
COUNCIL NEWS

FROM THE MARCH 29th, 2016 COUNCIL MEETING

RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR ALEX MICALLEF

Councillor Alex Micallef submitted his resignation which was accepted by Council on Tuesday, March 29th, 2016, with regret. Therefore, the seat for Councillor for Ward 3 is now vacant and Council will address their options with respect to filling that position at an upcoming meeting.

2016 BUDGET

At its March 29th meeting, the Township of West Lincoln's Council approved its 2016 operating and capital budgets. The Township of West Lincoln's operating budget of \$8,236,030 is supported by a tax levy of \$5,558,630, which represents a 5.02% tax increase to the West Lincoln portion of property taxes as compared to 2015.

For an average homeowner with a home assessed at \$309,532, their total property tax bill will increase by \$47.51 or 1.32%, as the Niagara Region approved a 0% budget increase in December 2015 resulting in an actual decrease to the Regional portion of the tax bill. The Regional portion of the tax bill comprises of approximately 54% of the total bill, with the Township comprising 30% and the Education portion being 16%.

The 2016 budget process focused on ensuring that municipal services would be maintained and delivered affordably. The 2016 Operating budget includes enhanced service levels in several departments, including Crossing Guards and Cemeteries. In addition, 2016 will see the formation of new Council committees which will allow Council and Staff to focus additional resources towards items that are of key concern to the Municipality. These committees will include:

- Sustainable Economic Development Advisory Committee
- Recreation, Leisure and Library Development Advisory Committee
- Youth Council
- Active Transportation Working Committee
- Industrial Wind Turbine Public Advisory Committee
- Industrial Wind Turbine Technical Advisory Committee
- Canada Day 150 Celebrations - tasked to Heritage Committee

Council recognized the infrastructure needs of the Township by allocating \$4,369,460 towards Capital Projects. The 2016 budget also continues Council's commitment to addressing future infrastructure and capital replacements through a \$211,700 contribution to the Capital Reserve which represents 4% of the tax levy increase.

Some Highlights of the 2016 Capital Budget include:

- \$920,000 to replace Bridge 12 on South Grimsby Road 6
- \$1,086,000 to improve Roads and Bridges including Surface Treatment on portions of Abingdon Road, Westbrook Road. and Young Street.
- \$366,000 on Wastewater Infrastructure including \$266,000 towards the replacement of the Sanitary Sewer along a portion of Station Street.
- \$93,500 towards park and recreation equipment and facilities
- \$125,000 towards Public Realm Improvements and Ash Tree Replacement.

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- \$416,900 towards replacement of Fire Equipment
- \$410,000 to replace Road Equipment including a new Tandem Truck

This budget reinforces Council's objective of making West Lincoln the best place to work, live and play. You can review the budget on the Township website for more information at www.westlincoln.ca

TOWNSHIP OF WEST LINCOLN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Council adopted an Economic Development Plan for the Township of West Lincoln as prepared by consultant Mellor Murray. Future reports will be presented to Council as action items are recommended for implementation.

URBAN DESIGN GUIDELINES

The Smithville Urban Design Guidelines were adopted by Council for implementation by Township Staff as part of Planning and Development review. The consultants were advised to commence with the Downtown Streetscape Plan and work in conjunction with the public and the Planning Committee.

SUMMER MEETING SCHEDULE

The summer meeting schedule will be as follows:

- Monday, July 18, 2016
1. Public Meetings under the Planning Act – 6:30 p.m.
 2. Council – Immediately following the Public Meetings under the Planning Act. (with Planning, Administration and Public Works items included on Council Agenda) – 7:00 pm
- Monday, August 22, 2016
1. Public Meetings under the Planning Act – 6:30 p.m.
 2. Council – Immediately following the Public Meetings under the Planning Act. (with Planning, Administration and Public Works items included on Council Agenda)

2016 CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS

Council approved the Corporate Sponsorship and the Cemetery and Hall Board grant allocations for 2016.

WEED INSPECTOR

Council appointed Steve McGean as an additional Weed Inspector for the Township of West Lincoln.

COUNCIL ENDORSEMENT OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST LINCOLN DRINKING WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Council endorsed the Township of West Lincoln's Drinking Water Quality Management System Operational Plan for the Smithville Water Distribution System. The Plan may be reviewed on the Township web site.

ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

Mayor Joyner advised that the Township's Easter Egg Hunt Event was a great success with increased attendance at the new location at the Leisureplex.

17th ANNUAL POULTRYFEST NIAGARA

Council of the Corporation of the Township of West Lincoln declared the PoultryFest Festival as a "Community Festival" which will be held on Saturday, June 25, 2016 at the West Niagara Fairgrounds. The festivities will include their annual fireworks display