

Council Summary

May 2023

Below you will find highlights of the Township of Greater Madawaska Council meetings from May 2023. 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/UCqKFVYNGbkvOSJJSN5IFNdQ>

May meeting dates were as follows:

May 18, 2023, 3:00pm – Regular Council Meeting

Facilities and Environment Department

- FoodCycler Pilot Project
 - As a follow up to the presentation made by Food Cycle Science Corporation during the April Council meeting, Council approved the staff recommendation to publish an online survey to determine community interest in the FoodCycler Pilot Project. In order for the project to be successful and affordable a minimum of 50 residents will need to commit to participating in the project. More information will be provided on the Township website and Facebook page as it becomes available.

Public Works Department

- Southside Way
 - Council supported the staff recommendation that remedial work be completed as part of the 2024 gravel road operating maintenance plan, which will include additional gravel, culvert replacement, and ditching. This work will be focused on soft spots which have been identified to have drainage issues. The intent of this remedial work is to improve drainage.

Protection Services Department

- Fire Chief
 - Following recent recruitment efforts, the position of Full-time Fire Chief has been filled by Peter Forshaw. Mr. Forshaw is well suited for the position and the Township looks forward to benefitting from his years of fire service experience.
- North Frontenac Automatic Aid Agreement
 - The Township has been in an agreement with the Township of North Frontenac to provide fire protection services, as needed, for the Norcan Lake area. The Township of North Frontenac covers the costs associated with responses to emergency calls in the

specified area, as well as an annual fee based on the number of properties in the area. Council supported the continuation of the agreement.

Finance and Administration Department

- User Fees and Charges
 - A review of the Township's user fees and charges was completed by all department heads. Minor changes are proposed for some fees pertaining to Administration, Finance, Public Works, and Waste Management. More substantial changes are proposed for Building fees and Planning Department fees. As required under the Building Code Act, a meeting will be held to give residents the opportunity to provide their input on the proposed Building fees prior to Council's decision.

- Final Tax Levy
 - Based on the approval of the 2023 Budget including the approved Municipal tax levy requirements of \$3,843,360, the increase in the total tax rate is 3.98%. This results in a tax increase of \$38.09 annually per \$100,000 assessment.

- Asset Management Plan Review
 - Provincial regulations under the *Infrastructure for Job and Prosperity Act* require municipalities to create and maintain an Asset Management Plan. The plan must then be reviewed annually to look at the municipality's progress in implementing the plan, note any factors impeding implementation, and provide a strategy to address any impeding factors found. The full report on the plan review can be found on the agenda.
<https://greatermadawaska.civicweb.net/document/78060/2023%20Asset%20Management%20Plan%20Review.pdf?handle=C9501E38C3D84CA785AFCCBE17AF7654>

- Strategic Plan
 - A Strategic Plan is necessary to help guide Council and Staff with decision-making and project prioritization. Each term of Council adopts a plan to be followed throughout the term. Council supported the staff recommendation to contract the services of a facilitator to the gather data through situation analysis and interviews with internal and external stakeholders. Work will begin as soon as possible, with a Final Strategic Plan proposed to be completed in October.

Committees

- Canada Day Committee
 - Councillor Tripp gave an update on the Committee's progress. Planning is still moving ahead well. Councillor Tripp communicated that the call for volunteers is a large priority and encouraged residents to come forward and help with this tremendous event.

Other

- Mayor's Address
 - Mayor Weir addressed Council and the Public to acknowledge Township residents and businesses that recently received awards and to share condolences to OPP Officer Sgt. Eric Mueller's family, friends, and colleagues. Mayor Weir's address can be viewed on the Township's YouTube channel.
<https://www.youtube.com/@townshipofgreatermadawaska7558/streams>

- Meeting Locations
 - A discussion was led by Councillor Thomson regarding the location of public meetings perhaps interfering with the ability for residents to participate. During the discussion it was confirmed that participation via zoom will be available, ensuring that residents are able to provide comments when appropriate.

Closed

- Closed Session was held pursuant to Section 239(2) of the Municipal Act, 2001 regarding the following:
 - Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees.
 - Volunteer Appreciation Awards
 - CAO