
Warden White (1)	x	
Total (25)	21	4
	<b>-CARRIED-</b>	

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

### 12. **Town of Shelburne**

A resolution from Town of Shelburne, dated November 28, 2023, to support the Township of Melancthon’s concerns regarding the Primrose Elementary School Boundary Review.

**Moved by Councillor McLean, seconded by Councillor Gardhouse**

**THAT the correspondence from the Town of Shelburne, dated November 28, 2023, regarding Primrose Elementary School Boundary Review process concerns, be received.**

**-Carried-**

### 13. **Association of Municipalities of Ontario**

Correspondence from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, dated January 11, 2024, to request a resolution to advocate for a social and economic prosperity review: a joint review of revenues, costs and financial risks and a detailed analysis of Ontario’s infrastructure investment and service delivery needs.

**Moved by Councillor Post, seconded by Councillor Mills**

**WHEREAS current provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements are undermining Ontario’s economic prosperity and quality of life;**

**WHEREAS nearly a third of municipal spending in Ontario is for services in areas of provincial responsibility and expenditures are outpacing provincial contributions by nearly \$4 billion a year;**

**WHEREAS municipal revenues, such as property taxes, do not grow with the economy or inflation;**

**WHEREAS unprecedented population and housing growth will require significant investments in municipal infrastructure;**

**WHEREAS municipalities are being asked to take on complex health and social challenges – like homelessness, supporting asylum seekers and addressing the mental health and addictions crises;**

**WHEREAS inflation, rising interest rates, and provincial policy decisions are sharply constraining municipal fiscal capacity;**

**WHEREAS property taxpayers – including people on fixed incomes and small businesses – can't afford to subsidize income re-distribution programs for those most in need;**

**WHEREAS the province can, and should, invest more in the prosperity of communities;**

**WHEREAS municipalities and the provincial government have a strong history of collaboration;**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Province of Ontario commit to undertaking with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances across Ontario;**

**AND THAT a letter be sent to request advocacy in advance of the Provincial budget to the Premier, the Dufferin-Caledon MPP and local municipalities.**

**-Carried-**

14. **NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

**MOTIONS**

15. **Moved by Councillor Rentsch, seconded by Councillor Soloman**

**THAT the following motion be deferred until after the upcoming Property and Facility Portfolio Workshop:**

**THAT County owned property located at 195620 and 195594 Amaranth-East Luther Townline, Grand Valley be declared as surplus and be disposed of in accordance with Policy #2-06-10 Disposal of County Property Through Sale.**  
**-Carried-**

16. **CLOSED SESSION**

17. **BY-LAWS**

2024-01 A by-law to authorize the borrowing of money to meet current expenditures of the Corporation of the County of Dufferin during the year 2024. (Borrowing By-Law)  
Authorization: Council – January 11, 2024

2024-02 A by-law to adopt the estimates for the sums required during the year 2024 for general purposes of the Corporation of the County of Dufferin. (Estimates By-Law)  
Authorization: Council – January 11, 2024

2024-03 A by-law to set tax ratios, and to set tax rate reductions, for prescribed property subclasses, for County purposes and lower-tier municipal purposes, for the year 2024. (Ratios By-Law)  
Authorization: Council – January 11, 2024

2024-04 A by-law to establish property tax rates for upper-tier (County) purposes for the year 2024. (Tax Rates By-Law)  
Authorization: Council – January 11, 2024

**Moved by Councillor Horner, seconded by Councillor Gerrits**

**THAT By-Law 2024-01 through to By-Law 2024-04, inclusive, be read a first, second and third time and enacted.**

**-Carried-**

18. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Warden White noted the special meeting of Council to discuss the roles and responsibilities of local and upper tier levels of government will take place on January 25, 2024 at 5:30 pm. Council will also meet on February 29, 2024 at 6:00 pm to continue the Property and Facility Portfolio Workshop.

Councillor Post invited Council members to attend the Coldest Night of the Year Fundraiser for the Orangeville Food Bank on February 24, 2024. She will be forwarding information to Council directly.

Warden White noted that he has spoken with MPP Sylvia Jones and will be arranging a meeting with her in the near future. At the next Committee meetings, key topics for the meeting will be discussed. Warden White noted at that meeting, he will be asking the MPP to attend a County Council meeting.

19. **CONFIRMATORY BY-LAW**

2024-05      A by-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Dufferin at its meeting held on January 11, 2024.

**Moved by Councillor Mills, seconded by Councillor Nix**

**THAT By-Law 2024-05 be read a first, second and third time and enacted.**

**-Carried-**

20. **ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by Councillor Gardhouse, seconded by Councillor McLean**

**THAT the meeting adjourn.**

**-Carried-**

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.

Next meeting:      Thursday, February 8, 2024  
Edelbrock Centre, 30 Centre Street, Orangeville ON

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Darren White, Warden

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Michelle Dunne, Clerk