



# Municipality of West Elgin

## Minutes

### Committee of the Whole Meeting

February 4, 2021, 9:30 a.m.

Electronic Participation Meeting via Zoom

**Present:**

- Mayor D. McPhail
- Deputy Mayor R. Leatham
- Councillor T. Tellier
- Councillor A. Cammaert
- Councillor B. Rowe

**Staff Present:**

- M. Badura, Treasurer
- J. Nethercott, Clerk
- L. Gosnell, Public Works Superintendent
- J. Morgan-Beunen, Chief Building Official
- Jeff McArthur, Fire Chief
- Heather James, Planner

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor McPhail called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

**Moved: Councillor Rowe**

**Seconded: Councillor Tellier**

That West Elgin Committee of the Whole adopt the agenda as circulated.

**Carried**

**3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

Councillor Cammaert declared a pecuniary interest in items 5.1 and 5.9.

Deputy Mayor Leatham declared a conflict of interest in item 5.1

**4. M. Badura, CAO/Treasurer Presentation - 2021 Draft Budget Update**

Ms. Badura presented PowerPoint slide show with regards to questions from previous budget meeting. Ms. Badura presented options to lower taxes, one of which is to not open the West Elgin Community Pool this season. Ms. Badura stated that if restrictions continues and swimming lessons are not able to be offered opening the pool does not make financial sense according to the user numbers from the 2020 season and if this was not a pandemic this is not something that would even be brought forward by the staff. Council discussed this option and requested more information be brought to next Committee of the Whole before any final decisions are made.

Committee of the Whole recessed at 10:53 a.m. and reconvened at 11:03 a.m.

Fire Chief McArthur presented the section on the Fire Department. Chief McArthur stated that as part of the SCBA replacements, it was discovered that there will need to be major work done on compressors in each station. As each compressor are approximately 15 to 20 years old, there is no point in paying for the work, it would be more economical to replace one compressor for one fill station as there is only one fill station needed for a department and municipality of this size. Chief McArthur stated he will be bringing a report once he has quotes on this for Council and would be removing the request for new SCBA's in the capital budget but expects the cost of the compressor to be around \$50,000.

**5. Council Grant Requests**

**5.1 Aldborough Public School**

Committee of the Whole approved this grant request to fund any shortfall up to \$15,000, pending continuation of fund raising.

**5.2 Eagle Community Centre**

Committee of the Whole approved this full grant request of \$10,000

**5.3 Rodney Aldborough Agricultural Society**

Committee of the Whole approved the Civic Holiday Fish Fry and Cleaning for fair weekend up to \$2,400 and provide funding for enhanced COVID-19 precautions that are not able to be covered through provincial or county grants up to \$5,800.

#### **5.4 Tiny Tots**

Committee of the Whole requested more information be provided before a decision can be made.

#### **5.5 Tryconnel Heritage Society**

Committee of the Whole approved the requested funds of \$3,000

#### **5.6 West Elgin Legion**

Committee of the Whole approved the request of funding of \$3,000 for a new furnace.

#### **5.7 West Lorne Horticultural Society**

Committee of the Whole approved the request for bedding plants of up to \$800 be billed to the Municipality but deferred the request for any funding of Centennial Garden benches for this year. Staff to look into any surplus benches that could be placed in this area.

#### **5.8 West Lorne Lawn bowlers**

Committee of the Whole approved the requested amount of \$2,500

#### **5.9 West Lorne Optimist**

Committee of the Whole approved the request of \$2,000 for the Road Race and the Car Show, pending these events happening and requested staff to discuss the option of moving towards one holiday event for the Municipality instead of hosting one in each village. Pending a report back from staff, the money requested for the Christmas Parade is on hold.

Committee of the Whole recessed at 1:15 p.m. and reconvened at 1:33 p.m.

### **6. Operational Budget**

Ms. Badura presented departmental operating budget for review. Staff to report back on options to move some items from operation budget to be funded from Ontario Invests - Improve Service Delivery and Efficiencies Grant.

**7. Adjournment**

**Moved: Councillor Cammaert**

**Seconded: Deputy Mayor Leatham**

That West Elgin Committee of the Whole hereby adjourn at 3:03 p.m. to meet again at 9:30 am on February 11, 2021 at Council and 9:30 am on February 18, 2021 as Committee of the Whole or at the call of the Chair.

**Carried**

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Duncan McPhail, Mayor

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Jana Nethercott, Clerk