



United Counties of
Leeds and Grenville
25 Central Ave. W., Suite 100
Brockville, ON K6V 4N6
T 613-342-3840
800-770-2170
TTY 800-539-8685
F 613-342-2101
www.leedsgrenville.com

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 19, 2020

The highlights of the regular United Counties of Leeds and Grenville Council Meeting held on Thursday, March 19th and Committee of the Whole Meeting March 3rd are listed below.

Electronic meeting by-law passed by Council during COVID-19 outbreak: Counties Council passed a by-law to allow for electronic participation by members of Council during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Under the Municipal Act, every municipality is required to pass a procedural by-law for governing the calling location and proceedings of meetings. On Tuesday, the Provincial Government passed legislation that will expand Council's ability to hold electronic meetings. The United Counties by-law, in effect during the COVID-19 outbreak, authorizes Council members to participate electronically. Quorum will not be required at the physical location of the meeting. Members will be able to vote on matters before the chair in an open meeting.

Each member will be responsible to take all reasonable measures to ensure security in the event that a closed meeting is held electronically. Members wishing to participate electronically will contact the County Clerk as soon as possible or within 12 hours of the start of the meeting to arrange for their participation electronically. For more information, contact County Clerk Lesley Todd at 613-342-3849, ext. 2454.

Modernization Projects include real-time data system for paramedics: Counties Council has approved four major projects to be completed using Modernization Fund monies totaling \$350,000.

The Paramedic Service Real Time Data project will be a system allowing staff to access data collected by the Dispatch Centres in real time. It will include electronic patient care records, administration dashboards and will enable communications with mobile data terminals or smart phones.

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A second project will be the digitization of Ontario Works which will transition from a paper to an electronic system. It will eliminate the need to not only produce paper records, but also the retention of those paper records. Service delivery managers will be able to transfer files electronically and encrypt them as needed.

An Automated Vehicle Location/GPS technical system will be put in place to track and trace the Counties' fleet. It will also be integrated into the Counties' GIS system. The system will monitor speeds, down time, idling, fuel usage, sand and salt application rates and quantities, as well as snow removal scheduling.

A fourth project will be a technology review and analysis. The Counties has many different systems that are not fully integrated. The objective of this review/analysis is to have a roadmap moving forward for the use of technology software for the Counties.

The Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing announced the Modernization Fund last year. Leeds Grenville received an allocation of \$725,000. To date, the Counties has set aside \$350,000 for regional projects (currently being reviewed by the Modernization Fund Task Force) and \$10,000 for Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus projects. For more information, contact CAO Andy Brown at 613-342-3840, ext. 2301.

Edwardsburgh Cardinal Ontario Job Site Challenge endorsed: Counties Council passed a resolution endorsing an Ontario Job Site Challenge application by the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal.

The Province introduced the Ontario Job Site Challenge in 2019, a competition open to municipalities, economic development corporations and industrial developers for sites (500 to 1,500 acres) which are, or can be made, "investment ready" and capable of attracting a large-scale manufacturing industry.

The Province of Ontario, through Infrastructure Ontario, owns large-scale acreages in the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal which meet the requirements of a large manufacturing development.

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In February, Edwardsburgh Cardinal Council nominated the township and the tract of land owned by the province located in the Edwardsburgh Land Bank. It has committed to working with the Province to create a competitive, investment-ready site attractive to a proponent capable of developing a large manufacturing facility while bringing good-paying jobs to this region.

The Counties and its Economic Development Office will work closely with the Township to expeditiously process the necessary planning approvals to obtain an "Investment ready" status for the site. For more information, contact Counties CAO Andy Brown at 613-342-3840, ext. 2301.

Subdivision applications moving forward across the Counties: A Counties Planning Services Department report shows projects with the potential of more than 1,000 new residential units are moving forward across Leeds and Grenville.

By the end of 2019, there were 20 subdivision application files open in this region. Of the 20 applications, 13 have received draft plan approval for a potential of 1,152 residential units. Another seven applications are in process with applicants working toward final draft plan approval.

In 2019, the Counties received three new subdivision applications, approved three final plans of subdivision, draft approved one plan of subdivision and amended conditions for another subdivision. There were also nine draft plans of subdivision that were given extensions to fulfill their conditions of draft plan approval.

A summary shows applications are in the following municipalities: North Grenville, Merrickville-Wolford, Augusta, Rideau Lakes, and Leeds and the Thousand Islands. For more information, contact Counties Manager of Planning Services Cherie Mills at 613-342-3840, ext. 2419.

Code of Conduct for Members of Council: Counties Council passed a by-law adapting a Council Code of Conduct for members and all elected officials to uphold and maintain the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville's reputation and integrity.

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Code of Conduct key statements of principle include:

- Members shall serve and be seen to serve constituents in a conscientious and diligent manner.
- Members shall be committed to performing their functions with integrity and to avoid conflicts of interest, both apparent and real.
- Members shall perform their duties in a manner that upholds public confidence.
- Members shall seek to serve the public interest by upholding both the letter and the spirit of the laws and the Federal and Provincial Parliament and the laws adopted by Counties Council.

Legislation requires each municipality to have a Code of Conduct. At the Counties, a committee was formed to complete the document, which included several reviews by the Integrity Commissioner.

The document also outlines the formal complaint procedure. Complaints are to be filed to the County Clerk, who then forwards them to the Integrity Commissioner for assessment. For more information, contact County Clerk Lesley Todd at 613-342-3840, ext. 2454.

Upcoming meetings: To be determined. Please check our website (www.leedsgrenville.com) and Twitter (#Leeds_Grenville).

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Media inquiries:

Deanna Clark, Economic Development Officer/media releases,
United Counties of Leeds Grenville
32 Wall Street, Suite 300, Brockville, ON, K6V 4R9
613-342-3840, ext. 5360 or deanna.clark@uclg.on.ca
Cell: 613-803-0249