



# Council Meeting Highlights

## March 6, 2018

### Delegations

#### Marc Langlois

Marc Langlois appeared before Council to request an exemption from ½ Load Limit By-law. Mr. Langlois noted that a blanket ban from February to April does not take into account road conditions on a year by year basis. There may be times during ½ load limits that gravel roads may be frozen and equipped to handle full loads. He stated that Zorra's agricultural community would be better served by permitting exemptions based on actual road conditions. The Director of Public Works is to report back on the feasibility of altering the ½ Load Limit By-law.

#### Laura Fraser

Laura Fraser and Heather Derks from the Federation of Agriculture appeared before Council seeking support for Project Emily. Project Emily's objectives are to:

- Create a unified system for acquiring 911 signs across all municipalities
- Persuade municipalities to offer the signs as a service to their community
- Encourage rural landowners to use the service
- Establish a partnership with local agribusinesses who will support the program
- Develop resources to teach property owners how to contact emergency services efficiently
- Promote the program through digital, print, and social media

This started as a result of a farm accident where Emily Trudeau was injured and emergency services had a difficult time locating her due to the lack of a 911 sign on the vacant farm field where the accident occurred.

### Public Meetings

#### Bruce and Heather Hansford, Minor Variance Application, 663788 Road 66

The applicant is seeking relief from the height provision of the Zoning By-law to allow for an increase to the maximum permitted height from 5.0 m (16.4 ft) to 6.0 m (19.7 ft). The applicant has requested the variance to permit the construction of a 104.5 m<sup>2</sup> (1,125 ft<sup>2</sup>) addition to an existing detached garage that is high enough to accommodate indoor parking for a recreational vehicle. Council, sitting as Committee of Adjustment, approved the application.

### Department Reports

#### Fire

Zorra Fire & Emergency Services have responded to 54 calls in January and February compared to 42 over the same period in 2017.

Council reviewed a report from the Fire Chief concerning proposed amendments to the Fire Prevention and Protection Act that could have severe consequences on Zorra Fire and Emergency Services. The report details potential impacts the proposed changes could have and the financial impacts. The Fire Chief was instructed to convey Council's concerns to the Office of the Fire Marshall.



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### Recreation

The March Break Camp currently has 25 children registered and is now at 95% capacity. Partnerships have been developed with Zorra Caledonian Society, Brooksdale 4-H and Zorra Fire and Emergency Services to assist in the camp.

The Recreation, Arts & Culture Master Plan has been completed in draft form and is under review by the Master Plan Committee. The final draft has been sent to Council and the public will have an opportunity to comment at the evening April Council meeting.

### Building and Drainage

The Building Department issued a total of 13 permits in February and a total of 19 for this year. During the same period in 2017, there were nine permits issued. There were four new housing permits issued in February bringing the total to seven. During the same period in 2017, there were three new housing starts.

### Public Works

Oxford County will be undertaking a Transportation Master Planning process in 2018. The draft report will be provided to the Service Sharing Committee later this spring. The last Master Plan resulted in several road sections changing jurisdiction between the County and several lower tier municipalities.

### High Speed Rail

The Ministry of Transportation formally announced commencement of the Environmental Assessment for High Speed Rail. The Township continues to collaborate with the Townships of Wilmot, East Zorra-Tavistock and the Municipality of Thames Centre to advocate for the residents that will be negatively impacted should the rail project proceed. There is a link on the Township website dedicated to high speed rail.

### Next Meeting

The next Council meeting is to be held on March 20, 2018, at 6:30 pm in the Council Chambers.