



TOWNSHIP OF
ASHFIELD-COLBORNE-WAWANOSH

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Monthly Council Meeting Highlights October 2024

Council Meeting | October 1, 2024

Preservation of the Menesetung Bridge

Menesetung Bridge Association representatives Mike Dawson, Treasurer and Donna Appavoo presented to Council requesting \$50,000 to contribute to repairs and enhance the Menesetung Bridge in Goderich. The cost of completing the highest priority concrete work is likely to be close to \$700,000. Mike Dawson stated he will personally match the contribution with \$50,000. The Menesetung Bridge Association has been approved for \$200,000 in funding for the bridge repair project through FedDev Ontario's Tourism Growth Program. Council agreed to support the Menesetung Bridge Association project in the amount of \$50,000, which will be dispersed over the next three years.

Flag Policy

Council adopted a Flag Raising Policy that the Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh only fly the National Flag of Canada, the Province of Ontario Flag and the Township Flag in accordance with the National Flag Raising Protocol. This by-law compliments By-Law 53-2021, being a by-law to adopt a Flag Lowering Policy. The new policy can be viewed here <https://acwtownship.ca/government/by-laws/63-2024-flag-policy>

Noise and Sound By-Law Amendment

After a review of the by-law, it was determined that the language surrounding the discharging of Fireworks was vague and did not give direction to residents regarding what is permissible. Council deemed it appropriate to amend the Noise and Sound By-Law to clarify specific times when the discharging of fireworks is permitted. Therefore the amendment is to clarify that the discharge of consumer fireworks, display fireworks or pyrotechnic special effects fireworks between dusk and 11pm on the two (2) days before and on the relevant statutory holiday. The following are the statutory holidays where the discharging of fireworks is permitted: - New Year's Day - Victoria Day - Canada Day - Civic Holiday - Labour Day. All other provision of By-Law 7-2021 remain in effect. The amended By-Law can be viewed here <https://acwtownship.ca/government/by-laws/building-and-property/64-2024-noise-and-sound>

Council Meeting | Planning – October 8, 2024

Minor Variance Application File MV-2024-09 Beacom

The Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh Committee of Adjustment approved the Minor Variance Application MV-2024-09 Beacom subject to the conditions noted in the Planner's Report.

Zoning By-Law Amendment File Z-2024-03 Dalton

Council adopted By-law 68-2024 to amend the Zoning By-law 32-2008 for the Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh. This By-law will rezone the property known as Concession 13 WD, Part Lot 4, 35452 Zion Road from 'Agricultural Small Holding' (AG4) to 'Agricultural Small Holding – Special Zone' (AG4- 21). The special zone AG4-21 will permit an accessory building containing livestock to be located in the front yard.

Council Meeting | October 15, 2024

2025 Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) Allocation

The Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) was launched in 2014 and provides funding to help small, rural, and northern communities build and repair critical infrastructure. The Township is eligible to receive \$672,926 in 2025. This represents a 15% increase in funding compared to 2024. The following table provides a summary of the Township's OCIF allocations since 2015.

Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh										
Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund Allocations										
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
\$73,666	\$73,666	\$122,573	\$173,211	\$262,368	\$238,800	\$238,800	\$442,460	\$508,829	\$585,153	\$672,926

In the 2024 budget, Council approved the use of OCIF funding to complete the resurfacing of Belfast Road from Lucknow Line to St Helens Line. The 2025 OCIF allocation documents have been provided to Council for information and will be incorporated in the 2025 draft budget for further discussion.

Building By-Law Update – Short Form Wording and Set Fine

By-Law 62-2024 was introduced to regulate the erection, alteration, construction, and demolition of various types of structures within the Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh. The following changes have been made to the Building By-law:

- Clerical updates
- Accessible formatting
- New, Part 10- Enforcement – Offences
- New, Part 11- Penalties

The updated By-law can be viewed in full detail here <https://acwtownship.ca/government/by-laws/building-and-property/62-2024-buildling-by-law>

OPP Municipal Policing 2025 Annual Billing Statement

Under the current OPP cost-recovery billing model, all municipalities pay the same base service cost per property for proactive policing activities, plus an additional cost for reactive Calls for Service (CFS), as well as other charges, if applicable, such as overtime, accommodation, cleaning services, prisoner transportation, court security, enhancements, etc. The total estimated policing cost for 2025 is \$1,116,191. This translates to \$315.25 per property in ACW. A comparison of estimated costs for 2021 to 2025 is summarized below.

OPP Annual Billing Statement Estimated Costs					
	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Base Service	631,389	549,582	547,513	563,534	580,701
Calls for Service	344,890	291,528	289,689	296,614	288,063
Overtime	49,879	37,760	32,114	31,154	32,362
Prisoner Transportation	5,566	3,717	3,867	5,600	6,904
Accommodation/Cleaning Services	18,998	16,263	16,095	15,818	15,313
	<u>1,050,722</u>	<u>898,850</u>	<u>889,278</u>	<u>912,720</u>	<u>923,343</u>
Adjustment (two-year lag)	<u>65,469</u>	<u>22,450</u>	<u>24,747</u>	<u>-7,049</u>	<u>-5,775</u>
Total estimated billing for the year	<u>\$1,116,191</u>	<u>\$921,300</u>	<u>\$914,026</u>	<u>\$905,671</u>	<u>\$917,568</u>

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

Short-Term Rental Committee Appointments

At the September 3rd meeting, Council established the Short-Term Rental Committee (STRC) and adopted the Terms of Reference. Council requested that a call for applications be issued for citizen appointments to the committee, and further indicated that the Council composition be considered at the same time. Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh Township Council amended the Short-Term Rental Committee Terms of Reference to reflect four (4) citizen appointees and three (3) members of Council. Mike Niglas, Ian Montgomery, Mary Gregg, and Sean Thomas have been appointed as citizen appointees; and Councillors Hickey, Miltenburg and Snobelen have been appointed as Council members on the Committee. The STRC will hold its first meeting at the end of October.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

- Regular Council Meeting – November 5th at 9:00 a.m.
- Council Meeting | Planning – November 12th at 7:00 p.m.
- Regular Council Meeting – November 19th at 9:00 a.m.
- Regular Council Meeting – December 3rd at 9:00 a.m.
- Council Meeting | Planning – December 10th at 7:00 p.m.
- Regular Council Meeting – December 17th at 9:00 a.m.