

# The Corporation of the Township of Lucan Biddulph Council Minutes

**Present:** Mayor C. Burghardt-Jesson, Deputy Mayor D. Manders, Councillor D. Regan, and Councillor A. Westman

**Also Present:** R. Reymer-CAO/Clerk, T. Merner-Deputy Clerk, K. Langendyk-Treasurer, J. Little-Public Works Manager, P. Smith-Parks & Recreation Manager, L. deBoer-Economic Development Coordinator

## **Call To Order**

Mayor C. Burghardt-Jesson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The meeting took place electronically.

## **Declaration of Pecuniary Interest & Nature Thereof**

None

## **Announcements**

I spent a good part of the weekend reflecting on the news from Friday about the 215 lost, but now found Indigenous Children. I'm sure like me, you were shocked, saddened, burdened and yes, even angry. This discovery serves as a reminder that we cannot hide from a painful and horrifying past. We must acknowledge the pain and suffering we as a nation have caused to generations of our Indigenous communities. What is troubling is this did not happen hundreds of years ago, this has happened in \*our\* lifetime. In no uncertain terms, we as a nation have played a role in this genocide. In order to move forward in reconciliation, we must acknowledge our role and as a nation, grieve the lives we lost, and the lives we changed for the worst. So, I ask if you haven't already, grieve, remember, and honour in your own personal reflections the 215 little lives that have been lost. Acknowledge what has happened, and be part of a better future. While we cannot undo the past we can be part of a present and future that we do better. Please join me in a moment of silent reflection as we honour 215 lost lives.

At this time I would like to share an email that I received over the weekend. A signed copy was received by the Clerk's office in accordance with the Municipal Act.

*Mayor Burghardt-Jesson*

*It is with deep regret that I provide you with notice of my resignation as Councillor for the Municipality of Lucan Biddulph effective immediately. I have valued my time as Councillor for the residents of Ward 2 and I believe that I've represented those residents to the best of my abilities.*

*As per my election platform, I committed significant time and effort to improve accountability, transparency and integrity within the municipality and there remains much work to be done. However, personal circumstances require my attention at this time and I don't believe that I can continue to serve on Council and dedicate the same level of effort or to a level that residents deserve.*

*And it is signed Peter Mastorakos*

I have been in touch with Councillor Mastorakos and have wished him the best as he works through his personal situation. On behalf of council, staff and our residents, I passed along our thanks for his service to Lucan Biddulph. Ron will address the process we must follow during his staff report.

## **Public Meetings – Drainage Act**

### **5.1 Blake Drain 2021 Addendum Report**

Mike DeVos from Spriet Associates reviewed the Addendum report for the Blake Drain 2021 and advised a petition was submitted for additional works to be added to the drain report which include an existing tile to be replaced referred to as Branch K and a proposed berm to be substituted with smaller berms for future maintenance purposes. No questions from Council or residents were received.

**1/ Blake Drain 2021 - Addendum Report**

Moved by A. Westman

Seconded by D. Manders

THAT the Addendum Drainage Report for the Blake Drain 2021, as prepared by Spriet Associates, dated May 14, 2021, be received and adopted;

CARRIED

**2/ Court of Revision**

Moved by D. Regan

Seconded by A. Westman

That Council adjourn its regular meeting in order to sit as the Court of Revision under the Drainage Act, to consider the Blake Drain 2021 and that Mayor Cathy Burghardt-Jesson be appointed as Chair.

CARRIED

5.2 Blake Drain 2021

M. DeVos advised that the Court of Revision gives the assessed property owners a chance to appeal the assigned assessment. J. Little advised a written appeal was submitted late by Samuel Cassady and Mr. Cassady is requesting that Council accepts his appeal submission.

**3/ Blake Drain 2021 - Appeals**

Moved by D. Manders

Seconded by D. Regan

Resolved that Council accepts Mr. Cassady's request to submit a verbal appeal during the Court of Revision for the Blake Drain 2021.

CARRIED

Mr. Cassady advised he has several reasons that would support his appeal which included late notice of the consideration report; project approval being initiated by land owners that will gain economic benefit; the engineer's rationale behind the requests for improvements; a potential conflict of interest with the Engineer; the timing of the project considering the global pandemic and the project assessment. He recommended a third criteria of assessment for non-agricultural land owners be considered.

J. Little advised the Court that Dane Vandermolen contacted him and advised while he does support a lower assessment he does not wish to be associated with the appeal.

M. DeVos reviewed the details of the assessments and stipulations of the Drainage Act. He explained the difference between outlet and benefit assessment and noted the subject property is being assessed outlet only. M. DeVos advised it is important to note that at the original time of construction of the current municipal drain most of the residential properties did not exist. He further noted the drain is in working order presently however it is undersized. Discussion from members followed regarding the ratio of agricultural to residential land for assessments and the run-off factor for different types of land.

**4/ Blake Drain 2021 – Assessment Schedule**

Moved by D. Manders

Seconded by D. Regan

THAT the Court of Revision, having met on behalf of the Blake Drain 2021, does hereby adopt the Drainage Assessment Schedule dated March 26, 2021, as submitted by Spriet Associates Ltd.

CARRIED

**5/ Adjourn Court of Revision**

Moved by D. Manders

Seconded by D. Regan

THAT the Court of Revision be closed at 6:34 p.m. in order to reconvene regular Council meeting.

CARRIED

Mike DeVos exited the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

**Delegations**

6.1.1 Erin Mosher, Constable Middlesex County OPP

Constable Erin Mosher attended to present information on the Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team (MCRRT) which she and Constable Melanie Corby have helped

launch. The MCRRT is one of the first programs of its kind through a partnership with the OPP, the Strathroy Caradoc Police and CMHA Elgin-Middlesex. MCRRT helps prevent hospitalizations by proactively following up with high-risk individuals and their families and connects those experiencing a mental health crisis with special trained agencies in the community. E. Mosher advised they immediately saw success in statistics within the first couple of months of the program.

Mayor C. Burghardt-Jesson thanked E. Mosher for her initiative in the program and attendance to present tonight, at which time E. Mosher exited the meeting.

Dean Croker, Detachment Coordinator Middlesex County OPP

Detachment Coordinator Dean Croker attended to present the Lucan Biddulph Police Services Report for the period of August – December 2020. He noted many of the benefits they have noticed since the launch of the MCRRT and how great it is that more support is being offered on-site for citizens in crisis. D. Croker reviewed the Calls for Service report and noted the numbers are positive and there has been a decrease in calls from 2019 to 2020. Discussion followed regarding false alarm calls, traffic speeding concerns and data collected from the speed awareness signs.

Mayor C. Burghardt-Jesson thanked D. Croker for his attendance at which time he exited the meeting.

6.2 Christene Scrimgeour, CPA, CA, BA

Christene Scrimgeour attended and presented the Draft Consolidated Financial Statements for the year end Dec 31/2020. The 2020 statements were compared, along with the statement of financial position (balance sheet) and accounts receivable. C. Scrimgeour stated that the financial statements show an increase in Lucan Biddulph's financial position from 2019, tangible assets have increased and no new debt was acquired. She further noted she has no concerns with the increase in the Accounts Receivable as the Nagle Dive project and two large municipal drain projects have not been billed out yet. C. Scrimgeour ended by stating that Lucan Biddulph continues to show financial stability and the statements presented are positive. Discussion followed regarding capital work in progress, other revenue and reserve balances in comparison to other municipalities. C. Scrimgeour further noted there are no concerns with debt load and the Township continues to be well within its Annual Repayment Limit.

**6/ 2020 Draft Financial Statements**

*Moved by A. Westman*

*Seconded by D. Regan*

*That Council accepts the draft financial statements as presented on June 1, 2021.*

**CARRIED**

**7/ Minutes**

*Moved by D. Regan*

*Seconded by D. Manders*

*That the regular Council Meeting Minutes of May 18, 2021 be approved as circulated/amended.*

**CARRIED**

**Business Arising**

C. Burghardt-Jesson noted all items are on-going at this time.

**Correspondence**

Mayor C. Burghardt-Jesson commented on item 9.1 regarding the request for support for a national 3-digit suicide prevention hotline and noted the importance of supporting same.

**8/ Support for 988 Crisis Line**

*Moved by A. Westman*

*Seconded by D. Regan*

*WHEREAS the Federal government has passed a motion to adopt 988, a National three-digit suicide and crisis hotline;*

*AND WHEREAS the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has increased the demand for suicide prevention services by 200 per cent;*

*AND WHEREAS existing suicide prevention hotlines require the user to remember a 10-digit number and go through directories or be placed on hold;*

*AND WHEREAS in 2022 the United States will have in place a national 988 crisis hotline;*

*AND WHEREAS the Township of Lucan Biddulph recognizes that it is a significant and important initiative to ensure critical barriers are removed to those in a crisis and seeking help;*

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Township of Lucan Biddulph endorses this 988 crisis line initiative;*

*AND THAT staff be directed to send a letter indicating such support to the local MP, MPP, Federal Minister of Health, the CRTC and local area municipalities to indicate our support.*

**CARRIED**

R. Reymer commented on item 9.2 regarding the 2021 AMO Conference delegation requests and advised the Middlesex County CAO's have suggested submitting one comprehensive presentation to discuss requirements for infrastructure investment and try and advocate for sustainable funding from the province for new or existing infrastructure.

**9/ Receive Correspondence**

*Moved by A. Westman*

*Seconded by D. Manders*

*That Items 9.1 through 9.2 (Correspondence) be received for information.*

**CARRIED**

**Committee Reports**

Lake Huron

Mayor C. Burghardt-Jesson provided a summary of the recent meeting attended regarding the new governance model presentation.

ABCA/UTRCA

Councillor A. Westman gave an update regarding both Conservation Authorities and noted both are working towards expediting the planning application approval process.

**Staff Reports**

CAO/Clerk

R. Reymer provided a department update which included news from the Thames Valley District School Board advising Wilberforce Public School has been listed as a priority capital project request for expansion of the school; the public meeting for the Official Plan update being estimated for September at this point due to timing of the Master Servicing Study which is expected this summer; sale of the final lot of the Industrial Park to Great Escape RV; Jennifer Kirkham attending the next meeting to present the draft Community Safety and Well Being Plan and all Township staff have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

R. Reymer advised Council of the process involved to fill the vacancy of the Ward 2 Councillor seat noting that once Council formally accepts the resignation of the Councillor Mastorakos they have 60 days to make a decision to fill the position or pass a by-law to hold a bi-election. Discussion followed regarding the urgency of filling the vacant seat and Council members advised that any Ward 2 residents with concerns can always reach out to any one of the four elected members.

**10/ Ward 2 Council Seat - Vacant**

*Moved by D. Regan*

*Seconded by D. Manders*

*That Council accepts the resignation of Ward 2 Councillor, Peter Mastorakos as submitted and formally declares the Ward 2 Council seat as vacant as per section s. 260 (2) of The Municipal Act 2001, c. 25;*

*AND FURTHER That Council directs staff to bring forward a report with options for replacing the Ward 2 Council seat.*

**CARRIED**

T. Merner gave a brief update regarding the Council of Code of Conduct review and the launch of eSCRIBE meeting management software.

*Finance*

K. Langendyk reviewed report no. FIN-09-2021 which addressed how the 2020 COVID-19 safe restart funds received from the province were allocated. She noted \$88,000 of the \$123,600 has been used to date with the balance transferred to a reserve fund for future use against operating pressures realized from the COVID-19 pandemic.

**11/ COVID-19 Financial Impacts 2020**

*Moved by*

*Seconded by*

*That report no. FIN-09-2021 be received for information.*

**CARRIED**

*Public Works*

J. Little provided a department update which included status of the Frank Street reconstruction

project being approximately 90% complete; flower program has started; maintenance on gravel roads for the West side of the Township begins end of this week with dust control to follow; engineering has started regarding the urbanizing of Saintsbury Line; Roman Line Bridge tender closes June 15<sup>th</sup>; new pedestrian lines have been painted on Campanale Way and the draft Master Servicing Study should be coming forward next month.

***Parks & Recreation***

P. Smith advised the ice has been removed from the Lucan Community Centre in order to mitigate costs and staff have been working on creating a sitting area for the bus stop at the Community Centre.

Mayor C. Burghardt-Jesson raised some questions regarding cobblestone and a tree removed at the Market Street Park and P. Smith advised the stones were lifting due to tree roots which created a tripping hazard and an un-healthy tree with a hollow trunk was removed. He further noted staff will be working towards finishing the pathway where the recent sidewalk was added and the cobbles stones will be re-purposed for another use.

***Economic Development***

Mayor C. Burghardt-Jesson gave an update on behalf of L. deBoer due to technical difficulties. She noted the local business project with muskoka chairs is underway and will be dispersed throughout the community in the coming weeks. She further noted a virtual scavenger hunt has been created for residents to enjoy and discover Lucan Biddulph and participants can enter into a draw for \$100 from a local restaurant.

**Councillor's Comments**

Councillor. D. Regan requested an update on the entrance sign revisions and the street signs campaign.

Councillor A. Westman acknowledged June 1<sup>st</sup> is the first day of Pride Month.

Mayor C. Burghardt-Jesson advised the Granton Fire Department will be having its Pork Chop Dinner on June 19<sup>th</sup> and residents can obtain tickets from any member of the Granton Fire Department.

**Notices of Motion**

None

**Motions**

**12/ Bylaws**

*Moved by A. Westman*

*Seconded by D. Regan*

*That if no one cares to speak to this By-law on its First and Second Reading, that it be considered to have been read a First time and Passed, read a Second time and Passed, and that it be numbered:*

- *41-2021 Blake Drain 2021 Addendum*

**CARRIED**

**13/ Bylaws**

*Moved by D. Manders*

*Seconded by A. Westman*

*That if no one cares to speak to these By-laws on their First, Second and Third Reading, that they be considered to have been read a First time and Passed, read a Second time and Passed, read a Third time and Passed, that they be numbered:*

- *42-2021 Execution of Agreement OMI (Water Services)*
- *43-2021 Confirming Bylaw*

**CARRIED**

**14/ Adjournment**

*Moved by D. Regan*

*Seconded A. Westman*

*Resolved that the Council meeting be adjourned at 8:38 p.m.*

**CARRIED**

  
MAYOR

  
CLERK