

# Council Summary

## January 2023

Below you will find highlights of the January 2023 Township of Greater Madawaska Council meetings. Please note that this summary does not constitute the official record of the meetings.

Full agendas and minutes can be found at <https://greatermadawaska.civicweb.net/Portal/>

Meeting recordings can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqKFVYNGbkv0SJJSN5IFNdQ>

January meeting dates were as follows:

January 12, 2023 1:00pm – Special Council Meeting

January 12, 2023 3:00pm – Public Hearing Meeting

January 19, 2023 3:00pm – Regular Council Meeting

January 31, 2023 1:00pm – Special Council Meeting

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### Public Hearing

- Three Zoning By-law Amendments were presented, and public input was received.
  - Zoning By-law Amendment ZB2206.10 – Centennial Lake Road (Popkie)
  - Zoning By-law Amendment ZB2206.11 – Lower Spruce Hedge Road (Huyer)
  - Zoning By-law Amendment ZB2206.12 – Barrett Chute Road (Balcomb)
- One Official Plan Amendment was presented, and public input was received.
  - OPA #37 (Calabogie Motorsports Park)

### Delegations/Presentations

- 2023 Budget Presentation – Renee Mask, Treasurer/Deputy CAO
    - A presentation was made outlining the 2023 draft Budget. Explanations were made regarding all aspects of the budget including property assessment, overall budget, operating budget, capital budget, debentures, and reserve funds. The presentation successfully illustrates how the budget is formed
  - Calabogie Medical Centre – Dr. Ben Blaine
    - Dr. Blaine spoke about the current set-up of space and staffing at the Medical Centre. He described several issues regarding accessibility, office sharing, electrical issues and other struggles within their space. He hopes a solution is found to allow for the improvement and growth of services provided. More space would greatly increase the services that could be offered to the community and would allow doctor recruitment to proceed.
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- Back-Country Ski Trail – Lesley Cassidy
  - Ms. Cassidy spoke about the development of the Back-Country Ski Trails connecting the Madawaska Nordic Trails to the Dacre Heights Trails. The 40km trail would mainly cross Crown Land, but will require the use of three unopened road allowances. Her main request at this point is permission to use the unopened road allowances in the vicinity of Kennelly Mountain Road and Flat Road for the ski trails and that Township staff submit a request to landowners to remove the no trespassing signs.
  
- Library Board – CEO Ruth Jones
  - Ms. Jones, presented the Greater Madawaska Public Library & Learning Centre 2023 Budget to Council for review.
  
- Stop Arm Cameras on School Buses – Kristan Marshall
  - Ms. Marshall presented to Council outlining her endeavour to present to the Renfrew County Joint Transportation Consortium specifically supporting the installation of stop arm cameras on school buses. She asked for Council’s support of her approaching and presenting to the RCJTC, which they endorsed.

### **Facilities Department**

- Parking Fees at Eagle’s Nest
  - A letter and information package from resident Tim Yearington was presented to Council regarding Mr. Yearington’s views on the parking fees at the Eagle’s Nest Trail Parking Lot. Council will further review the information provided and the Facilities Manager will present Council with a recommendation as how to proceed.

### **Planning Department**

- Building Permit Report
  - The end of year Building Permit Report shows 137 permits issued at a value of \$31,873,953 for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2022 as compared to 175 permits issued at a value of \$30,150,815 during the same period of 2021.
  
- Bill 109 More Homes for Everyone Act, Bill 23 More Homes Built Faster, Bill 3 Strong Mayors Building Homes Act, and Bill 39 Municipal Governance Act.
  - Two letters from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Minister Steve Clark, were included for information purposes regarding the above mentioned Bills and Acts.

- Four Zoning By-law Amendments were presented.
  - ZBA2206.10 – Popkie – approved by Council
  - ZBA2206.11 – Huyer – approved by Council
  - ZBA2206.12 – Balcomb – approved by Council
  - ZBA2206.8 & ZBA2206.9 – Calabogie Peaks – approved by Council
  
- Committee of Adjustment
  - The new Committee of Adjustment was appointed by Council. The appointment will expire January 2024. The new Committee consists of all five members of Council.
  
- Cross-Country Ski Trails on Unopened Road Allowance
  - As a result of Ms. Cassidy’s presentation (see above), Council agreed with the recommendation of staff to permit the use of the unopened road allowances in the vicinity of Kennelly Mountain Road and Flat Road for establishing cross-country ski trails.
  
- Rural Economic Development (RED) Program
  - Staff will apply for the RED Program grant for the purpose of implementing a Marketing and Promotion Campaign. This application will be accomplishment through a partnership with the Township of Whitewater.

### **Finance and Administration Department**

- 2023 Canada Day Committee
  - Council appointed the 2023 Canada Day Committee, consisting of the five members of the public that applied and one Council representative.
  
- Renfrew and Area Chamber of Commerce
  - Councillor Jeff Levesque was appointed to serve as the Township Council representative on the Renfrew and Area Chambers of Commerce Board of Directors.
  
- Committee Survey
  - As per the Municipal Committees Policy 1-03, "Once the newly elected Council has been installed in the office, Council will meet to confirm the required committees." Therefore, a survey was prepared by staff and approved by Council for the purpose of engaging and receiving input from the public regarding the priority needs of Township Committee. The survey was then released to the public and the results will be evaluated and presented to Council at the February Meeting.

- Griffith Mile Committee
  - The Griffith Mile Committee Terms of Reference were approved by Council. The Committee was then advertised by staff on the Township website and Facebook Page. Applications are being accepted until February 24, 2023.
  
- Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority
  - Councillor Taylor Popkie was appointed by Council to represent the Township on the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority until 2026
  
- 2023 Draft Budget
  - Thorough discussion between Council and Staff was constructive and informative. Council directed staff to present the final budget at the February Council Meeting for final review and adoption.
  
- Mission Statement and Priorities for 2023
  - The proposed Mission Statement and Priorities for 2023 were brought forward by the CAO for Council to review. This document was produced based on the consolidated input provided by Council. Much discussion took place and a revised document will be brought forward to the next meeting.
  
- New Strategic Plan
  - The CAO discussed the process that was taken to create the current Strategic Plan with respect to public consultation. The public was invited to participate however turnout was low which is a constant struggle faced in our Township. Moving forward for the New Strategic Plan, different options to create the new plan were mentioned and further discussion will take place.