

Council Summary

February 2023

Below you will find highlights of the February 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/UCqKFVYNGbkv0SJJ5IFNdQ>

February meeting dates were as follows:

February 9, 2023 3:00pm – Public Hearing Meeting

February 16, 2023 3:00pm – Regular Council Meeting

Public Hearing

- During the Public Hearing held February 9, two applications were presented and discussed:
 - Zoning By-law Amendment ZB2306.1 – Calabogie Road (Republic of Bukistan)
 - Staff recommendation was brought forward to the February 16 Council Meeting for review.
 - Applications for Plan of Subdivision 47T22004 and 47T22005 – Norton Road (Granite Village)
 - Staff and Council provided comment to the County for consideration

Delegations/Presentations

- EORN (Eastern Ontario Regional Network) – Jason St. Pierre, CEO
 - Mr. St. Pierre presented details of the EORN Cell Gap Project. The full slide show presentation can be found on the agenda.
<https://greatermadawaska.civicweb.net/document/76163/?splitscreen=true&attachmenturl=%2Fdocument%2F76060>

Facilities Department

- Eagles Nest Parking Policy
 - Township staff has received feedback regarding the pay-to-park system put in place at the Eagles Nest Parking Lot in July 2022. To address special circumstances with regards to waiving fees, staff will draft and present a policy for Council's consideration at the March 16, 2023 Council Meeting

Protection Services Department

- Emergency Management
 - Options for Emergency Management Training for Council were discussed. The training can be done at the Regional Level and/or the Local Level. The purpose
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would be to educate Council on the current Emergency Management system in place within the Township.

- Fire Inspection Services
 - The Township has decided to enter into an agreement with the Town of Renfrew for Fire Inspection Services.

Planning Department

- Building Permit Report
 - The Building Permit Report shows 8 permits issued at a value of \$575,000 for the period of January 1 to January 31, 2023 as compared to 2 permits issued at a value of \$705,000 during the same period of 2022.
- Building Permit Historical Activity Trends
 - A chart showing the Building Permit Trends from 2008-2022 was presented. The Chart showed a relatively consistent and moderately increasing trend of construction values from 2008 to 2020, followed by a spike in residential construction values in 2021 and 2022, bringing the total construction values up to and exceeding \$30 M.
- Calabogie Motorsports Park Special Events Permits
 - Council granted approval of three Special Event Permits for Calabogie Motorsports Park for the 2023 season, as per conditions of the Noise By-law 14-2016.
- Two Zoning By-law Amendments were presented.
 - Zoning By-law Amendment ZB2306.1 – Calabogie Road (Republic of Bukistan)
 - This Amendment was presented during the February 9 Public Meeting and was approved by Council during the February 16 Council Meeting.
 - Zoning By-law Amendment to Lift Holding Symbol – Virgin Lake Lane (Toth)
 - Council approved the Holding Symbol be lifted as per staff recommendation stating that the necessary conditions have been met.

Finance and Administration Department

- Madawaska Street Docks Committee
 - The decision to appoint committee members was deferred until the March Council Meeting, pending further information and discussion.
- Committee Survey
 - The Committee Survey that was developed and made available to the public received only 127 responses, which equates to participation by 2.5% of eligible electors. Despite this low level of response, the information gathered was used to select three committees to be formed at this time; Recreation Advisory Committee, Inclusivity Advisory Committee, and Economic Development and Communications Advisory Committee. Committee Terms of Reference and Committee Applications will be created and presented to Council for approval.

- Mission, Vision and Priorities for 2023
 - The following Mission, Vision and Priorities statements for 2023 have been approved by Council:
 - Mission Statement: "To provide an inclusive, engaged, and safe community for all residents, businesses, and visitors."
 - Vision Statement: "To provide services in a cost effective and transparent manner, to encourage sustainable and future successful growth and continue to improve infrastructure."
 - Priorities for 2023: “•Create and Support Sustainable Development
 - Service Delivery Review
 - Effective Governance
 - Community Infrastructure ”
- Policy 2-30 Hours of Work and Overtime and Policy 2-51 Alternative Work Arrangements
 - The revised policy and the additional policy will allow for proper guidance to staff and managers regarding how changes to work schedules and work arrangements can be considered and applied. The flexibility offered can also be beneficial for the attraction and retention of staff.
- Employee Remuneration
 - The 2023 Salary Grid was approved by Council. The 2023 grid was updated as a result of job evaluations and market analysis that were recently completed. Job evaluations help organizations ensure employees' fair, equitable and consistent pay structure. It helps organizations recruit the right candidate for a job, correct placements of employees, devise a good wage and implement effective salary structures.
- Manager of Planning and Development
 - As of July 2022, the Township has not had a full time Planner on staff. The Township had entered into an agreement with the Town of Renfrew for Planning services for two days per week. While this was extremely helpful, it has proven the need for a full time planner once again. The position has been posted and the Township is currently accepting applications.
- 2023 Budget
 - Council approved the 2023 Operating and Capital Budget. Much discussion took place during previous meetings regarding the budget. In the end, Council was satisfied with the outcome. As a result of deliberations the levy requirement as per the 2023 Budget is \$3,843,360, which results in an increase in the municipal tax rate of 6.68%. The impact on taxpayers is an annual tax billing increase of \$28.21 per \$100,000 in property assessment. The municipal tax rate comparison chart provided in the report attached to the agenda shows that despite the tax increase, the Township of Greater Madawaska remains with the lowest mill rate as compared to several surrounding municipalities.

Other

- Denbigh Griffith Lions Club Letter of Request
 - Chairperson of the Griffith Show and Shine Car Show, Jan Roche, wrote a letter to Council requesting financial support for the event. After discussion amongst Council members, the decision was made to provide the financial support as requested.
- Federal Electoral Boundaries
 - In August 2023 the Township became aware of the proposal from the Ontario Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission to remove the Township of Greater Madawaska from the electoral boundary of Algonquin—Renfrew—Pembroke (formerly Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke) and place it in the electoral boundary of Lanark-Frontenac. Written or oral presentations were submitted, resulting in the success of having the Township returned to the original boundaries.
- Greater Madawaska Public Library & Learning Centre CEO Report
 - The CEO Report included some points of interest on February happenings and possible upcoming fundraising events.