

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, February 5th, 2025

Highlights from the February 4th, 2025, meeting of Montague Township Council and Committee of the Whole

Council

- Following the Land Acknowledgement and Moment of Silence, Council approved the Council agenda, as amended, and the following minutes, as presented:
 - Special Meeting of Council – January 27th, 2025
 - Regular Meeting of Council – January 21st, 2025
- The Reeve provided a reminder that Montague Township Winterfest is being held on February 6th, 7th, and 8th with a number of activities planned.
- The Fire Chief presented the following report:
 - **Open-Air Burning By-law:** An updated Open-Air Burning By-law was presented to Council that included new definitions, clarification on campfire sizes, provisions regarding the use of fireworks and flying lanterns, the requirement for annual permit renewal, as well as general administrative amendments. The By-law as presented was subsequently passed by Council.

Assistance with the new permitting process through BurnPermits.com will be provided by Staff. Watch for scheduled information session dates in the Montague Messenger and on the Township's Facebook page and website.

- The Administrator/Treasurer presented the following reports:
 - **Council and Citizen Members Appointed by Council Remuneration 2024:** Council approved the remuneration change to account for the 2% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), per the by-law presented and subsequently passed.
 - **Seniors Active Living Centres Program:** Council provided a commitment of in-lieu contributions of \$10,000.00, and a minimum of in-cash contributions of \$5,000.00, for the Seniors Active Living Centres Program for the 2025/2026 year.
 - **Filling the Administrator/Treasurer Position:** Council accepted the resignation of the current Administrator/Treasurer, Allison Vereyken, and provided direction to prepare and post job descriptions to fill this vacancy.

- **Provincial Funding – Health and Safety Water Stream – Collaborative Funding Application:** Council approved the use of Modernization Funds to obtain engineered drawings for the Health and Safety Water Stream joint application with the Town of Smiths Falls, subject to Council’s approval on the associated costs.
- **Pickleball Courts – Montague 22-Acre Park and Ontario Trillium Fund Capital Application:** Council approved the use of Recreation Reserves to off-set the cost of installing two (2) pickleball courts, if the Township is successful in obtaining the New Horizon Grant.

Council directed Staff to apply for the Ontario Trillium Grant to improve the Montague 22-Acre Park. Proposed improvements include installation of lighting, an accessible washroom facility, and a ball field.

- The Clerk/Junior Planner presented the following report:
 - **Request to Rescind Dangerous Dog Designation:** Staff recommended that Council delegate their authority to confirm/amend/rescind conditions imposed on dangerous and vicious dogs to the Township’s By-law Enforcement Officer under the Township’s Animal Control By-law. Council agreed with this recommendation and directed Staff to present an amended Animal Control By-law to Council for consideration at a later date.
- The following By-laws were passed by Council:
 - **4116-2025** – Authorize the Execution of an Agreement with the owner of 109 Rideau Avenue North
 - **4117-2025** – Appoint an Alternate Building Inspector
 - **4118-2025** – Regulate the Setting and Maintaining of Open-Air Burning
 - **4119-2025** – Appoint Members to Boards, Committees, and Other Statutory Positions
 - **4120-2025** – Establish Remuneration and Expenses for Members of Council and Local Boards

Committee of the Whole

- The Committee of the Whole Meeting was cancelled as there were no items on the agenda.

[A Public Meeting to consider a request for a Zoning By-law Amendment, as well as the next Regular Meetings of Council & Committee of the Whole, are scheduled for Tuesday, February 18th, 2025, at 6:00pm](#)

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

Join In Person: Township Office Council Chambers
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