

# 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 April 8, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers, 25 Central Avenue West, Brockville.

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

**Staff Present:** Al Horsman, Chief Administrative Officer  
Kim Little, Director of Corporate Services  
Sarah McDonald, Director of Public Works  
Alison Tutak, Interim Director of Community and Social Services  
Jeff Carss, Paramedic Chief  
Ann Weir, Manager of Economic Development  
Rick Purdy, Manager of Human Resources  
John Kalivas, Communications Coordinator  
Krystin Stitt, Project Management Specialist  
Andrea Bolton, Deputy Clerk (Recording Secretary)

**Others Present:** Jian Guan, HDR Project Manager  
Katie Surra, Ministry of Transportation  
Sevag Amen, Ministry of Transportation  
Greg Stallard, Turner & Townsend  
Spencer Putnam, Cunningham Swan  
Sherri Fourier Hudson, Health Workforce Innovations Inc.  
George Smitherman, Health Workforce Innovations Inc.  
Sandra MacDonald, City of Brockville, City Manager  
Matt Armstrong, Town of Prescott, Chief Administrative Officer  
John Lawless, Recorder and Times

### **1. Call to Order**

Recording Timestamp 00:00:01

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**2. Adoption of the Agenda**

Recording Timestamp 00:00:07

**Resolution No. CW-031-2026**

**Moved by Jeff Shaver**

**Seconded by Michael Cameron**

**THAT the Agenda for the April 8, 2026 meeting of the Committee of the Whole be adopted as circulated.**

**CARRIED**

**3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof - Nil**

Recording Timestamp 00:00:24

**4. Adoption of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**4.1 Meeting Minutes Dated March 4, 2026**

Recording Timestamp 00:00:32

**Resolution No. CW-032-2026**

**Moved by Roger Haley**

**Seconded by Arie Hoogenboom**

**THAT the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on March 4, 2026 be adopted as circulated.**

**CARRIED**

**5. Delegations/Presentations**

**5.1 Jian Guan, HDR Project Manager, Sevag Amen, Ministry of Transportation, and Katie Surra, Ministry of Transportation re: Highway 401 Preliminary Design and Class Environmental Assessment - 1 km East of Highway 16 to 2.5 km East of Shanly Road**

Recording Timestamp 00:00:58

Mr. Guan provided the Committee with information pertaining to the Class Environmental Assessment and preliminary design for the replacement of the Highway 401/Shanly Road underpass structure, improvements to the Shanly Road interchange, and the establishment of the footprint of Highway 401 for future widening to six lanes from 1 km east of Highway 16 to 2.5 km east of Shanly Road.

Ms. Tutak joined the meeting at 9:09 a.m.

Mr. Guan, Mr. Amen and Ms. Surra left the meeting at 9:26 a.m.

**6. Staff Reports - Action Reports**

**6.1 Administration**

**6.1.1 Report No. CW-021-2026: Small Business - Consolidation of Program Delivery**

Recording Timestamp 00:24:10

Recording Timestamp 00:28:48

Warden Smith-Gatcke suggested if the grant amounts are being fully utilized, a delegation with the Ministry may be appropriate to encourage an examination of the funding formula.

**Resolution No. CW-033-2026**

**Moved by Arie Hoogenboom**

**Seconded by Michael Cameron**

**THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends to Council that staff communicate with the Town of Smiths Falls and the Ministry of Economic**

**Development, Job Creation and Trade (MEDJCT) regarding the Small Business Enterprise Centre (SBEC) contract as outlined in Option 2 of Report No. CW-021-2026.**

**CARRIED**

**6.1.2 Report No. CW-019-2026: Acknowledging the Food Insecurity Crisis in Leeds and Grenville**

Recording Timestamp 00:30:27

Recording Timestamp 00:32:40

Ms. Jones suggested the draft resolution in the report could be strengthened by referencing that food insecurity exists even in the face of efforts made to address poverty with the Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) funding.

Recording Timestamp 00:35:07

Mr. Hoogenboom suggested the word "crisis" ought to be removed from the draft resolution.

Recording Timestamp 00:36:02

Ms. Peckford suggested the word "emergency" would be appropriate in the draft resolution.

Recording Timestamp 00:40:30

Ms. Jones suggested changing the words "levels of government" in the draft resolution to read "orders of government".

Recording Timestamp 00:41:44

Mr. Burrow expressed concern about the vagueness of the phrasing around advocacy for increased rates of social assistance and requested the wording be clarified to focus on unchanged social assistance rates.

Recording Timestamp 00:47:06

Ms. Peckford suggested in the section of the draft resolution thanking the Food Banks, they ought to include "that Council acknowledges and seeks to increase support for local Food Banks, volunteers and community partners".

**Resolution No. CW-034-2026**

**Moved by Arie Hoogenboom**

**Seconded by Herb Scott**

**THAT Report No. CW-019-2026 be deferred to the May Committee of the Whole meeting pending changes to the proposed resolution.**

**CARRIED**

**Resolution No. CW-035-2026**

**Moved by Arie Hoogenboom**

**Seconded by Herb Scott**

**THAT Committee of the Whole recommends the draft resolution recommended in Report No. CW-019-2026 acknowledging the food insecurity crisis in Leeds and Grenville be considered at the April 23, 2026 Council meeting.**

**DEFERRED**

**6.1.3 Report No. CW-016-2026: Restricted Acts During Lame Duck Period**

Recording Timestamp 00:50:58

**Resolution No. CW-036-2026**

**Moved by Nancy Peckford**

**Seconded by Brant Burrow**

**THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends Counties' Council delegate authority to the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and Deputy CAOs (if necessary) to perform restricted acts after nomination day as outlined in Section 275 of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended; and**

**THAT the delegation of authority only be in effect in the event it is determined, with certainty, by the County Clerk or designate that less than three-quarters (75%) of the current members of Council will be returning to Council following the election; and**

**THAT the necessary by-laws be prepared.**

**CARRIED**

**6.1.4 Report No. CW-022-2026: Integrity Commissioner Annual Report 2025**

Recording Timestamp 00:54:32

**Resolution No. CW-037-2026**

**Moved by Nancy Peckford**

**Seconded by Jeff Shaver**

**THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends the 2025 Integrity Commissioner's Annual Report attached to Report No. CW-022-2026, regarding activities from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025 submitted by Tony Fleming, Cunningham Swan, be received.**

**CARRIED**

**6.2 Corporate Services – Nil**

Recording Timestamp 00:55:53

**6.3 Public Works – Nil**

Recording Timestamp 00:55:54

**7. Staff Reports - Information Reports**

**7.1 Report No. CW-014-2026: G. Tackaberry and Family Home Delay Report**

Recording Timestamp 00:55:55

Recording Timestamp 01:03:31

Mr. Hoogenboom suggested a media release be prepared providing an executive summary of this report and updating the public on the status and future direction of the project.

Recording Timestamp 01:07:04

**Resolution No. CW-038-2026**

**Moved by Herb Scott**

**Seconded by Nancy Peckford**

**THAT the Information Report listed on the Committee of the Whole Agenda dated April 8, 2026 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 01:07:26

Warden Smith-Gatcke reported May 12<sup>th</sup> is the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) Queen's Park Advocacy Day and priorities include stable funding, infrastructure, the H2O Highway, and a partnership with the federal government regarding nation building projects. She noted there are three military bases in eastern Ontario and there are economic benefits to increased spending in those areas.

Warden Smith-Gatcke spoke to the EOWC's resolution regarding the ALTO High-Speed Rail project, noting this resolution addresses a lack of numerical transparency with respect to ridership and lack of transparency regarding the process. She said the EOWC feels the project must be re-examined.

### **8.2 AMO Board Update - Robin Jones**

Recording Timestamp 01:09:28

Ms. Jones noted the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Board nominations open May 1<sup>st</sup> and close June 20<sup>th</sup>. She encouraged members to consider running for the Rural Caucus.

Ms. Jones reported AMO has been working on the issues surrounding the changes to the Conservation Authorities, noting the Board has received several presentations by the Minister and his staff. She reported the AMO policy staff are involved in the transition planning.

Ms. Jones said AMO was pleased with the announcement regarding HST on all new homes. She noted another issue being examined by AMO is the decision by the federal and provincial governments to grant money in lieu of development charges. She said AMO is examining whether municipalities that voluntarily remove development charges are being penalized, as well as looking at what funding is available for rural municipalities that do not have development charges.

With respect to governance at the provincial level, Ms. Jones noted changes have been proposed to regional governments. She stated AMO does not expect further changes at this time,

With respect to a question from Mr. Hoogenboom, Ms. Jones reported the Provincial Code of Conduct continues to wait for third reading. She encouraged municipalities to continue to advocate to the Premier for progress.

In response to a question from Mr. Deschamps, Ms. Jones confirmed that her term as AMO President ends in August.

### **8.3 Southeast Health Unit Update - Robin Jones**

Recording Timestamp 01:13:14

Ms. Jones summarized the transition process that has followed the amalgamation of the three Health Units, noting the Board of Health has a new Chair, Nathan Townend.

In response to Mr. Deschamps' question regarding a reported \$3.6 million surplus at the Health Unit, Ms. Jones noted the Board will be working with the City of Belleville, which has indicated it will not release its increased funds for 2026 in light of the surplus. She explained the transition funding from the Ministry of Health is being provided over a three-year period and noted the \$3.6 million came from grant funding. She noted the transition funding is designed to offset some of what the legacy health units had to levy in order to reach the required 30% municipal funding for the Health Unit. She noted there is a new funding formula coming from the Province and it will speak to what services will continue to be supported. She stated the Board of Health is committed to no reduction of service to rural Ontario.

Warden Smith-Gatcke suggested it would be prudent for the Counties to undertake small incremental levy increases to prepare for the 30% requirement at the Health Unit. Mr. Horsman confirmed staff are looking into this.

Ms. Peckford noted that service levels have changed with the reduction of hours at the sexual health clinic in Kemptville.

## **9. Information Items**

### **9.1 Information Items List Dated April 8, 2026**

Recording Timestamp 01:22:32

### **9.2 Township of Rideau Lakes Resolution Requesting Review of Posted Speed Limit and Signage on County Road 9 through Chaffey's Lock**

Recording Timestamp 01:22:42

## **10. Unfinished Business**

### **10.1 CAO's Report - Policy and Action Requests**

Recording Timestamp 01:22:57

## **11. Announcements - Nil**

Recording Timestamp 01:23:55

## **12. Notices of By-law/Notices of Motion**

Recording Timestamp 01:23:58

### **12.1 A By-law to Delegate Authority to the Chief Administrative Officer for Certain Acts During a "Lame Duck" Period**

**12.2 A By-law to Appoint an Interim County Clerk and Manager of Legislative Services and Repeal By-law No. 24-90**

**12.3 A By-law to Appoint Deputy Chief Administrative Officer and Alternate Deputy Chief Administrative Officer**

**13. Questions from the Media**

Recording Timestamp 01:24:06

With respect to the \$862,708.00 shortfall for every month the opening of the G. Tackaberry and Family Home is delayed, Mr. Lawless asked how many months that number has been accruing. Mr. Horsman noted estimates including operating were to the end of March, with the assumption residents would be in the new facility in March. In response to a question from Mr. Lawless regarding the target date for occupancy, Mr. Horsman indicated staff are working diligently to open the Home as soon as possible.

**14. Questions from the Public**

Recording Timestamp 01:25:31

There were no questions from the public.

The Committee recessed at 10:26 a.m. and reconvened at 10:36 a.m.

Ms. Little, Ms. McDonald, Ms. Tutak, Chief Carss, Mr. Kalivas and Mr. Lawless left the meeting at 10:26 a.m. Mr. Smitherman joined the meeting at 10:36 a.m.

**15. Closed Meeting**

Recording Timestamp 01:25:44

**Resolution No. CW-039-2026**  
**Moved by Michael Cameron**  
**Seconded by Tory Deschamps**

**THAT the Committee of the Whole, as provided in Section 239 (2) of the Municipal Act, 2001 S.O. 2001, Chapter 25, amended, move into a closed meeting at 10:36 a.m. to address matters pertaining to:**

- 15.1 a trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial, financial or labour relations information, supplied in confidence to the municipality or local board, which, if disclosed, could reasonably be expected to prejudice significantly the competitive position or interfere significantly with the contractual or other negotiations of a person, group of persons, or organization; Specifically, Closed Presentation: Sherri Fournier Hudson and George Smitherman, Health Workforce Innovations Inc. re: Health Care Resource Recruitment.**
- 15.2 litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board; Specifically, Closed Report No. CW-020-2026: Ontario Land Tribunal Appeals to Official Plan Amendment No. 5 - Site Specific Appeals.**
- 15.3 a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board; Specifically, Closed Report No. CW-018-2026: Transfer Ownership of Property.**
- 15.4 labour relations or employee negotiations; Specifically, Closed Report No. CW-023-2026: Labour Relations Update - OPSEU – CSS**

**CARRIED**

- 15.1 Closed Presentation: Sherri Fournier Hudson and George Smitherman, Health Workforce Innovations Inc. re: Health Care Resource Recruitment – Part 1**

Ms. Weir, Ms. MacDonald, Mr. Armstrong, Ms. Fournier Hudson and Mr. Smitherman left the meeting at 11:07 a.m.

- 15.2 Closed Report No. CW-020-2026: Ontario Land Tribunal Appeals to Official Plan Amendment No. 5 - Site Specific Appeals**

Mr. Putnam joined the meeting at 11:09 a.m.

Mr. Putnam left the meeting at 11:23 a.m.

- 15.1 Closed Presentation: Sherri Fournier Hudson and George Smitherman, Health Workforce Innovations Inc. re: Health Care Resource Recruitment – Part 2**

Ms. Weir, Ms. MacDonald and Mr. Armstrong rejoined the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Mr. Deschamps left the meeting at 11:26 a.m.

Ms. Peckford left the meeting at 12:03 p.m.

Ms. Weir, Ms. MacDonald and Mr. Armstrong left the meeting at 12:04 p.m.

### **15.3 Closed Report No. CW-018-2026: Transfer Ownership of Property**

Ms. Tutak rejoined the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

Ms. Jones left the meeting at 12:05 p.m. and Warden Smith-Gatcke took the Chair.

### **15.4 Closed Report No. CW-023-2026: Labour Relations Update - OPSEU – CSS**

Ms. Little and Mr. Purdy joined the meeting at 12:09 p.m.

#### **Resolution No. CW-040-2026**

**Moved by Herb Scott**

**Seconded by Brant Burrow**

**THAT the closed meeting adjourn and the open meeting of the Committee of the Whole resume at 12:13 p.m.**

**CARRIED**

### **15.5 Reporting Out from Closed Meeting**

Recording Timestamp 01:27:28

With respect to Item 15.1, Warden Smith-Gatcke reported the Committee met in closed session to address matters pertaining to a trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial, financial or labour relations information, supplied in confidence to the municipality or local board, which, if disclosed, could reasonably be expected to prejudice significantly the competitive position or interfere significantly with the contractual or other negotiations of a person, group of persons, or organization; Specifically, Closed Presentation: Sherri

Fournier Hudson and George Smitherman, Health Workforce Innovations Inc. re: Health Care Resource Recruitment. She noted the Committee provided instruction to staff

Recording Timestamp 01:28:00

With respect to Item 15.2, Warden Smith-Gatcke reported the Committee met in closed session to address matters pertaining to litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board; Specifically, Closed Report No. CW-020-2026: Ontario Land Tribunal Appeals to Official Plan Amendment No. 5 - Site Specific Appeals. She stated the Committee provided instruction to staff.

Recording Timestamp 01:28:25

With respect to Item 15.3, Warden Smith-Gatcke reported the Committee met in closed session to address matters pertaining to a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board; Specifically, Closed Report No. CW-018-2026: Transfer Ownership of Property. She stated the Committee would consider a motion in open session.

**Resolution No. CW-041-2026**

**Moved by Jeff Shaver**

**Seconded by Michael Cameron**

**THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend to Counties Council that the property owned by the Counties and identified as Block A Plan 319, Dana Street be declared as surplus; and**

**THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend to Counties Council to donate and transfer ownership of the property - Block A Plan 319, Dana Street, Brockville Ontario, to the City of Brockville for the concessions listed in Closed Report No. CW-018-2026; and**

**THAT the necessary by-law be prepared.**

**CARRIED**

Recording Timestamp 01:29:26

With respect to Item 15.4, Warden Smith-Gatcke reported the Committee met in closed session to address matters pertaining to labour relations or employee

negotiations; Specifically, Closed Report No. CW-023-2026: Labour Relations Update - OPSEU – CSS. She stated the Committee provided instruction to staff.

**16. Adjournment**

Recording Timestamp 01:29:40

**Resolution No. CW-042-2026**

**Moved by Roger Haley**

**Seconded by Arie Hoogenboom**

**THAT the meeting of the Committee of the Whole adjourn at 12:15 p.m.**

**CARRIED**

All of which is respectfully submitted this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2026.