

# Council Meeting

# Highlights



**JANUARY 2025**

[www.acwtownship.ca](http://www.acwtownship.ca) 519-524-4669 82133 Council Line, RR5 Goderich, ON N7A 3Y2

## Council Meeting | January 14, 2025

### Revised 2025 OPP Annual Billing Statement

The increased cost of OPP police services has created additional budget challenges for small and rural municipalities. In response, the Ontario government has announced financial relief to municipalities to help offset the increased cost of municipal police services provided by the OPP. The total billing statement that was initially presented for 2025 was \$1,116,191. The revised billing statement provides \$163,357 in discounts, bringing the new total for OPP services in 2025 to \$952,834. The revised 2025 billing statement includes the following changes:

- A 3.75 per cent reduction of the total 2023 reconciled costs
- A 44 per cent reduction on overtime 2023 reconciled costs
- A 10 per cent reduction of 2025 estimated costs

The revised 2025 annual billing statement amount will be incorporated into the Township's 2025 operating budget.

### Notice of Decision - OPA 13 Simpson

The Notice of Decision of the County of Huron for Official Plan Amendment No. 13 (Simpson OPA) has been received, and the appeal period has lapsed. Council approved By-Law 57-2024 to amend the Zoning By-law 32-2008 to re-designate lands approximately 2.10 hectares (5.19 acres) in size from 'Lakeshore Residential' to 'Agriculture' as well as amend a small portion 0.64 ha (1.59 ac) from 'Agriculture' to 'Lakeshore Residential' which front onto Shamrock Beach Road. The purpose of the zoning change is to relocate the existing Future Development designated lands to be located along Shamrock Beach Road. The remainder of the property is not to change.

### 2024 Year End Building Report

The Total square metres of new construction for the 2024 year was 33738.66m<sup>2</sup> compared to 54,232.40m<sup>2</sup> in 2023. The total number of Building Permits issued was 190 compared to 222 in 2023. The total Building Permit Estimate Value of Construction was \$33,812,547.98.

### Future Options for Sewage Disposal

The Township has been made aware by the sewage hauling industry that the disposal of the sewage is becoming more challenging due to the lack of disposal sites. The number of septic and holding tanks being pumped in the Township has significantly increased, which in turn has raised the demand for disposal sites and facilities. Council request staff bring back a report, In Camera, to discuss the Township's current land assets and to discuss options for use of these lands including possible surplus lands.

### Staff Appointments

Amy Olmstead has been appointed as Building Administrative Assistant to fill the vacancy. Jamie McCallum has been appointed as Deputy Treasurer to fill this new position.

## Volunteer Recognition and Appreciation Policy

The Volunteer Recognition and Appreciation Policy has been updated. Nominations will now be received until the third Friday in March. We invite you to submit nominations for those individuals or groups that have made a significant contribution to our community. More information and nomination forms can be found here <https://acwtownship.ca/residents/news/nominations-open-volunteer-recognition-awards>

## Water Connection Fee Update

Council approved to update to the existing water works capital charge. The updated charge reflects the updated cost of the water system infrastructure, including recent upgrades in Dungannon. The revised charge also incorporates the estimated cost of construction of the new Century Heights pumphouse, and the additional user capacity created by the expanded water system. The charge of \$12,900 is based on the 2024 net book value of \$5,421,475 divided by 419, the number of water users of the four water systems owned and maintained by ACW. The water works capital charge is for new connections and applicable when a property owner makes an application to connect to the Township's municipal water system. It is payable at the time of building permit issuance. The property owner is responsible for any additional costs related to the new water service installation.

## Market Street and Sydenham Street Engineering

Council authorized pre-budget approval for the engineering of the Market Street and Sydenham Street reconstruction project at a cost of \$40,000. Township staff feel it is important to finish these two streets as they connect six building lots on the end of Sydenham Street – two of which have already been developed. Issuing pre-budget approval for the engineering portion of the project will enable the Township to begin the tendering process much sooner than if the project is started after the budget is approved in March.

## Benmiller Community Hall Board - Playground Request

Council supports the Benmiller Community Hall's intention to spearhead the proposed installation of new playground equipment at the property where the Benmiller Community Hall and baseball diamonds are located.

## Upcoming Meeting Dates

- Council Meeting – February 4, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.
- Council Meeting – February 18, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.
- Council Meeting – March 4, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.
- Budget Meeting – March 14, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.
- Council Meeting – March 18, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.