

Council Meeting Summary January 16, 2019

The Council Meeting was opened with the announcement that the "Here's to Hickson" project under the Pioneer Here's to Hometowns Contest won \$50,000 for projects around Hickson. Congratulations to Mike and Jennifer Van Boekel and a huge thank you to Pioneer Seeds.

Council supported a letter from South-West Oxford highlighting concerns in regard to the Municipal Voters List.

Gord Hough, County of Oxford Director of Community Planning provided a review of the Province's proposed changes to the Planning Act through Bill 66, indicating that the County would be expressing some concerns, particularly around opportunities for input on applications.

The Report on Sunday Gun Hunting was presented by staff and then the meeting was opened for comments from the Public. Tony Jackson from the Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters (OFAH) presented on behalf of the members of the public present who were in favour of allowing for Sunday Gun Hunting. No members from the public present at the meeting spoke in opposition.

Council discussed the topic at length and then voted to approve Sunday Gun Hunting.

Monthly updates were given by all departments. Building activity is slowing down. Public Works is focusing on winter control and removing dead ash trees. The Fire Department took delivery of a new pumper truck for the Tavistock station. 48 new recruits are being trained to fill positions through out the County. Council has asked for further information on tiered medical responses. The Treasurer noted that an additional \$26 million in assessment was added to the Township's tax roll in 2018. It was also highlighted that there will likely be a budget surplus for 2018.

Council approved the 2019 Council Meeting schedule and approved the Christmas Office closure from the afternoon of Tuesday December 24th until Thursday January 2nd, 2020. Please check the Township website for confirmation of Council Meeting dates.

Council was provided with an initial report highlighting of stresses for the 2019 budget and provided staff with some direction on what they would like to see in a draft budget. Of note was the request for a comprehensive explanation of what was included in the budget for dissemination to the public.

Council also discussed the recently announced Regional Government Review and will discuss this topic further at a Meeting in the very near future.