



United Counties of
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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 22, 2022

The highlights of the regular United Counties of Leeds and Grenville Council Meeting held on Thursday, July 21, as well as the Committee of the Whole and Joint Services Committee (JSC) meetings held earlier this month, are listed below.

Positive Audit Findings Presented to Council: Counties Council has received the 2021 Audit Findings Report from auditors KPMG, LLP and approved the 2021 Unconsolidated Financial Statements.

KPMG's Carole Fuller and Lori Huber presented the report to Counties Council at the regular meeting this week. The independent auditors were on site for five days in March to collect the data. The Municipal Act requires annual financial statements.

"Overall, I would say you're in a nice, sound financial position with good long-term planning in place," said Ms. Fuller of KPMG.

"We see a steady increase in reserves, we see good management of tangible capital asset inventory," Ms. Fuller said.

The annual operating surplus for 2021 was \$1.5-million, which is 1.4% of the budget. For more information, contact Katie Clarke, Counties Deputy Treasurer, at 613-342-3840, ext. 2465.

Tender Awarded for Kemptville Courthouse Apartments: The Joint Services Committee (JSC) has awarded a tender provided by the numbered company 2195292 Ontario Limited.

The company submitted a bid of just under \$1.8-million to renovate the former Kemptville Courthouse building into 10 affordable housing units. The building is located at 15 Water Street in Kemptville in the community's downtown area.

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As part of its response to the COVID-19 crisis, the Provincial government created the Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF) to support community agencies and encourage longer term housing-based solutions to homelessness, including acquisition and renovation of facilities. The Joint Services Committee also approved the recommendation for the Counties to enter into an agreement with the Municipality of North Grenville to lease the building long term.

The Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF) - Phase 4 allocation received for 2021-2022 was \$1.6-million. The ongoing operational costs of the Court House Apartments will be supported with the rental revenue. For more information, contact Alison Tutak, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer at 613-342-3840, ext. 2305.

County Road 43 Project Monthly Report: The Counties Council received a status report on the ongoing County Road 43 Project.

Tree and brush clearing is being undertaken around the County Road 43 bridge. Some zoned agricultural property along the north side of County Road 43 at the Ferguson Forest is being included in the widening and there will also be a number of trees removed along the right-of-way and around the existing bridge. These losses, however, will be offset with the creation of a wetland habitat beneath the new bridge and the addition of trees, shrubs and other plantings.

To reduce climate change implications, recycled products such as asphalt and the concrete additives slag and/or silica fume will be used during construction. Heavy equipment is also equipped with filters and exhaust systems and fluids that greatly reduce emissions.

This project will provide enhanced pedestrian traverses for everyone including cyclists and those with disabilities. These enhancements include 3-meter (10-foot) wide multi-use pathways; detectable warning plates and depressed curbs at crossings; accessible pedestrian activated signals at crossings; pedestrian lighting; numerous benches strategically placed along the pathways and trees and shrubs for shade and aesthetics. For more information contact Bill Guy, Manager of Engineering and Operations, Public Works Department, at 613-342-3840, ext. 2426.

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Council approves speed reductions in four locations: Counties Council has passed by-laws to reduce speed limits when entering three villages and at the County Road 42 and Highway 15 intersection.

On County Road 42, the speed limit leading up to the Highway 15 intersection will reduce from 80 to 60 kilometres on both the north and south sides of the highway.

The speed limit on County Road 12 entering into Westport will now be 60 kilometres, down from 80. Previously, entering the village of Algonquin on County Road 15 had a transition of three speed limits – 80, 70, and finally 50 kilometres. This will now be 80, 60, and 50 kilometres when coming into the community from either direction.

The final reduction will be on County Road 28 in New Dublin. The new speed limit will be 60 kilometres within the Community Safety Zone with no time restrictions. For more information, contact Bill Guy, Manager of Engineering and Operations, Public Works Department, at 613-342-3849, ext. 2426.

Upcoming meetings: The Joint Services Committee is on Tuesday, September 6th; the Committee of the Whole meeting is on Wednesday, September 7th; Maple View Lodge Committee of Management is Thursday, September 8th and Counties Council is on Thursday, September 22nd. All regular meetings begin at 9 a.m. in the Council Chambers at 25 Central Avenue, Brockville. For more information, contact Interim County Clerk / Manager of Legislative Services Lesley Todd at 613-342-3840, ext. 2454.

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Media inquiries:

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United Counties of Leeds and Grenville



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