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## **COUNCIL NEWS**

**FROM THE June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 COUNCIL MEETING:**

### **THE KRISTEN FRENCH CHILD ADVOCACY CENTRE NIAGARA**

Debbie Elliott and Marlene DeRose updated Council Members on the current status of Niagara's Child Advocacy Centre; their collaborative and community partnerships and the programs being developed in providing a safe place to help, heal and end child abuse.

### **INCREASE IN FEES FOR BUILDING PERMITS**

Building Permit Fees were approved to increase effective July 1, 2015. The proposed cost increase is generally in the range of 2%. Except that the minimum permit fee is proposed to be increased from \$100.00 to \$125.00.

### **SMITHVILLE URBAN DESIGN PROJECT**

A workshop was held on June 23, 2015 and approximately 40 participants were invited. This workshop is an important step in the study process to help understand the constraints and opportunities for the future growth and development of Smithville. The objective of the workshop was to collectively generate ideas and recommendations for the overall form and character of Smithville, including the downtown, with accompanying standards for future developments in the private and public realms.

### **PURCHASE OF NEW PUMPER/RESCUE**

The purchase of a new Pumper/Rescue truck was approved at a net cost of \$536,600 to be delivered in 2016.

### **INCREASE IN FEES FOR TAX AND WATER CERTIFICATES**

Council approved an increase to Tax and Water Certificates from \$22.00 to \$30.00 effective July 1, 2015.

### **PROVISION OF CANINE CONTROL AND HUMANE SERVICES – EXTENSION OF CONTRACT**

In January of 2015, the Township entered into an agreement with Welland & District Humane Society for the provision of canine control and humane services to December 31, 2015. The agreement has been extended to December 31, 2017.

### **PURCHASE OF 2016 TANDEM TRUCK**

Council accepted the tender submission by Archer Truck Services Ltd. for the supply of the 2016 Tandem Truck in the amount of \$212,347.23.

### **SITE ALTERATION BY-LAW**

A site alteration by-law was adopted to prohibit the dumping of fill and the alteration of the grade of land within the Township of West Lincoln.

**TOWNSHIP RECEIVED FUNDING FOR AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**

The Township applied for funding through the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Rural Economic Development Program Funding (RED program) to create an Economic Development Strategy for the Township in December, 2014. The purpose of this Economic Development Plan will be to identify the businesses currently in the Township, identify what types of businesses would complement these uses and how to retain existing and attract new businesses. Funding was requested to hire a consultant to assist the Township to create the Economic Development Strategy.

**NEXTGEN LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE PROGRAM RECIPIENTS**

The CAO congratulated Brent Julian and Dennis Fisher on the completion of the NextGen Leadership Certificate Program at the Goodman School of Business/Brock University.

**DOWNTOWN PARKING**

Staff were directed to investigate parking options and opportunities to replace the on-street parking spots in the downtown of Smithville as a result of the road modifications, and report back; meet with Regional staff to discuss financial assistance with replacing the lost spaces; and, meet with the Region to discuss changes to the planned construction that minimize the impact of the new road construction on the integrity of our historic downtown.

**FUTURE RECREATIONAL NEEDS/MULTI-PURPOSE RECREATIONAL FACILITY SURVEY**

A Multi-Purpose Recreational Facility Survey will be distributed door to door to all residents. The survey will also be available at PoultryFest, once at Music in the Park, the West Niagara Fair, the three libraries, the Main Office, on the Township website and on SurveyMonkey. There will be three public round table sessions on July 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Staff were instructed to produce and issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for outside services to assist in determining potential fundraising amounts and opportunities in the community