

# MEDIA RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

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## **Highlights from the April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, meetings of Montague Township Council and Committee of the Whole**

- Reeve Jennings opened the meeting with a reminder that applications for the vacant councillor seat are due by April 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.
- Council approved the agenda as amended to move items 8a, b, and d from Information to Action for Deputy Reeve Carroll to discuss. The minutes of the Council and Committee of the Whole meetings of March 19<sup>th</sup> were both approved as presented. The Merrickville Library Board minutes of March 2024 were approved as information.
- For old business, Deputy Reeve Carroll brought up the appointment process and options that Council has with regard to the discussion period for determining the new councillor. Staff indicated that information was received from the Township's legal representative, who is also the Integrity Commissioner for the Township, who stated that if Council were to move into closed session, they cannot debate the merits of the candidates or express opinions about the candidates. All of the applicants must sign an MFIPPA document, acknowledging that their information is going to be posted on a public meeting agenda.
- Mary Kate Laphen of the Merrickville Library was a delegation to Council to speak about the 2023 Annual Report. She noted that services and programs are continuing to have high numbers of participants, that are continually increasing. Council thanked Mary Kate for coming to the meeting to share this information.
- The Clerk-Administrator/Treasurer brought forth a report regarding the replacement of two pit meters that are within the water-sewer service area. The Township's water agreement with the Town of Smiths Falls from 1986 indicates that the meters are the Township's asset, and costs associated (approximately \$11,637.47) are to be covered by the Township. The Town of Smiths Falls will be completing the installation. Council decided unanimously that the replacement must be completed and will fund the project through water capital reserves.

### **By-Laws Passed by Council**

- **4062-2024:** to establish and impose tax rates for the purpose of raising the general municipal, county, and education levies for the year 2024
- **4063-2024:** to authorize the registration of a Site Plan Agreement with 2207124 Ontario Ltd., the owner of 37 Rideau Avenue North, Smiths Falls, Ontario

## In-Camera

- Council recessed before heading into Committee of the Whole. After the meeting, Council resumed and headed in-camera to discuss negotiations with the Town of Smiths Falls. This falls under 239 (k) a position, plan, procedure, criteria, or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality or local board. 2001, c. 25, s. 239 (2); 2017, c. 10, Sched. 1, s. 26. of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.
- The rise and report noted that Council and staff discussed strategies and approaches to intermunicipal agreements. No decisions were made other than procedural items; and that Council appointed Deputy Reeve Carroll and Councillor Crabtree to sit on Montague Township's negotiating team.

## Committee of the Whole

- Committee heard a report from the Junior Planner with regard to a by-law for parkland dedication. Option 1 was chosen, which approves the draft by-law as presented, includes the cash-in-lieu of parkland fees in the building permit fees public meeting and directs Staff to bring back a report following the public meeting to finalize the proposed changes and adopt the by-law.
- The report for a 2024 Summer Student Collaboration with Merrickville Library was approved as presented, and the Township will be moving forward on that item. The recommended collaboration with Merrickville Library would have the summer student attend the Merrickville Library one day per week to help with arts/crafts and work with the Librarian to come up with activities and ideas for Rosedale Hall that are similar to offerings at the library.
- Staff was directed to apply for the 2024 Municipal Climate Grant from Lanark County, in partnership with Montague Public School. Committee chose to combine Options 2 and 3, which will provide community gardens for students and their families (and community members) to look after, as well as purchasing reusable water bottles for each student and staff member at MPS, that will be engraved with the Township of Montague's (and potentially Lanark County's) logo. There is \$11,500 available in funding from the County, and both options combined come in at a total of \$13,100. The shortfall will be funded by Council's donation line as a community initiative.
- Committee approved the recommendations listed in the Economic Development – Local Business Collaboration report as presented. Six (6) recommendations were listed in the report, ranging from connecting with local businesses to assist them in promoting their business in the Township's August Tax Bill mailout, to continuing to fund the MRCC's Community Events, to proceeding with ensuring that the industrial lands are ready for development.

**The next Meeting of Council & COW is Tuesday, April 16<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, at 6:00pm**

**Livestream on YouTube: [Montague Township - YouTube](#)**

**Join In Person:** Rosedale Community Hall  
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