The Corporation of Haldimand County
Council in Committee Minutes

Date: October 7, 2025
Time: 9:30 A.M.
Location: Council Chambers - Haldimand County Administration Building

Council Present:
S. Bentley, Mayor
D. McKeen, Councillor
D. Lawrence, Councillor
B. Adams, Councillor
R. Shirton, Councillor
P. O'Neill, Councillor

Staff Present:
M. Merritt, Interim Chief Administrative Officer and General Manager, Financial Services
M. Evers, General Manager, Development Services
T. Haedrich, General Manager, Engineering and Capital Works
M. Jamieson, General Manager, Corporate Services
S. Luey, General Manager, Community Safety and Wellness
D. McKinnon, General Manager, Public Works Operations
K. Franklin, Manager, Engineering Services
H. Scott, Coordinator, HRMS/Benefits
C. Curtis, Municipal Clerk

A. Call to Order

Mayor Bentley called the Council in Committee meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

B. Land Acknowledgement

Councillor McKeen read the Land Acknowledgement statement.

C. Roll Call

The Mayor and all Members of Council were in attendance with the exception of Councillor Metcalfe.

D. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

None.

E. Public Meeting for Planning Applications

Councillor McKeen, Chair of Public Meeting for Planning Applications, assumed the Chair for this portion of the meeting.

None.

F. Presentations and Consideration of Related Reports (11 a.m.)

Mayor Bentley resumed the Chair for this portion of the meeting.

None.

G. Motions of Consent

None.

H. Departmental Staff Reports

1 Development Services

Councillor Lawrence, Chair of Community and Development Services, assumed the Chair for this portion of the meeting.

1.1 Other Business

None.

2 Community Safety and Wellness

Mayor Bentley, Chair of Community Safety and Wellness, resumed the Chair for this portion of the meeting.

2.1 CPP-09-2025 Request to Repeal Seneca Iron Bridge Designation By-law

Recommendation 1
Moved By: Councillor Lawrence
Seconded By: Councillor McKeen

1. THAT Report CPP-09-2025 Request to Repeal the Seneca Iron Bridge Heritage Designation By-law be received;
2. AND THAT the request to repeal By-law 443/84 for the property known as Seneca Iron Bridge, located at Seneca Park, 651 Caithness Street East, Caledonia (Lots 26 and 27, Caledonia Plan 51, on the closed portion of old Highway #54), be approved;
3. AND THAT notice of intention to repeal By-law 443/84 be provided in accordance with Section 31 of the Ontario Heritage Act;

4. AND THAT if no objections to the request to repeal By-law 445/84 are submitted, a repealing by-law be presented for enactment at a future Council meeting;
5. AND THAT a future budget be recommended to include the costs associated with a storyboard to be installed in Seneca Park—including an existing section of the metal framework, if feasible, as a non-structural monument—to preserve and tell the story of the former Bridge.

CARRIED

2.2 CPP-M02-2025 Community Halls Emergency Repairs

Recommendation 2
Moved By: Councillor Adams
Seconded By: Councillor Shirton

THAT Memorandum CPP-M02-2025 Community Halls Emergency Repairs be received.

CARRIED

2.3 Other Business

None.

3 Public Works Operations

Councillor Adams, Chair of Public Works Operations, assumed the Chair for this portion of the meeting.

3.1 Other Business

None.

4 Engineering and Capital Works

Councillor Lawrence, Vice Chair of Engineering and Capital Works, resumed the Chair for this portion of the meeting.

4.1 ENG-17-2025 Turning Lane Options and On-Street Parking Impacts - Main Street (Highway 6) and Talbot Street (Highway 3), Jarvis

K. Franklin, Manager, Engineering Services provided an overview of the report.

Committee asked questions and received answers on the following topics:

- Implementation of Option 3, specifically regarding advanced green lights only;

- Availability of space to accommodate physical requirements for turning lanes;
- Ten-year accident statistics for the area in question;
- The nature of opposition expressed by the public toward Option 2;
- Potential loss of parking spaces; and
- Availability of Ministry of Transportation Connecting Links funding.

Staff noted that if Option 3 were to be selected by Committee, there would be no need to pass the by-law attached to this report at a future Council meeting.

Recommendation 3
Moved By: Councillor O'Neill
Seconded By: Councillor Shirton

1. THAT Report ENG-17-2025 Turning Lane Options and On-Street Parking Impacts - Main Street (Highway 6) and Talbot Street (Highway 3), Jarvis be received;

2. AND THAT staff be directed to proceed with Option 2, turning lanes on Talbot Street (Highway 3) only;

3. AND THAT the by-law for Option 2, attached to Report ENG-17-2025, be approved at a future Council meeting.

CARRIED

Amendment:
Recommendation 4
Moved By: Councillor McKeen
Seconded By: Mayor Bentley

THAT Recommendation 3 be amended to read:

"1. THAT Report ENG-17-2025 Turning Lane Options and On-Street Parking Impacts - Main Street (Highway 6) and Talbot Street (Highway 3), Jarvis be received;

2. AND THAT staff be directed to proceed with Option 3, no turning lanes and no loss of parking."

CARRIED

Clean Version

1. THAT Report ENG-17-2025 Turning Lane Options and On-Street Parking Impacts - Main Street (Highway 6) and Talbot Street (Highway 3), Jarvis be received;

2. AND THAT staff be directed to proceed with Option 3, with no turning lanes and no loss of parking.

CARRIED

4.2 ENG-18-2025 Budget Amendment – Ward 3 Pedestrian Crossover

K. Franklin, Manager, Engineering Services provided an overview of the report.

Recommendation 5
Moved By: Councillor Shirton
Seconded By: Mayor Bentley

1. THAT Report ENG-18-2025 Budget Amendment – Ward 3 Pedestrian Crossover be received;
2. AND THAT the 2025 Tax Supported Capital Budget be amended as outlined in Report ENG-18-2025.

CARRIED

4.3 ENG-19-2025 Neighborhood Speed Areas - Pilot Projects and Rate of Speed By-law Amendments

Committee asked questions and received answers regarding the feasibility of using ward-specific funding for the installation of traffic calming measures.

Recommendation 6
Moved By: Councillor McKeen
Seconded By: Councillor Adams

1. THAT Report ENG-19-2025 Neighborhood Speed Areas - Pilot Projects and Rate of Speed By-law Amendments be received;
2. AND THAT Haldimand County Rate of Speed By-law 2356/22 be amended as outlined in Report ENG-19-2025;
3. AND THAT the by-law attached to Report ENG-19-2025 be approved at a future Council meeting.

CARRIED

4.4 Other Business

Update on road construction projects on Tuscarora Street and King Street in Hagersville.

5 Financial Services

Councillor O'Neill, Chair of Financial and Data Services, assumed the Chair for this portion of the meeting.

5.1 FIN-19-2025 2026 Rate Supported Budget – Update on Timelines

Recommendation 7
Moved By: Councillor Lawrence
Seconded By: Councillor McKeen

1. THAT Report FIN-19-2025 2026 Rate Supported Budget – Update on Timelines be received;
2. AND THAT Council reduce the time period as set out in subsection 7(3) of O. Reg. 530/22 to pass a resolution making an amendment to the proposed budget from 30 days to 0 days;
3. AND THAT Council reduce the time period as set out in subsection 7(10) of O. Reg. 530/22 to override the head of Council's veto of an amendment to the proposed budget from 15 days to 0 days.

CARRIED

5.2 Other Business

None.

6 Corporate Services

Councillor Shirton, Chair of Corporate and Social Services, assumed the Chair for this portion of the meeting.

6.1 HRD-06-2025 Employee Benefit Plan Renewals

M. Jamieson, General Manager, Corporate Services provided an overview of the report.

Committee asked questions and received answers regarding potential future increase to employee benefit premiums.

H. Scott, Coordinator, HRMS/Benefits responded to questions from Committee regarding long term disability claims and their impact on premiums.

Recommendation 8
Moved By: Councillor Lawrence
Seconded By: Mayor Bentley

1. THAT Report HRD-06-2025 Employee Benefit Plan Renewals be received;

2. AND THAT Sun Life's monthly employee benefit plan renewal premium rates plus applicable taxes as outlined in Report HRD-06-2025 be approved, effective January 1, 2026.

CARRIED

6.2 Other Business

None.

7 Corporate Affairs

Mayor Bentley, Chair of Corporate Affairs, resumed the Chair for this portion of the meeting.

7.1 CLE-12-2025 Council Appointments as of November 15, 2025

Recommendation 9
Moved By: Councillor Shirton
Seconded By: Councillor Adams

1. THAT Report CLE-12-2025 Council Appointments as of November 15, 2025 be received;
2. AND THAT Councillor ______________ be appointed as Deputy Mayor for the period from November 15, 2025 to November 14, 2026;
3. AND THAT the following appointments for Chairs and Vice Chairs for the business divisions of Council in Committee for Haldimand County be made, for the period from November 15, 2025 to November 14, 2026:

   Public Meeting for Planning Applications:

   Vice Chair ________________

   Development Services:

   Chair ____________________ Vice Chair ________________

   Engineering and Capital Works

   Chair ____________________ Vice Chair ________________

   Financial Services

   Chair ____________________

   Corporate Services

   Chair ____________________ Vice Chair ________________

   Corporate Affairs

   Chair ____________________ Vice Chair ________________

4. AND THAT the by-law attached to Report CLE-12-2025 be approved at a future Council meeting.

Deferral:
Recommendation 10
Moved By: Councillor Lawrence
Seconded By: Councillor O'Neill

THAT consideration of Report CLE-12-2025 Council Appointments as of November 15, 2025 be deferred to the October 14, 2025 Council meeting.

CARRIED

7.2 Other Business

None.

I. Unfinished Business

None.

J. New Business

Mayor Bentley called a recess at 10:25 a.m. Committee resumed at 10:32 a.m.

1 Motion Re: Municipal Best Practices on Regulating Urban Composting

Committee asked questions and received answers regarding:

- Timeline for staff to bring a report to Council;
- Potential options for supporting countertop composting in the community; and
- Financial feasibility of implementing a green bin program.

Recommendation 11
Moved By: Councillor Lawrence
Seconded By: Councillor Shirton

WHEREAS urban developments are becoming more dense with less space separating site features;

AND WHEREAS more homeowners are turning to composting as a means to be more environmentally friendly;

AND WHEREAS the County encourages homeowners to install backyard composters as a simple way to reduce the amount of waste that is placed at the curb each week;

AND WHEREAS there is a lack of education for some homeowners on how to properly maintain and operate their composters;

AND WHEREAS, inadequacies in operations, maintenance and regulated standards impacts neighboring homeowners are leading to more concerns relating to causing odour emission and the attraction of rodents are becoming more concerning;

AND WHEREAS there is a mechanism available via Haldimand County By-law 730-06 - Property Standards to regulate use of composters to help mitigate issues such as those relating to odours and rodents;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff be directed to provide a report on municipal best practices on regulating urban composting and recommend any appropriate amendments to the Property Standards By-law, as may be needed.

CARRIED

2 Motion Re: Closed Session Meeting of Council to Discuss Judicial Reviews

Committee asked questions and received answers regarding timelines.

Recommendation 12
Moved By: Councillor O'Neill
Seconded By: Councillor Shirton

THAT a closed session of Council be held at a future Council in Committee meeting to discuss Judicial Reviews.

DEFEATED ON A TIED VOTE
CARRIED at the October 14, 2025 Council meeting

K. Reports, Inquiries, Announcements and Concerns of Councillors

None.

L. Closed Session

Recommendation 13
Moved By: Councillor McKeen
Seconded By: Councillor Adams

THAT pursuant to Section 239 (2)(d) of the *Municipal Act*, as amended, Council convene in a meeting at 10:48 a.m. closed to the public, to discuss:

1 HRD-05-2025 Ontario Nurses Association (ONA) Bargaining Parameters

Section 239 (2)(d) Labour relations or employee negotiations

CARRIED

Recommendation 14
Moved By: Councillor McKeen
Seconded By: Councillor Adams

THAT this closed meeting now adjourn at 11:00 a.m. and reconvene in open session.

CARRIED

M. Motions Arising from Closed Session

Recommendation 15
Moved By: Councillor Adams
Seconded By: Councillor Lawrence

1. THAT Report HRD-05-2025 Ontario Nurses Association (ONA) Collective Agreement Negotiation Parameters be received and remain confidential;
2. AND THAT the confidential direction given to staff be confirmed.

CARRIED

N. Delegations and Consideration of Related Reports (1 p.m.)

Mayor Bentley called a recess at 11:02 a.m.

Mayor Bentley left the meeting at 11:02 a.m.

Deputy Mayor Shirton assumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting. Committee resumed at 1:00 p.m.

1 Iona Whatford, Museum Manager, Cottonwood Mansion Museum Re: Securing the Future of Cottonwood Mansion Museum

I. Whatford provided an overview of the Cottonwood Mansion Museum, including its operational expenses, revenue sources, and proposed funding solutions.

Committee asked questions and received answers regarding:

- Proposed funding solutions and programs that would support heritage properties;
- Current income model - tours and donations;
- Fundraising events;
- The feasibility of multi-purposing the space for alternative uses;

- Associated revenue generation and capital costs; and
- Staffing and maintenance of the Edinburgh Square Heritage and Cultural Centre.

O. Motion of Receipt

Recommendation 16
Moved By: Councillor O'Neill
Seconded By: Councillor Adams

THAT the delegation from Iona Whatford, Museum Manager, Cottonwood Mansion Museum Re: Securing the Future of Cottonwood Mansion Museum be received.

CARRIED

P. Adjournment

Recommendation 17
Moved By: Councillor McKeen
Seconded By: Councillor Adams

THAT this meeting is now adjourned at 1:32 p.m.

CARRIED

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MAYOR

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CLERK