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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 23, 2020

The highlights of the regular United Counties of Leeds and Grenville Council Meeting held on Thursday, December 17, 2020.

County Road 43 Project will include a four-lane bridge: The United Counties Council is approving a recommendation to include a new four-lane bridge across the Kemptville Creek for the County Road 43 project.

The design to widen County Road 43 from an existing rural two-lane to a four-lane road dates back to 2008. At the time the existing two-lane bridge was in good condition and was to remain in place. Additional analysis completed in 2020 shows a new four-lane bridge is recommended over rehabilitating the existing two-lane bridge. New bridges have a life expectancy of approximately 75 years.

Building a four-lane bridge will increase the cost of the project by \$7.2-million. The new estimated cost of the County Road 43 is \$38.7-million. Construction is beginning in 2021. For more information contact CAO Andy Brown at 613-342-3840, ext. 2301.

Maple View Lodge redevelopment project update: The Maple View Lodge Committee of Management has been authorized by Counties Council to move forward with the development phase of a new 192-bed long-term care home.

In March 2019, the Counties was awarded 132 new long-term care home beds and capital funding to redevelop Maple View Lodge. To date, the Counties has engaged a Project Manager (Turner and Townsend) and Prime Consultant Hobin Architecture Inc.

As part of the Counties due diligence, the Committee of Management has had a feasibility analysis of two options -the new 192-bed home or a new 128-bed home plus the 60-bed existing home with 4 additional beds. As part of the analysis, a full life-cycle costing was undertaken to look at both capital and operational costs.

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The Committee of Management continues to work with its consultants on the overall project costs. The 2018 application was based on a 2017 feasibility study and prices. That feasibility study was conceptual and provided minimal design. Due to inflation, infection control measures, any changes in codes, and community spaces, the estimated cost of the new building has increased from \$53 million to \$64 million. It is important to note that the provincial funding formula has also changed and increased its contributions by over \$7-million.

The Counties Project Managers will revise the estimated costs and a separate report will be brought back to Council early in the New Year. For more information contact Counties CAO Andy Brown at 613-342-3840, ext. 2301.

CAO Executive Search Firm awarded: Counties Council has approved the hiring of company Waterhouse Executive Search (WES) following a Request for Proposal (RFP) process.

Waterhouse Executive Search will work with the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Selection Committee beginning immediately. Current CAO Andy Brown is retiring in June. A replacement will be required by May to allow for a transition process. For more information contact Human Resources Manager Colleen Hickey at 613-342-3840, ext. 2332.

Pre-Budget Approval of Capital Projects: Counties Council has approved a recommendation to authorize \$5.5-million to proceed with tendering of 2021 Public Works Capital Projects.

The Public Works Department has identified the need to commence with the initial phases of selected high priority projects that will be identified for the upcoming budget year prior to Council's approval of the 2021 Capital Budget. The rationale for this is to start projects as early as possible in the year and potentially take advantage of contractor availability and potentially lower construction prices. It also ensures staff and external contracted services can commence with surveys, pre-design and any other preliminary works as may be required in preparation of an early tender.

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The projects on the list include:

- County Road 1 and County Road 8 road rehabilitation to Highway 15
- North Augusta storm sewer rehabilitation at County Road 6 & 15
- County Road 3 (from Dulcemain Road to south of Outlet) preservation
- County Road 9 (from Highway 15 westerly) preservation
- County Road 44 – 2 sections (south of County Road 20 and north of Totem Ranch Road) preservation
- County Road 5 & 8 to Highway 15 preservation
- Mud Creek Bridge replacement
- Rideau Ferry Bridge major rehabilitation
- Andrews ville Bridge environmental assessment

Corporate Services Review: Counties Council has received a report to modernize the Counties' Corporate Services Division, including identifying gaps and opportunities within the Counties' internal resources (people, process, and technology), opportunities to optimize business processes and organizational structure to meet internal and external demands, the most efficient and effective service delivery and cost sharing approach for existing managed service agreements with municipalities and other organizations, and operational efficiencies.

The report identified the need to hire a Corporate Services Director as its highest priority. The CAO shall prepare an implementation plan based on the report's recommendations. For more information, contact Counties CAO Andy Brown at 613-342-3840, ext. 2301.

Through an open and competitive procurement, the Counties selected RSM Canada to undertake the Corporate Services Review. Though COVID-19 delayed the start of the project, over the past three months RSM Canada has been able to undertake the review with full consultation of management, staff within Corporate Services, and staff in each of the program/service areas. For more information contact Counties CAO Andy Brown at 613-342-3840, ext. 2301.

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Upcoming meetings: The Committee of the Whole meeting is on Tuesday January 5th; the Joint Services Committee on Wednesday, January 6th; Counties Council on Thursday, January 21st. All regular meetings begin at 9 a.m. and are livestreamed from the Counties website. For more information, contact County Clerk Lesley Todd at 613-342-3840, ext. 2454.

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Media inquiries:

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