

UNITED COUNTIES OF LEEDS AND GRENVILLE

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

To the Warden and Members of Council of the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville

Members, We, your Committee of the Whole, beg leave to report as follows:

The Committee of the Whole met May 7, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers, 25 Central Avenue West, Brockville.

Members Present: Arie Hoogenboom, Chair
Corinna Smith-Gatcke, Warden, Brant Burrow, Michael Cameron,
Tory Deschamps, Roger Haley, Robin Jones, Herb Scott, Jeff Shaver

Staff Present: Al Horsman, Chief Administrative Officer
Shanna Culhane, Director of Community & Social Services
Kim Little, Director of Corporate Services
Bill Guy, Interim Director of Public Works
Jeff Carss, Chief of Paramedic Services
Pat Huffman, Treasurer
Chad Findlay, Manager of Engineering and Operations
Ann Weir, Manager of Economic Development
Andrea Bolton, Interim County Clerk (Recording Secretary)

Others Present: Lisa Severson, Eastern Ontario Regional Network
Jason St. Pierre, Eastern Ontario Regional Network
John Lawless, Recorder & Times

1. Call to Order

Recording Timestamp 00:00:01

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and noted Ms. Peckford sends her regrets.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Recording Timestamp 00:01:17

Resolution No. CW-061-2025

Moved by Robin Jones

Seconded by Jeff Shaver

THAT the Agenda for the May 7, 2025 meeting of the Committee of the Whole be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof – Nil

Recording Timestamp 00:01:43

4. Adoption of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

4.1 Meeting Minutes Dated April 9, 2025

Recording Timestamp 00:02:05

Resolution No. CW-062-2025

Moved by Herb Scott

Seconded by Corinna Smith-Gatcke

THAT the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on April 9, 2025 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

5. Delegations/Presentations

Recording Timestamp 00:02:37

**5.1 Lisa Severson and Jason St. Pierre, Eastern Ontario Regional Network
re: EORN Annual Update**

Mr. St. Pierre provided the Committee with an overview of the Eastern Ontario Regional Network's (EORN) goals related to the Cell Gap Project, which is to achieve 99% coverage in eastern Ontario where people live, work and travel on

major roadways so they can receive and make cell phone calls, 95% coverage with standard definition service level that can support email, web browsing and social media, and 85% coverage with high-definition services to support video conferencing, movie streaming and other data intensive applications. He noted the project received funding before in-kind contributions and community benefits, from Rogers Communications, the Governments of Canada and Ontario, and from the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) and Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus (EOMC) to a total of over \$300 million. Mr. St. Pierre reported overall 48% of the new tower builds, 100% of uplifts, and 87% of co-location towers are in-service, while in Leeds and Grenville those numbers are 83%, 100% and 100% respectively. He said 94% of all United Counties of Leeds and Grenville sites are completed, noting the Counties contributed \$635,000 toward the project.

Mr. St. Pierre outlined the planned number of towers to be built in year five of the project, which is 113, and the planned number of co-locations for year, which is eight. Year six will see 24 new builds and two co-locations. With respect to the construction plan for the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville, Mr. St. Pierre indicated there are three sites left to be completed in 2025, two in the Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands and one in the Township of Augusta. He reported on the EORN activities in 2024, noting the number of meetings with municipalities, MPs and MPPs, and First Nations and Indigenous communities, as well as the number of public inquiries responded to, and press releases and newsletters issued.

Mr. St. Pierre outlined the next steps and timelines which include continuing the land use authority process, the consultation process with Indigenous and First Nations communities, new tower construction, announcements, and pursuing other initiatives where EORN may be able to help through to 2030. Mr. St. Pierre provided the Committee with information regarding the EORN's Strategic Plan, noting they are one year into the four-year document, having changed their letters of patent to allow for greater versatility to work on various projects around the region to support growth and stability. The four key services of the EORN are now project management, infrastructure project services, technology services support, and municipal support. He reviewed the current activities of the EORN, including development and successful implementation of a duty to consult process, the automated speed enforcement introduction and review with Lanark, the Canadian Internet Registry Authority (CIRA) partnership in broadband performance, closing gaps in the provincial broadband projects, the Geographic

Information System mapping exercise to support digital twin, and regional procurement model for issues such as cyber security. He concluded by noting the EORN has signed on as a community partner with CIRA to help gather data about internet speeds across the region and to help identify real gap areas and develop programs to fill them. He noted resident participation in the project is key.

6. Staff Reports - Action Reports

6.1 Administration

6.1.1 Report No. CW-037-2025: Updated Investment Policy

Recording Timestamp 00:28:27

Ms. Severson, Mr. St. Pierre, and Ms. Weir left the meeting at 9:29 a.m.

Resolution No. CW-063-2025

Moved by Tory Deschamps

Seconded by Brant Burrow

**THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends the amendment of Appendix B -Authorized Investments and Sector Limitations contained within the current Investment Policy provided in Attachment 2 of Report No. CW-037-2025; and
THAT By-law 19-39 be amended.**

CARRIED

6.1.2 Report No. CW-039-2025: 2025 Budget Impacts Per Ontario Regulation 284/09

Recording Timestamp 00:31:46

Resolution No. CW-064-2025

Moved by Roger Haley

Seconded by Jeff Shaver

THAT Report No. CW-039-2025 regarding the 2025 Budget Impacts per Ontario Regulation 284/09, be received; and

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends Counties Council adopt Report No. CW-039-2025, which meets the requirements of the regulation in preparing the 2025 Budget in a PSAB compliant format.

CARRIED

6.1.3 Report No. CW-045-2025: Integrity Commissioner Annual Report 2024

Recording Timestamp 00:32:51

Recording Timestamp 00:33:29

Ms. Jones noted the provincial government has brought back proposed legislation to create a standard code of conduct for all municipalities with the expectation that it will be in place for 2026. She suggested staff bring forward a report on the proposed legislation, and if there is an opportunity for comment by the municipality, that Council consider providing feedback to the Province.

Recording Timestamp 00:36:56

In response to a suggestion by Mr. Burrow, Ms. Jones indicated she would raise the issue of accepting public comment on the proposed legislation in her upcoming Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) meeting with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Resolution No. CW-065-2025

Moved by Michael Cameron

Seconded by Robin Jones

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends the Annual Integrity Commissioner's Report dated April 8, 2025 from Tony Fleming, Cunningham Swan as attached to Report No. CW-045-2025 be received.

CARRIED

6.2 Corporate Services – Nil

Recording Timestamp 00:40:37

6.3 Public Works

6.3.1 Report No. CW-040-2025: County Road 33 Yield Control at Lyndhurst Bridge

Recording Timestamp 00:40:41

Resolution No. CW-066-2025

Moved by Jeff Shaver

Seconded by Herb Scott

**THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that a by-law be enacted to authorize the installation of a 'YIELD TO ONCOMING TRAFFIC' (Rb-91) sign for the northbound direction on County Road 33, on approach to the single-lane Lyndhurst Bridge, in accordance with the findings and recommendations of the Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Solutions at Lyndhurst Bridge study; and
THAT the necessary by-law be prepared.**

CARRIED

6.3.2 Report No. CW-041-2025: County Road 33 Speed Limit Adjustments (Lyndhurst Bridge Area)

Recording Timestamp 00:42:50

Ms. Weir rejoined the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

Resolution No. CW-067-2025

Moved by Corinna Smith-Gatcke

Seconded by Tory Deschamps

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends the following speed limit changes on County Road 33 in the Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands:

- 1. Increase the speed limit from 50 km/h to 60 km/h on County Road 33, from 40m North of Webster Road to Wilson Camp Road.**
- 2. Reduce the speed limit from 50 km/h to 40 km/h on County Road 33, from Wilson Camp Road to 150m North of Short Point Road.**
- 3. Increase the speed limit from 50 km/h to 60 km/h on County Road 33, from 150m South of Cook Street to 280m South of the County Road 33 and County Road 3 intersection.**

THAT the necessary by-law be prepared.

CARRIED

**6.3.3 Report No. CW-042-2025: County Road 4 Speed Limit Adjustment
(Quabbin Road - Mallorytown Railway Crossing Area)**

Recording Timestamp 00:45:20

Resolution No. CW-068-2025

Moved by Brant Burrow

Seconded by Roger Haley

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends the following speed limit changes on County Road 4 (Quabbin Road) in the Township of Front of Yonge:

- 1. Reduce the speed limit from 40 km/h to 30 km/h on County Road 4, from 105m north of the railway crossing to 65m south of the railway crossing.**
- 2. THAT the necessary by-law be prepared.**

CARRIED

**6.3.4 Report No. CW-043-2025: Award of Contract No. PW-2025-14 for
Micro-Surfacing and Slurry Seal Surface Treatment**

Recording Timestamp 00:48:30

Resolution No. CW-069-2025

Moved by Robin Jones

Seconded by Michael Cameron

THAT Committee of the Whole recommends awarding Contract No. PW-2025-14 for Micro-Surfacing and Slurry Seal Surface Treatment to Miller Paving Limited at the Council approved capital budget amount of \$1,212,907.97, including taxes at 1.76%; and,

THAT the Committee recommends transferring \$42,723.52 from County Road 18 to County Road 32 to address part of the \$57,013.86 funding shortfall for CR 32; and

THAT the Committee recommends transferring \$14,290.34 from County Road 5 to County Road 32 to address the remaining funding shortfall for County Road 32; and

THAT the Committee recommends transferring \$20,131.97 from County Road 5 to County Road 17 to address the funding shortfall on County Road 17 and

THAT the necessary by-law be prepared.

CARRIED

6.3.5 Report No. CW-044-2025: Award of Contract No. PW-2025-02 for Supply and Delivery of Corrugated Steel Pipe and High Density Polyethylene Pipe

Recording Timestamp 00:51:53

Recording Timestamp 00:53:01

Ms. Jones requested that the Committee be provided with the range of bids; Mrs. Huffman confirmed staff will provide that information moving forward.

Ms. Weir left the meeting at 9:54 a.m.

Recording Timestamp 00:55:52

Mr. Haley indicated he recently spoke with a contractor who raised concerns over the fact they were not able to find out which companies bid on the projects at the Counties. Mr. Hoogenboom suggested staff further examine the impact to businesses when this information is not made available.

Resolution No. CW-070-2025

Moved by Robin Jones

Seconded by Herb Scott

THAT Committee of the Whole recommends approving the award of Contract No. PW-2025-13 for the Supply and Delivery of Corrugated Steel Pipe (CSP) and High-Density Polyethylene Pipe (HDPE) to Armtec Inc. in the total two (2) year amount of \$421,324.60, excluding taxes;

THAT Committee of the Whole recommends authorizing staff to exercise the option to extend Contract No. PW-2025-13 annually with Armtec Inc. for an additional term of up to two (2) one (1) year periods, subject to budget, satisfactory vendor performance, pricing, and the mutual agreement of all parties; and,

THAT the necessary by-law be prepared.

CARRIED

7. Staff Reports - Information Reports

7.1 Report No. CW-038-2025: Procurement Activity Report - Q1 2025

Recording Timestamp 00:58:09

Resolution No. CW-071-2025

Moved by Tory Deschamps

Seconded by Roger Haley

THAT the Information Report listed on the Committee of the Whole Agenda dated May 7, 2025 be received and filed.

CARRIED

8. Sub-Committee, Ad Hoc Committee, and Member Reports

8.1 Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus Update - Warden Smith-Gatcke

Recording Timestamp 00:59:08

Ms. Smith-Gatcke noted the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) is meeting Friday morning to prepare for the May 12th and May 13th Queen's Park Lobby Days. She said she will be working alongside the other members of the EOWC to present important issues to the Ministers. She will provide a further report after the event.

8.2 AMO Board Update - Robin Jones

Recording Timestamp 01:00:24

Ms. Jones said she has been attending the Annual General Meetings of a number of municipal associations, noting this has permitted her to hear the various concerns. She noted there was considerable response to when the Province released the list of municipalities receiving strong mayor powers. She explained the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) does not intend to conduct training, but AMO has reached out to the Province to encourage the government to provide training. She recommended the municipalities contact the Province and request this training; she will also raise it during her upcoming meeting with the Ministry.

Ms. Jones reported economists and AMO are working on providing municipalities with tools related to the United States' tariffs.

Ms. Jones noted delegation requests to meet with Ministers during the AMO Conference have opened this week. She noted the importance of these delegations, saying that when issues are raised by more than one municipality, it has an impact.

8.3 South East Health Unit Update - Robin Jones

Recording Timestamp 01:03:42

Ms. Jones noted there is a summary of the recent meeting contained in the agenda package.

Recording Timestamp 01:03:57

Mr. Haley asked for an update regarding the Province's funding pertaining to the merger and how it might impact services. Ms. Jones noted the Province is continuing to provide the Health Unit with 1% per year in funding; however, at a minimum, salaries and wages are increasing 4%. She said AMO continues to lobby that the Province needs to increase funding each year in order to meet the pressure of inflation. Ms. Jones reported the Transition Funding for the merger has been provided and will continue to be provided for year two of the merger, but there continues to be pressure related to operational funding. She explained the message has been that services will not be cut, though she has said if the funding is not available, they would have to ask staff to identify possible cuts to service. Ms. Jones noted individual municipal councils must advocate to the effect that the current funding formula is a form of downloading public health to the municipalities.

9. Information Items

9.1 Information Items List Dated May 7, 2025

Recording Timestamp 01:07:00

This information item list was received and filed.

10. Unfinished Business

10.1 CAO's Report - Policy and Action Requests

Recording Timestamp 01:07:14

Recording Timestamp 01:09:40

With respect to the Policy and Action Requests, Ms. Jones noted the Andrewsville Bridge matter needs to be completed within this term of Council, as well as the review of Council compensation.

Recording Timestamp 01:11:08

Mr. Hoogenboom invited the members of the Committee to bring forward suggested Ministry delegation requests for the AMO Conference.

Recording Timestamp 01:11:32

Mr. Scott recommended a delegation to the Ministry of Finance regarding the property assessment, noting property taxes continue to be based on 2016 values.

Recording Timestamp 01:13:29

Ms. Jones recommended a delegation be made to the Attorney General regarding a solution to the Provincial Offences Act issues.

Recording Timestamp 01:14:08

Warden Smith-Gatcke recommended a delegation to the Ministry of Health regarding the Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre (VTAC) and the issue of cross-border billing for land ambulances.

Recording Timestamp 01:16:00

Mr. Hoogenboom suggested a delegation with the Ministry responsible for the Rural Economic Development Through Immigration (REDI) program with a request to extend the timeline of the program.

Recording Timestamp 01:19:59

Mr. Deschamps recommended a delegation pertaining to the supportive housing cabins and the sustainability of the Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) funding. Ms. Culhane confirmed there are 23 additional dormitory beds that could be established in the building adjacent to the cabins' location. Warden Smith-Gatcke confirmed there is a report coming to the Joint Services Committee regarding the 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan.

Recording Timestamp 01:23:15

Mr. Deschamps recommended a delegation to the Ministry of Energy and Electrification regarding hydro and natural gas expansion and the economic development impacts associated with it.

Recording Timestamp 01:28:14

Mr. Horsman stated staff would bring a report to the May 22nd Council meeting to confirm the topics of the delegations in advance of the May 30th delegation request deadline.

Recording Timestamp 01:29:15

Mr. Deschamps and Mr. Cameron stated the need for infrastructure funding is another area where a delegation would be recommended. Mr. Hoogenboom indicated staff would need to determine if the delegation request should be to the Minister of Finance or the Minister of Infrastructure.

11. Announcements

Recording Timestamp 01:32:33

Warden Smith-Gatcke noted the Corporate Services and Finance Committee will hold its first meeting May 21st.

Recording Timestamp 01:32:54

Warden Smith-Gatcke thanked staff at the Municipality of North Grenville and at the Counties for their work planning the successful Warden's Banquet held May 3rd. She said it was an honour for her to have had the opportunity to recognize the former Warden, Ms. Peckford, as well as all the Wardens that came before her in the Counties' 175 year history.

12. Notices of By-law/Notices of Motion

Recording Timestamp 01:34:34

- 12.1 A By-law to Amend By-law 19-39, Being a By-law to Adopt an Investment Policy**
- 12.2 A By-law to Provide for the Erection of a Yield Sign for the Northbound Direction on County Road 33 on Approach to the Lyndhurst Bridge**
- 12.3 A By-law to Prescribe a Rate of Speed on County Road 33 in the Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands**
- 12.4 A By-law to Prescribe a Rate of Speed on County Road 4 (Quabbin Road) in the Township of Front of Yonge**
- 12.5 A By-law to Award Contract No. PW-2025-14 for Micro-Surfacing and Slurry Seal Surface Treatment**
- 12.6 A By-law to Award Contract No. PW-2025-02 for Supply and Delivery of Corrugated Steel Pipe and High Density Polyethylene Pipe**

13. Questions from the Media

Recording Timestamp 01:35:00

There were no questions from the media.

14. Questions from the Public

Recording Timestamp 01:35:03

There were no questions from the public.

15. Closed Meeting – Nil

Recording Timestamp 01:35:10

16. Adjournment

Recording Timestamp 01:35:13

Resolution No. CW-072-2025

Moved by Michael Cameron

Seconded by Jeff Shaver

THAT the meeting of the Committee of the Whole adjourn at 10:35 a.m.

CARRIED

All of which is respectfully submitted this 22nd day of May, 2025.