



Elgin County Council Highlights



Council Receives Final Connectivity Report and Endorses Advocacy-Based Solution

In 2021, Council retained IBI Group Inc. to undertake an assessment of broadband speeds and availability across the County and propose solutions to increased connectivity in Elgin. IBI Group Inc. presented their study to the Connectivity Committee in December of 2021. The study contains a series of action that are intended to advance connectivity in the County, while acknowledging the importance of partnerships and advocacy efforts. The Committee considered several options proposed by IBI Group and recommended an advocacy-based solution be considered by Council. Options presented ranged from advocacy, strategic purchasing and ISP coordination to full fibre-to-the-home connections.

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IBI Group Inc. came to present their findings to Council on February 22, 2022 and the full report including detailed options presented is contained within the February 22, 2022 County Council Agenda Package. Council, in accordance with the recommendation from the Elgin County Connectivity Committee, endorsed an advocacy-based solution that involves the County advocating and facilitating for investment in broadband infrastructure. It does not include a direct financial contribution to support infrastructure, but rather recommends that the County find ways to support cooperation and partnerships with local ISPs and find ways to improve processes and eliminate challenges ISPs are facing when planning or undertaking work in Elgin County. For the balance of 2022, existing staff resources will be leveraged in order to undertake this advocacy work and staff will report back to Council on progress made in August 2022 which will include initiatives supported, metrics collected, and recommended next steps.

Terrace Lodge Redevelopment Fundraising Committee 2021 Fundraising Report



Councillor Giguère, Chair of the Terrace Lodge Redevelopment Fundraising Committee presented the Committee's 2021 Fundraising Report to Council. The report contains a message from the Chair, a timeline of fundraising milestones, an overview of campaign numbers and financials, a thank you and acknowledgement of donors and more. In 2021 the

Campaign raised \$144,788 and secured \$125,000 in pledges. The \$269,788 total to-date represents 40% of the campaign's overall \$675,000 target (this target includes a 4% budget for campaign expenses, as approved by the Terrace Lodge Redevelopment Steering Committee). At the request of the Committee Chair, Council also approved a change to the Committee Terms of Reference that would allow for participation from all of Elgin County's Local Municipal Partners, currently only The Town of Aylmer, Township of Malahide, Municipality of Bayham, and Municipality of Central Elgin have representation provided for in the Terms of Reference. A copy of the 2021 Fundraising Report and the changes to the Terms of Reference are included in the February 22, 2022 County Council Agenda.

Council Approves a Phased-in Elimination of Library Fines

In September 2021 County Council consented to survey the public regarding the possibility of Elgin County Libraries going "Fine Free". The Engage Elgin website was used to survey residents and seek additional comments regarding the proposed initiative. At the February 22, 2022 Council meeting, Library staff presented the results of the survey to Council and recommended a phased approach to removing fines in the Elgin County Library system. Of the 151 survey participants, 88% were in support



of a fine-free initiative at the Elgin County Library. Approximately 66.9% of survey participants did not currently owe any fines to the Elgin County Library. Council authorized staff to proceed with a path forward for the elimination of Elgin County Library fines with a date of December 31, 2024 for the elimination of all

overdue fines. This process will be subject to progress reports and impact analysis provided by staff throughout the process for Council's consideration. Complete results of the survey and a list of strategic tools that will encourage responsible library use in lieu of fines, please review the full report in the February 22, 2022 County Council Agenda Package.

Elgin County Council Approves New Official Plan for Township of Southwold



Southwold

On November 15, 2021 The Township of Southwold Council adopted a new Official Plan for the municipality to replace the existing plan that had been in effect for approximately 11 years. The proposed new official plan was developed in accordance with the Planning Act, the Provincial Policy Statement, and the County of Elgin Official Plan. It contains goals, objectives and policies established primarily to manage and direct physical

change and the effects on the social, economic, built and natural environment of the Township, including policies and measures to ensure the adequate provision of affordable housing, the protection of agricultural resources, and a description of the measures and procedures for informing and obtaining the view of the public in respect to various Planning Act processes.

Elgin County staff reviewed the official plan submission package submitted by the Township and are of the opinion that all statutory requirements have been met including the requirement for public consultation. The plan was reviewed for conformity with the Provincial Policy Statement and the County Official Plan. In total 57 recommended modifications to the plan were agreed to by the Township staff and their consultant team and all parties. As the approval authority, Elgin County Council approved the Official Plan of the Township of Southwold. Full details of the decision are included in the February 22, 2022 County Council Agenda Package.

Council Approves SCOR EDC Appointments for 2022

Elgin County Council agreed to rejoin the South Central Ontario Region Economic Development Corporation (SCOR EDC) for 2022 and as part of its membership in the organization is required to appoint two (2) Council members to sit on the SCOR EDC Board of Directors and one senior staff member with economic development experience to sit on the SCOR Resource Advisory Group.

At its meeting on February 22, 2022, Council appointed Warden Mary French and Deputy Warden Marks to represent Elgin County on the SCOR EDC Board of Directors for 2022 and appointed the General Manager of Engineering, Planning & Enterprise / Deputy CAO and the Manager of Economic Development & Tourism to the SCOR EDC Resource Advisory Group.

Engineering Update

Currie Road Pedestrian Crossing Construction

Council selected Armstrong Paving and Materials Group Ltd. For the Currie Road Pedestrian Crossing Construction project, Contract No. 2022-T04 at a total price of \$130,135.70 exclusive of HST. The site of the pedestrian crossing is located along Currie Road (County Road 8) at Mary Street in the Municipality of Dutton-Dunwich. Work on this project is expected to commence in mid-March with completion anticipated by April 30, 2022.

Hamlet of Richmond Reconstruction Tender Award

Council selected Cassidy Construction London Ltd. For the Hamlet of Richmond Reconstruction Project, Contract No. 2022-T03 at a total price of \$2,802,639.00 exclusive of HST. The site of this reconstruction is located along Heritage Line (CR 38) and Richmond Road (CR 43) in the Municipality of Bayham. Work on this project is expected to commence in mid-March with substantial completion anticipated to be achieved by July 1, 2022.

Full details regarding both aforementioned tenders are included in the February 22, 2022 County Council Agenda Package.

Council Receives Funding for Community Paramedicine Program



Council authorized the Warden and Chief Administrative Officer to enter into a Transfer Payment Agreement to receive \$4,480,300 from the Ministry of Long-Term Care for the implementation of the Community Paramedicine for Long-Term Care Program. Community paramedicine is a model of community-based health care where paramedics use

their education and expertise in community-based, non-emergency care roles, outside their emergency response and ambulance transport roles.

The Community Paramedicine for Long-Term Care Program is designed to provide additional care for seniors in their own homes before admission into long-term care. This initiative is part of the province's modernization plan to address systemic barriers in long-term care bed development and the growing demand for long-term care in

the province. The program was piloted across five (5) communities in October 2020 and is already operational across 33 Ontario communities. In October of 2021, the Ontario Government announced an investment of \$82.5 million to expand the existing Community Paramedicine for Long-Term Care program to an additional 22 communities, including Elgin County.

A business case and budget submission prepared by Elgin County and MEMSEO and was sent to the Ministry of Long-Term Care for approval in December.

The letter received from the Ministry on February 14, 2022 indicated that funding will include up to \$821,100 in 2021-22; up to \$1,711,400 in 2022-23; and up to \$1,947,800 in 2023-24.

For the complete February 22, 2022 County Council Agenda Package visit the Elgin County [website](#).