



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, September 6th, 2024

**Highlights from the September 3rd, 2024, meetings of
Montague Township Council and Committee of the Whole**

- Reeve Jennings was away this meeting but attended via Zoom. In her physical absence, Deputy Reeve Carroll opened the meeting with the following announcements:
 - Montague Fire Association's Annual Pit BBQ is this Saturday, September 7th at Rosedale Hall from 5-7pm. Pre-sale tickets are available at the Township Office and from any firefighter, or at the door.
 - The MRCC's bus trip to the Ottawa Redblacks football game at TD Place is also Saturday. The bus will be leaving the Forget-Me-Not Club hall at 11:30am.
 - Upcoming Events include Sip & Sign on the 13th, Trivia Night on the 20th, and many more, so keep your eyes on our website and Facebook page!

- Following the Land Acknowledgement and moment of silence, Council approved the agenda as amended to include item 3g and to pull items 8c, e, f, g and h from Information to Action. The minutes of the regular meetings of Council and Committee of the Whole dated August 6, 2024, as well as the special meeting of August 13, 2024, were approved as presented, along with the minutes of the June 27 MRCC meeting.

- Council received a delegation from Margot Hallam, CEO of the Perth & Smiths Falls District Hospital (PSFDH) Foundation, who shared an annual update on the foundation, its board of directors, and various highlights from the 2023-2024 year.

- A report was presented by the Public Works Manager regarding the Rideau Trail Agreement. It was noted that the 5-year agreement for usage of road allowances within the Township was up for renewal, and that Staff saw no issues or changes that were required. The new agreement was later passed by by-law 4085-2024 and will be executed by both the Township and the Rideau Trail Association.

- A second report from the Public Works Manager was presented regarding the sale of the surplus generator. After being posted on GovDeals, it did not meet the \$7,500 reserve bid amount, with the highest received bid being \$5,300. Council directed Staff to re-list the generator on GovDeals for a two-week period, with a reserve bid of \$5,000. If it does not meet the reserve bid in that time frame, the Clerk-Administrator was directed to post it to Facebook Marketplace for the same price.

- Council accepted the revised MPAC assessed value of \$1,600 for non-viable land known as Lot 152 on Plan 2707. This comes after a report was brought to Council by the Junior Planner, who received a request from Ivan Ace Pepper to purchase the Township-owned lands. The transfer will be completed in accordance with the Sale and Other Disposition of Township-Owned Land Policy, and the Junior Planner will advise the applicant accordingly.
- Council received a report from the Clerk-Administrator/Treasurer regarding an incomplete application to consolidate for the Lees and Shirley road closure and transfer from 2019/2020. Council directed Staff to move forward with the application to consolidate, and approved that legal costs be paid by the Township in the amount of approximately \$600 from the legal budget line, as originally agreed in 2018.
- An extension agreement report was also presented, which recommended that Council approve a tax arrears extension agreement with Gasko Holdings Inc. until June 30, 2025. Council approved the extension agreement, which was passed by by-law 4086-2024 later in the meeting.
- After hearing a report about the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Grant Application – Stream 2, Council approved the application for the purpose of a new multi-sport facility at the 22-Acre Park, inclusive of a multi-sport pad and accessible washrooms and changerooms. The approval also included the use of up to \$1.5 million in reserves and or borrowing for the facility if the application is successful. The estimated cost for everything that was applied for would be approximately \$3 million. It was noted that this is anticipated to be a highly competitive funding application process, and the Province indicated that applications should be submitted as soon as possible as the funding is there until it is allocated. A draft drawing of the multi-purpose building was attached to the report.
- As a Township responsibility item for the new Municipal Complex, a report was brought to Council regarding the purchase of a 100kW generator. Staff recommended that the generator be purchased from DR Howell Electric Inc. for \$58,131 – which was approved by Council. Three written quotes were received, with DR Howell coming in at the lowest bid by approximately \$700. The estimated cost for the generator was \$80,000, meaning that the generator is under-budget by approximately \$22,000, and will be included in the Capital debenture for the building as previously provided to Council.

By-Laws

- **4054-2024:** Authorize Borrowing with OILC for Capital Works (Municipal Complex)
- **4085-2024:** Adopt Rideau Trail Agreement
- **4086-2024:** Tax Arrears Extension Agreement with Gasko Holdings Inc.

Action Items

- **8c, e-h:** The Lanark County Situation Table Annual report, as well as four (4) Lanark County Media Releases were pulled by Deputy Reeve Carroll, who spoke about key points in each release.

In-Camera

- Council recessed before heading into Committee of the Whole. After the meetings, Council resumed and moved into closed session at 7:43pm to discuss Staffing, the Clerk-Administrator/Treasurer, and Succession Planning. This falls under sections 239 (2) A meeting or part of a meeting may be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered is, (b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees; and 239 (2) (f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose; of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.
- The rise and report noted that:
 - Item (1) That Council reviewed information regarding staffing and provided direction with Option 5;
 - Item (2) That Council direct the Clerk Administrator/Treasurer or the Reeve to proceed with Option 3;
 - Item (3) That Council direct the Clerk Administrator/Treasurer to proceed with Option 2.

Committee of the Whole

- A report was presented to Committee by the Junior Planner with regard to the Land Registry office's website, OnLand. Applicants and ratepayers were frustrated with a newfound difficulty in obtaining title documents after the LRO closed its doors to in-person meetings. Staff recommended that Council authorize the Junior Planner to assist planning applicants by obtaining the OnLand documents on their behalf, following the execution of a waiver of liability and release form, and direct Staff to prepare an amendment to the User Fees and Charges by-law to address the additional fees as set out in the report. In addition to the OnLand fee, the following will be charged by the Township to the applicant(s): parcel register - \$10, PIN map - \$5, other registered documents - \$5. The updated by-law will be presented to Council at the next meeting, on September 17, 2024.
- Committee approved the 2025 budget timeline as presented by the Clerk-Administrator/Treasurer. The first draft of the municipal budget is expected to be presented at the November 19, 2024, Committee meeting, with the final budget to be presented sometime in January to ensure tenders can be put out early to receive the best possible pricing. It is important to note that the Water/Sewer budget is largely reliant on the Town of Smiths Falls establishing their rates first.
- Committee approved Option 1 about a reduced-rate request sent in by Just4Kixx, which approved the reduced rate for a trial period from September to December 2024. Line dancing classes will be held every Monday during the period at Rosedale Hall from 7:00-8:30pm.

The next Meeting of Council & COW is Tuesday, September 3, 2024, at 6:00pm

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

Join In Person: Township Office Council Chambers
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