



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST LINCOLN

COUNCIL MINUTES

MEETING NO. SIX

March 27, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

Township Administration Building

318 Canborough Street, Smithville, Ontario

**Council:** Councillor Shelley Bradaric  
Mayor Cheryl Ganann  
Councillor Mike Rehner  
Councillor William Reilly  
Councillor Jason Trombetta  
Councillor Terry Bell  
Councillor Joann Chechalk

**Staff:** Joanne Scime, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk  
Bev Hendry, CAO  
Mike DiPaola, Director of Public Works and Recreation  
Brian Treble, Director of Planning and Building  
Kevin Geoghegan, IT Help Desk Analyst  
Jennifer Bernard, Coordinator of Engineering Services\*  
Dave Heyworth, Manager of Planning

**Others:** Rob Cosby  
Benny Wan, AECOM\*  
Lucy Horne\*  
Karl Grueneis, AECOM\*  
Edward Stubbing, AECOM\*  
Aaron Farrell, WSP Environment & Infrastructure Canada\*  
Judi Kelly, West Lincoln Library Board Chair\*  
Suzanne Mammel, Stantec Consulting Ltd.  
John Ganann  
Klaas Zeldenrust  
Kevin Shraam, WeeStream  
And Approximately 2 other members of the public  
**\*= IN ATTENDANCE PART-TIME**

**1. SINGING OF "O CANADA" - Cairn Christian School**

Prior to commencing with the Council agenda, Mayor Ganann read the following announcements:

1. Regional Councillor Witteveen provided advance notice that he will not be in attendance for this evening's Council Meeting.
2. Comments from the public for a matter that was on the agenda may be provided in person by attending the meeting and advising the Chair during the "Request to Address an Item on the Agenda" Section of the agenda.
3. For those individuals that were unable to attend the meeting in person, could submit comments for matters that are on the agenda by either (1) emailing [jscime@westlincoln.ca](mailto:jscime@westlincoln.ca) before 4:30 pm today. Any comments submitted will be considered as public information and read into public record OR (2) by contacting the Clerk's Department to request a Zoom Link to attend the meeting virtually.
4. This meeting was being livestreamed. The link to watch the meeting live could be found on the Township's website by selecting the "Township Office" tab at the top of the website, click the Council or Standing Committee meetings tab and scroll down the meeting list to find the link.
5. This meeting is being recorded and will be available to view by clicking the meeting video link found on the Township's website within 48 hours after the meeting unless otherwise noted.

**2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT**

Mayor Ganann will read the following:

The Township of West Lincoln, being part of Niagara Region is situated on treaty land. This land is steeped in the rich history of the First Nations such as the Hattiwendaronk (Hat-i-wen- DA-runk), the Haudenosaunee (Hoe-den-no-SHOW-nee), and the Anishinaabe (Ah-nish-ih- NAH-bey), including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. There are many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people from across Turtle Island that live and work in Niagara today. The Township of West Lincoln, as part of the Regional Municipality of Niagara, stands with all Indigenous people, past and present, in promoting the wise stewardship of the lands on which we live.

**3. OPENING PETITION - Councillor Joann Chechalk**

**4. CHANGE IN ORDER OF ITEMS ON AGENDA**

There were no changes in order of items on the agenda.

**5. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND/OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

There were no Members of Council that declared a pecuniary interest and/or conflict of interest with respect to matters that are on this evening's Council agenda; however, below was a list of disclosures of pecuniary interest and/or conflict of interest that were made at the March 20th, 2023 Administration/Finance/Fire Committee meeting (minutes included on this evening's Council Agenda for approval) as it relates to Councillor Reilly's perceived conflict of interest as noted below.

**5.1 March 20, 2023 - Administration/Finance/Fire Committee - Item A19-23 Recommendation Report No. T-08-2023 Operating and Capital Budget Final Report**

Councillor Reilly declared a perceived conflict of interest/pecuniary interest with respect to Item A19-23(B) and A19-23(C) being part of Staff Report T-08-2023 Operating and Capital Budget Final Report, specifically with respect to the following:

1. The West Lincoln Public Library Board - his wife is a member of the West Lincoln Public Library Board; and,
2. McNally House Hospice Fundraising Request - Councillor Reilly was being considered for the appointment on their Board of Directors; and,
3. Paving of Vaughan Road from Caistor Gainsborough Townline Road to Wellandport Road - Councillor Reilly has a colleague that lives on this road.

**6. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS**

**6.1 Township Consultants - Master Community Plan**

1. Aaron Farrell, Senior Associate – Water Resources -  
Subwatershed and Stormwater Management Project Manager,  
WSP Environment & Infrastructure Canada Limited  
Re: Subwatershed Study and Stormwater Master Plan for Infilling and Intensification in existing Smithville
2. Edward Stubbing, Department Manager ITS Emerging  
Technologies, Canada, AECOM  
Re: Transportation Master Plan
3. Benny Wan, Senior Technical Director Hydraulics, AECOM  
Re: Water/Wastewater Master Plan

4. Karl Grueneis, Senior Environmental Planner, AECOM  
Re: Integrated Master Plan Report

The Director of Public Works & Recreation advised that prior to introducing this evening's presenters he noted that in 2019 the Township of West Lincoln undertook an urban boundary expansion and master community plan, which was undertaken to provide a framework for Smithville to grow over the next 30 years. The Director stated that as part of the Master Community Plan there were a number of master plans that were completed including a Subwatershed Study, a Stormwater Master Plan, a Transportation Master Plan and a Water and Wastewater Master Plan. These studies and plans were undertaken to form a comprehensive and coordinated planning process that will meet the required approvals necessary under both the Planning Act as well as the Environmental Assessment Act.

The Director of Public Works & Recreation advised that the first presenter this evening was Aaron Farrell of WSP Environment & Infrastructure Canada Limited, who was the author of the Subwatershed Study and the Stormwater Master Plan. The Director of Public Works & Recreation stated that the Subwatershed Study was completed in three phases to characterized the watershed and evaluate the impact of the planned urbanization on the natural environment and to provide recommendations for water course and stormwater management. The Director stated that the Stormwater Master Plan was undertaken to establish stormwater management requirements for future infill, intensification and redevelopment within the existing urban boundary of Smithville. Following Mr. Farrell's presentation, Ed Stubbing will speak to the Transportation Master Plan. Mr. Stubbing is a Transportation Engineer with a AECOM and was the author of the Transportation Master Plan. The primary goal of the Transportation Master Plan was to (1) complete an assessment and determine the impacts of the existing transportation network as a result of the projected growth, and to provide recommendations and other mitigation measures and (2) to identify upgrades to the existing road corridors and intersections, and development of new transportation infrastructure such as roads, intersections and other opportunities for trail connections for pedestrians and cyclists to support the growth related to the urban boundary expansion. The next speaker will be Benny Wan of AECOM, who is a water and wastewater servicing engineer with AECOM and the author of the water and wastewater master plan. The primary goal of the water and wastewater master plan is to determine the impacts of

the water and wastewater system as it relates to the growth, to develop various services and options and to identify the preferred recommended servicing solution to support the urban boundary and related growth. The last presenter will be Karl Grueneis, who is a Senior Environmental Planner with AECOM and the author of the Integrated Master Plan Report. Mr. Grueneis will summarize how the Master Community Plan, the Planning Act and the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process are all integrated so that land-use planning and municipal servicing infrastructure decisions can be made at the same time. The Director explained that the applications for all of the Master Plans will ensure that Smithville develops at a sustainable rate with the supporting infrastructure necessary to accommodate the projected growth. The Director of Public Works & Recreation advised that he would turn to the presenters to commence their presentation, starting first with Aaron Farrell to address the Subwatershed Study and Stormwater Master Plan.

Aaron Farrell, WSP Environment & Infrastructure Canada Limited, who wrote the Sub-Watershed Study and Stormwater Management Plan, reviewed his portion of the PowerPoint Presentation as attached to the agenda.

Ed Stubbing, AECOM, reviewed the portion of the PowerPoint Presentation relating to the Transportation Master Plan.

Benny Wan, AECOM, reviewed the portion of the PowerPoint Presentation as it relates to the Water and Wastewater System Assessment and Plan.

Karl Grueneis reviewed the portion of the PowerPoint Presentation as it relates to the Integrated Planning Act, Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) Report, a summary of the communication and consultation program, and reviewed the next steps including the following: (1) making the Integrated Planning Act and Municipal Class Environment Assessment report which will be available for public review in the near future (2) in April, the MCEA Notice of Completion in conjunction with Niagara Region's approval of OPA 62 and 63 are expected to occur which is estimated to happen shortly after April 20th; and, (3) subject to no appeals, or resolution of appeals, the final notice documenting approval of the MCEA Integrated Process will be issued and noted that there would be an opportunity to adjust servicing that were identified and approved through future Block Plan and MESP process including MCEA addendum, if required.

Mr. Grueneis concluded the team's presentation and advised that the team members were available to address any questions and/or concerns.

Councillor Reilly advised that during the last term of Council, there were options were presented with respect to the Smithville bypass and it was his recollection that option c was taken off the table as it would go through some residential areas and schools and questioned why this option was still being shown if his recollection was correct with respect to the removal of this option.

In response to Councillor Reilly's inquiry, the Director of Planning & Building stated that it has been narrowed down to one alternative to the north; however, the bypass to the south still needs to be acknowledged as it was showing on the Provincial mapping, and staff will be addressing this matter at the Regional level regarding the next steps in getting this bypass removed. from the Provincial mapping.

The Director of Public Works & Recreation stated that through the Environmental Assessment (EA) process the consultants must look at all options, so what Council was seeing was all potential avenues the Township could take. The Director further stated that Option A was being recommended as the preferred option.

Mayor Ganann thanked the presenters for attending this evening's Council meeting and for the informative presentation.

## **7. REQUEST TO ADDRESS ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

The Mayor inquired if the IT Help Desk Analyst was aware if there were any members of the public in attendance virtually on the Zoom meeting call that wished to address a specific item on tonight's agenda as permitted under Section 6.7 of the Procedural By-law, for which the IT Help Desk Analyst confirmed there were not.

The Mayor asked the Director of Legislative Services/Clerk if she had received any emails or correspondence from a member of the public prior to 4:30 p.m. today to read into the record, for which the Director of Legislative Services/Clerk confirmed she had not.

Mayor Ganann asked if there were any Members of the public present that wished to address an Item on this evening.

(1) Suzanne Mammel, Stantec Consulting Ltd.

Suzanne Mammel stated that she was here to participate in the Master Community Plan process on behalf of Timberlee Glen Developments Ltd., and that she appreciated the opportunity to participate. On behalf of Timberlee Glen Developments Ltd., Ms. Mammel expressed the desire for the approval of the plans as outlined in the presentation.

## **8. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **8.1 Coordinator of Engineering Services (Jennifer Bernard) and Director of Public Works & Recreation (Mike DiPaola)**

Re: Recommendation Report No. PW-10-2023 - Transportation, Water and Wastewater, Subwatershed and Stormwater Master Plans for Endorsement, prepared as part of the Master Community Plan

Councillor Chechalk stated she would like a copy of the exhibits, as the mapping is very difficult to read. Councillor Chechalk stated that she would like a clearer copy of the mapping so she can wholly understand and answer questions of any constituents.

In response to the inquiry from Councillor Chechalk, the Director of Public Works & Recreation stated that there was a website, [plannedsmithville.ca](http://plannedsmithville.ca), however, he noted that he did not believe the master plans had been uploaded to the website yet but that this website would most likely be the best place to go to see the maps. The Director asked that the consultant, Mr. Richard Vandezande, to address the inquiry as to whether the mapping would be uploaded to the website.

Mr. Richard Vandezande stated that once the master plans have been endorsed, it was the goal to get the plans and mapping uploaded on the website.

**Moved By** Councillor Terry Bell

**Seconded By** Councillor William Reilly

1. That, Recommendation Report PW-10-2023, regarding “Transportation, Water and Wastewater, Subwatershed and Stormwater Master Plans for Endorsement, prepared as part of the Master Community Plan” dated March 27, 2023 be received; and,
2. That, the Township Council endorse the Transportation Master Plan, Water and Wastewater Master Servicing Plan, Subwatershed Study and Stormwater Master Plan for Infill and Intensification Areas, prepared as part of the Master Community Plan; and,

3. That, subject to Niagara Region Council Notice of Approval of Official Plan Amendment 62 and 63, the Township Council endorse the issuance of the MCEA Notice of Completion.

**Carried**

## **9. REGIONAL COUNCILLOR'S REMARKS**

Due to Regional Councillor Witteveen's absence an update was not provided this month; however, Mayor Ganann noted that Regional Councillor Witteveen had advised that he would be providing written remarks to the Director of Legislative Services/Clerk to attach to the minutes. A copy of Regional Councillor's written comments are attached to the minutes as **Schedule "A"**.

## **10. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

- 10.1 Council Minutes - Regular  
Re: February 27, 2023

**Moved By** Councillor Shelley Bradaric

**Seconded By** Councillor William Reilly

1. That, the minutes of the open session portion of the February 27, 2023 regular Council meeting be accepted; and,
2. That, the confidential minutes relating to the closed session portion of the February 27, 2023 regular Council meeting be accepted; and that the minutes remain confidential and restricted from public disclosure in accordance with exemptions provided Section 239 of the Municipal Act.

**Carried**

- 10.2 Council Minutes – Special  
Re: March 1, 2023

**Moved By** Councillor Joann Chechalk

**Seconded By** Councillor Terry Bell

1. That, the minutes of the open session portion of the March 1, 2023 special Council meeting be accepted; and,
2. That, the confidential minutes relating to the closed session portion of the March 1, 2023 special Council meeting be accepted; and that the minutes remain confidential and restricted from public disclosure in accordance with exemptions provided Section 239 of the Municipal Act.

**Carried**



**11. COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no communications.

**12. MAYOR'S REMARKS**

Mayor Ganann advised that she had thought that Regional Councillor Witteveen would be in attendance this evening and she had left Regional Councillor Witteveen to provide updates on various Regional issues.

Mayor Ganann read a prepared statement which was attached as **Schedule "B"** to the minutes.

**13. REPORT OF COMMITTEE**

13.1 Planning/Building/Environmental Committee  
Re: Minutes - March 6, 2023

**Moved By** Councillor William Reilly  
**Seconded By** Councillor Terry Bell

1. That, the minutes of the open session portion of the March 6, 2023 Planning/Building/ Environmental Committee meeting, be accepted, and the recommendations contained therein, be approved; and,
2. That, the confidential minutes relating to the closed session portion of the March 6, 2023 Planning/Building/Environmental Committee meeting be accepted; and that the minutes remain confidential and restricted from public disclosure in accordance with Section 239 of the Municipal Act.

**Carried**

13.2 Administration/Finance/Fire Committee  
Re: Minutes - March 20, 2023

**NOTE:** ITEM A19-23(B) and ITEM A19-23(C) Relating to Recommendation Report T-08-2023 Operating and Capital Budget Final Report will be pulled due to Councillor Reilly's Perceived Conflict.

**Moved By** Councillor Jason Trombetta  
**Seconded By** Councillor Joann Chechalk

1. That, the minutes of the March 20, 2023 Administration/Finance/Fire Committee meeting, be accepted, and the recommendations contained therein, be approved; with the exception of Item #s A19-

23(B) and A19-23(C) (Re: Councillor Reilly's Perceived Conflicts);  
and,

2. That, the confidential minutes relating to the closed session portion of the March 20, 2023 Administration/Finance/Fire Committee meeting be accepted; and that the minutes remain confidential and restricted from public disclosure in accordance with Section 239 of the Municipal Act.

**Carried**

NOTE: Councillor Reilly declared a perceived conflict of interest / pecuniary interest with respect to Item A19-23(B) and A19-23(C) being part of Staff Report T-08-2023 Operating and Capital Budget Final Report, specifically with respect to the following: The West Lincoln Public Library Board - his wife is a member of the West Lincoln Public Library Board; and, McNally House Hospice Fundraising Request - Councillor Reilly was being considered for the appointment on their Board of Directors; and, Paving of Vaughan Road from Caistor Gainsborough Townline Road to Wellandport Road - Councillor Reilly has a colleague that lives on this road.

**Moved By** Councillor Terry Bell

**Seconded By** Councillor Jason Trombetta

That, Item A19-23(B) and Item A19-23(C) from the March 20, 2023 Administration/Finance/Fire Committee meeting be approved.

**(ITEM A19-23(B):**

That, due to the perceived conflict of interest declared by Councillor Reilly that Recommendation 8 be extracted from Report No. RFD-T-08-2023 (2023 Budget) and voted separately, which reads as follows:

8. That, Council approve debenture financing of \$1,200,000 in 2023 in order to finance Capital Project 1024 - Paving of Vaughan Road from Caistor Gainsborough Townline Road to Wellandport Road.

**ITEM A19-23(C):**

That the following identified items/projects be extracted from the proposed 2023 Budget and voted on separately due to a declared perceived conflict interest (Councillor Reilly):

1. West Lincoln Public Library Budget
2. McNally House Hospice Financial Request)

**Carried**

- 13.3 Public Works & Recreation Committee  
Re: Minutes - March 20, 2023

**Moved By** Councillor Mike Rehner

**Seconded By** Councillor Shelley Bradaric

That, the minutes of the open session portion of the March 20, 2023 Public Works & Recreation Committee meeting, be accepted, and the recommendations contained therein, be approved.

**Carried**

**14. RECONSIDERATION**

There were no items put forward for reconsideration.

**15. NOTICE OF MOTION TO RESCIND**

There were no motions to rescind put forward by any Member of Council.

**16. OTHER BUSINESS (CONTINUED)**

- 16.1 Senior Planner (Gerrit Boerema) and Manager of Planning (Dave Heyworth)

Re: Recommendation Report No. PD-15-2023 – Application for Zoning Bylaw Amendment 8535 Twenty Road Bruinsma (File No. 1601-012-22)

**Moved By** Councillor Shelley Bradaric

**Seconded By** Councillor Joann Chechalk

1. That Recommendation Report PD-15-2023, regarding “Application for Zoning Bylaw Amendment, 8535 Twenty Road, File No. 1601-012-22”, dated March 27th, 2023, be RECEIVED; and,
2. That, Section 34(17) of the Planning Act apply and that no further public meeting is required, and;
3. That, the application for Zoning Bylaw Amendment 1601-012-22, BE APPROVED, as shown in Attachment 4 and as modified by Staff, and that staff circulate Notice of Decision in accordance with the Planning Act.

**Carried**

- 16.2 TABLED ITEM (March 28, 2022 Council Meeting)  
Director of Planning & Building (Brian Treble)

Re: Recommendation Report No. PD-36-2022 - Smithville Landowners Group request for support of Minister’s Zoning Order (MZO)

16.3 Members of Council  
Re: Council Remarks

(1) Councillor William Reilly  
Re: Public Safety Regarding the Use of Cement Pipes

Councillor Reilly inquired to the Director of Public Works & Recreation regarding the recent media coverage with respect to the use of asbestos cement pipes that exist in Ontario and whether West Lincoln has cement pipes still, and if so, how or when will they be replaced.

With respect to Councillor Reilly's inquiry when the cement pipes will be replaced, the Director of Public Works & Recreation advised that AC Pipe commenced manufacturing in the 1930s and was used from the 1930s to the 1970s. The Director stated that AC pipe stopped being manufactured in the 1970's, due to the health concerns with the manufacturing process, but he was not aware of any health concerns with the use of AC Pipe for distribution of water. The Director estimated that the Township may have approximately 15% of its water pipes being AC Pipes which have been replaced over the years. The Director of Public Works & Recreation advised that along Regional Road 20, some AC watermain have been replaced and the 2023 budget includes design funding to start replacement of the water main for some AC pipe in Town with construction commencing in 2024. The Director of Public Works & Recreation stated that as roads need reconstruction, the pipes would be replaced.

Councillor Chechalk inquired to the Director of Public Works & Recreation regarding the City of Toronto are re-lining the inner part of these AC pipes to make the pipes last longer.

In response to the inquiry from Councillor Chechalk, the Director of Public Works & Recreation stated that there are many different ways to tackle the issue, and the City of Toronto has a very complex infrastructure so rejuvenating instead of replacing may be more effective for them. The Director further stated that West Lincoln does not have this issue, and will likely be replacing the AC piping as the opportunity arises.

**17. NEW ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

There were no new items of business brought forward by any Member of Council present.

## 18. BY-LAWS

**Moved By** Councillor Joann Chechalk

**Seconded By** Councillor Shelley Bradaric

1. That, leave be granted to introduce By-law #s 2023-18, 2023-19, 2023-20, 2023-21, 2023-22, 2023-23, ~~2023-24~~, 2023-25, 2023-26, 2023-27, ~~2023-28~~ and 2023-29 and that the same shall be considered to have been read a first, second, and third time with one reading, and are hereby adopted; and,
2. That, the Mayor and Clerk be and are hereby authorized to sign and affix the Corporate Seal thereto, any rule of this Council to the contrary notwithstanding.

**Carried**

**Moved By** Councillor William Reilly

**Seconded By** Councillor Shelley Bradaric

That, By-law 2023-24 (Delivery of Graphic Image Flyers) and By-law 2023-28 (Add Schedule H to AMPS By-law re Fines for Graphic Image By-law) be withdrawn and referred back to staff to await the possible challenge to the City of London's by-law or another municipalities' by-law under the Charter of Rights and that once the matter has been addressed in the courts and a by-law(s) can be upheld by municipality that staff advise Township Council accordingly for consideration of adopting a by-law.

**Carried**

### **SUMMARY OF APPROVED BY-LAWS:**

#### 18.1 BY-LAW 2023-18

A By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the Township of West Lincoln at its regular meeting held on the 27th day of February, 2023 and its special meeting held on the 1st day of March, 2023, 2023.

#### 18.2 BY-LAW 2023-19

A By-law to provide for paying remuneration and expense allowances to the Members of Council (Repeals By-law 2022-49)

#### 18.3 BY-LAW 2023-20

To appoint Atrayu (Tray) Benish and Dave Lane as Weed Inspectors for the Township of West Lincoln (Repeals By-law 2018-110)

- 18.4 BY-LAW 2023-21  
Being a By-law to appoint Atrayu (Tray) Benish as “Overall Responsible Operator” and Bob Denison as alternate “Overall Responsible Operators” for the Corporation of the Township of West Lincoln (Water and Wastewater) (Repeals By-law 2017-131)
- 18.5 BY-LAW 2023-22  
A By-law to amend Zoning By-law 2017-70, as amended, of the Township of West Lincoln (197 Griffin Street)
- 18.6 BY-LAW 2023-23  
A By-law to amend Zoning By-law 2017-70, as amended, of the Township of West Lincoln (9275 Concession 5 Road)
- 18.7 ~~BY-LAW 2023-24~~  
~~A By-law to regulate the delivery of graphic images in the Township of West Lincoln. (WITHDRAWN)~~
- 18.8 BY-LAW 2023-25  
Being a By-law to amend By-law No. 2020-54, as amended, A By-law to Regulate Size, Use, Location and Maintenance of Signs in the Township of West Lincoln (i.e. Violates any Government of Canada, Provincial, Regional or Township Statue, Regulation or By-law)
- 18.9 BY-LAW 2023-26  
A By-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign a Lease Agreement between Ken Brunaccioni (Dog Got It – Hot Dog Cart) and the Corporation of the Township of West Lincoln for 2023 and 2024.
- 18.10 BY-LAW 2023-27  
A By-law to authorize an agreement between the Corporation of the Township of West Lincoln and Safetek of the supply of a 2023/2024 Tanker Apparatus
- 18.11 ~~BY-LAW 2023-28~~  
~~Being a By-law to amend 2021-84, as amended, a system of Administrative Penalties for Non-Parking Offences within the Township of West Lincoln (WITHDRAWN)~~
- 18.12 BY-LAW 2023-29  
A By-law to amend Zoning By-law 2017-70, as amended, of the Township of West Lincoln. (8535 Twenty Road).

**19. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS**

There were no confidential matters.

**20. ADJOURNMENT**

The Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at the hour of 8:32 p.m.

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**JOANNE SCIME, DIRECTOR OF  
LEGISLATIVE SERVICES/CLERK**

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**MAYOR CHERYL GANANN**

Regional Councillors Report      March 27, 2023

Good evening Mayor, members of council, staff and members of the public

I would like to start by highlighting on some of the work we been involved in at the Niagara Region. Earlier in March were engaged revisiting our strategic plan updating priorities by what we heard from the public. We discussed Where are we Today, the Regions strengths and weaknesses. Highlighting an efficient region, looking at shared services, taxpayers affordability, and renewed focus on core services. Sustainable region looking into infrastructure investment, climate change, fair funding from the province for capital and operating programs and EMS offload delays. Equitable region how are we addressing affordable and attainable housing, support provincial housing targets, and social issues ( DEI, mental health, opioids etc). A prosperous region, business attraction and retention, re-opening Niagara to the World, measurable progress and continue making progress on transit ( GO and NRT). This is a step by step process where the Mayor and myself will be engaged in throughout the month of April to help set the course of direction for staff and council for this term. As many of you know we have completed the budget process in late February with a 6.7% increase which relates to a \$152.00 increase for the average assessment in the Niagara Region. We will start this process in its



regular routine starting in June of this year for the 2024 budget season. We will be watching inflation and expenditures, always being mindful of the residences of niagara.

A quick update on the legal dumping report from 2022, there were 675 dumping events in 2022 which is a decrease by 10% from 2021 in which we switched to the every other week collection. Most of the challenges have been occurring around public space bins 24% of illegal dumping happens at these locations. Our reporting mechanism is very helpful in finding the problematic areas which have been monitored more closely. We also work closely with crime stoppers in the reporting of illegal dumping. Landfill fees are increasing with the cost recovery formula in operating the system.

In attending Public Health and Social services we are continually being challenged in reducing poverty here in Niagara. 14.5% of our residences live below the poverty line which is the Provincial average also. This equates to 66,000 people in Niagara Region living at the poverty line. The Niagara Region continues to work with community partners and the Provincial agencies to help manage this concern.

Another huge challenge that we have been under is the migration of asylum seekers transferred to Niagara Falls from other parts of the

province. We saw 1,400 seekers in January alone come to Niagara, this has increased to 2,000 to date. This has put extreme pressure on our resources here in Niagara.

Later this month we had a presentation by Doug Hamilton the chair of the Canada Summer Games. From the challenges of COVID delaying the games we are proud to say that the games were a great success and Niagara will benefit for years to come from the investments made in our many communities. Sport Tourism will be the focus moving forward, bids are being submitted for the 2024 Memorial cup and also the 2024 Rowing Championship.

This completes my report for the is month, if anyone has any questions I will answer them to the best of my abilities.

Thank-you,  
Albert Witteveen

**March 27, 2023 Council Meeting**

**Mayor's Remarks**

As Councillor Witteveen is in attendance tonight and has already presented Regional information, I will in my remarks, highlight some things not entirely but mainly, related to our youth.

We have now had 2 meetings of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) with the third coming next week on April 5th. We have an open invitation to Youth Council members to bring along a friend, as we continue to build this team of young people. We have students from our local schools in Grades 7, 8, 9 and 10 attending and taking part in meetings. As there is an educational component to each meeting, we have been fortunate to be able to include guest speakers from among our own staff to offer both encouragement and advice to these students as they begin the process of making choices regarding their own, at this time, unknown futures. The strong message has been about keeping all doors open and not limiting choices. The meetings are on the first Wednesday of each month at 3:30 and I encourage all members of Council to come to any future meeting for which your schedule allows. As an incentive to all - snacks are always included!

On Saturday, March 11, John and I were invited to judge the District Level of Royal Canadian Legion speeches with students attending from several municipalities. This competition took place at the Beamsville Legion. The students did a remarkable job, the audience was extremely respectful and the judging was difficult due to the high caliber of both topic choices and presentation.

This past Saturday, March 25th, we attended the Zone Level competition which was held at Smithville Legion Branch 393. Those young people from as far away as Brampton, Tillsonburg and Port Colborne were first-place winners at two previous levels of competition. I was especially impressed that the topics were so very diverse and well researched. Students spoke with such a depth of understanding and also with emotion, about such topics as homelessness, bullying, the importance of education, the evil and lack of future prospects for "child brides" a practice still prevalent today in parts of the world and the power of positivity in one's life. Others spoke on historically significant topics such as the freedom achieved by many as numerous slaves were helped by the heroic Harriet Tubman and the brave folks along the Underground Railroad and also on the appreciation of our existing Canadian freedoms fought for and won valiantly, by many long forgotten Canadian Victoria Cross recipients, all of whom we were urged by the presenter, to remember proudly.

It was wonderful, as Mayor of West Lincoln, to have been part of the audience but I am glad that I did not have the difficult job of judging that excellent group of young people in

## Schedule B

classes: Primary: Grades 1-3, Junior: Grades 4-6, Intermediate: Grades 7-9 and Senior: Grades 10-12.

John and I also attended a breakfast and tour of Robert Land Academy earlier this month as part of the West Lincoln Chamber of Commerce. Students served as direction-finding guides and greeters, table staff and facility tour guides. Robert Land staff are very interested in having the students involved in community work and in fact a group of Robert Land students along with an instructor will be helping in April, when Kiwanis conducts a fundraising bottle drive in our community.

As I mentioned last Monday, I had the pleasure of doing a ride-along with a Meals on Wheels volunteer, Bonnie, who I will point out, was just featured in last week's Grimsby, Lincoln News. She is a lovely, kind lady who helps to brighten the day of recipients as she goes about delivering meals. That same afternoon we raised the flag for Community Support Services of Niagara, who as one of their many community outreach and support efforts, oversees the Meals on Wheel programme.

On Wednesday, March 22, I attended, by invitation, a breakfast in Grimsby to celebrate the grand opening of the new Community Wellness Hub. Although this Hub is under the umbrella of the Grimsby Benevolent Fund, it is open to the entire community, not just to GBF clients. The GBF and the Wellness Hub staff are working to provide various programmes, casual chats over coffee and activities related to developing the overall health and well-being of **all** members of the community.

Finally on Friday, March 24th, I attended along with Mayors Siscoe, Jordan and Easton, and MPP Sam Oosterhoff, the official opening of a much-needed and long-awaited, closer-to-home branch of the Niagara Children's Centre. Some type of programming has long been available to help parents of children who have difficulty with such things as understanding or communicating with others, interacting or engaging appropriately with others, experiencing gross or fine motor developmental delays and experiencing feeding, eating or self-care issues. The list goes on and the needs for support are great, but it has been the lack of proximity to services that has been particularly difficult for many West Lincoln parents and/or caregivers. For decades the facility's location close to Brock University has meant that some families in need have had difficulty accessing those much-needed services due to the distance involved. It is so important that there is now this new location, in partnership with the YMCA in Grimsby, to allow for better access to such important services for our West Lincoln families and therefore our children.