



**MIDDLESEX COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

Tuesday, March 24, 2026 01:00 PM
Middlesex County Building
399 Ridout Street North, London

Members Present

Warden Clarke
Councillor Brennan
Councillor Burghardt-Jesson
Councillor DeViet
Councillor Grantham
Councillor Mayhew
Councillor McGuire
Councillor McMillan
Councillor Ropp
Councillor Smibert

Members Absent

1. CALL TO ORDER AND WARDEN'S REMARKS

Warden Clarke called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

Councillor McMillan read a Land Acknowledgment as follows:

In 1793, Lieutenant-Governor John Graves Simcoe camped at the forks of the Thames River, an area occupied by indigenous peoples for thousands of years. And it was here that Simcoe proposed the site as a candidate for the capital of Upper Canada.

Canada itself is now on a journey of reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. It is a needed journey to address a long history of colonialism and the scars it has created.

Today we respectfully acknowledge that the Council of the County of Middlesex meets on the traditional territories of three vibrant and distinct First Nations who continue to call this area home. These Nations - the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation who are Anishinaabek, the Oneida Nation of the Thames who are Haudenosaunee, and Munsee Delaware Nation who are Lūnaapéewak – all have longstanding relationships with the land, water and resources in the place we now recognize as Middlesex County.

This County is home to several treaties that have shaped the region's history and governance. These treaties, such as Treaty 2 (McKee Purchase), Treaty 3 (Between the Lakes Purchase), Treaty 6 (London Township Purchase), Treaty 21 (Long Woods Purchase), and Treaty 29 (Huron Tract Purchase), often resulted in the loss of traditional lands for Indigenous communities, leading to significant cultural and social changes.

Today, there is a focus on acknowledging historical injustices faced by all Indigenous peoples in Middlesex County, emphasizing the importance of building respectful relationships with their communities and recognizing the vital role these communities have played in the cultural landscape of the County.

2. PROVISION FOR DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Resolution Number: CC-2026-029

Moved By: Councillor Grantham

Seconded By: Councillor DeViet

THAT the Agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

4.a Minutes of the March 10, 2026 Meeting of County Council

Resolution Number: CC-2026-030

Moved By: Councillor McGuire

Seconded By: Councillor Smibert

THAT the Minutes of the March 10, 2026 Regular Meeting be approved as presented;

AND THAT the recommendations made by the Committee of the Whole as set out in the Minutes of the March 10, 2026 meeting be adopted.

Carried

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.a ACTION ITEMS

5.a.1 Implementation of the Medical Priority Dispatch System (MPDS)

Report from Adam Bennett, Director of Paramedic Services

Resolution Number: CC-2026-031

Moved By: Councillor Ropp

Seconded By: Councillor Mayhew

THAT the Implementation of the Medical Priority Dispatch System (MPDS) report be received for information.

Carried

6. INQUIRIES

None.

7. NOTICES OF MOTION

None.

8. COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS AND OTHER BUSINESS

Warden Clarke wished Strathroy Jets luck in tonight's game.

Warden Clarke wished Members of Council luck with delegations at the upcoming Good Roads Conference.

9. COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

Resolution Number: CC-2026-032

Moved By: Councillor Brennan

Seconded By: Councillor McGuire

THAT County Council convene as the Committee of Management at 1:17pm.

Carried

9.a Provincially-Required Annual Quality Improvement Plan – 2026/27

Report from Brent Kerwin, Strathmere Lodge Administrator

Resolution Number: CM-2026-003

Moved By: Councillor Burghardt-Jesson

Seconded By: Councillor Mayhew

THAT the Provincially-required Annual Quality Improvement Plan – 2026/27 Report be received for information;

THAT the 2026/27 Quality Improvement Plan be approved;

AND THAT the Strathmere Lodge Administrator be directed to submit the Quality Improvement Plan to Health Quality Ontario.

Carried

Resolution Number: CM-2026-004

Moved By: Councillor Smibert

Seconded By: Councillor McGuire

THAT the Committee of Management rise and Council convene the Committee of the Whole at 1:26pm.

Carried

10. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

10.a DELEGATIONS

10.a.1 SWIFT Program Update

Presentation by Barry Field, Executive Director, SWIFT

Resolution Number: CW-2026-031

Moved By: Councillor Smibert

Seconded By: Councillor DeViet

THAT the SWIFT Program Update presentation be received for information.

Carried

10.a.2 Middlesex OPP Detachment Board Report 2025

Presentation by Davide Barnabi, A/Inspector / Interim Detachment Commander / Critical Incident Commander, Middlesex OPP

Resolution Number: CW-2026-032

Moved By: Councillor DeViet

Seconded By: Councillor McMillan

THAT the Middlesex OPP Detachment Board Report 2025 report be received for information.

Carried

*10.a.3 911 Dispatch Services Update

Presentation by Strathroy-Caradoc Police Service

Resolution Number: CW-2026-033

Moved By: Councillor McGuire

Seconded By: Councillor Smibert

THAT the 911 Dispatch Services Update report be received for information.

Carried

10.b REPORTS FROM COUNTY OFFICERS

10.c ACTION ITEMS

10.c.1 2025 Forestry Update and Draft Forest Management Plan

Report from Mark Brown, Woodland Conservation Officer & Durk Vanderwerff, Director of Planning and Development

Resolution Number: CW-2026-034

Moved By: Councillor Burghardt-Jesson

Seconded By: Councillor Grantham

THAT the 2025 Forestry Update and Draft Forest Management Plan be received for information;

AND THAT Council direct staff to proceed with the consultation phase for the Draft Forest Management Plan 2026-2056.

Carried

10.c.2 Middlesex County Economic Development Strategic Plan 2026-2030

Report from Cara Finn, Director of Economic Development & Paul Shipway, CAO

Resolution Number: CW-2026-035

Moved By: Councillor Smibert

Seconded By: Councillor DeViet

THAT the Middlesex County Economic Development Strategic Plan 2026-2030 Report be received for information;

AND THAT Middlesex County Council adopt the Middlesex County Economic Development Strategic Plan 2026-2030.

Carried

10.c.3 Middlesex County Employment Lands Readiness Program: Township of Adelaide Metcalfe Application

Report from Josh White, Procurement Services Manager

Resolution Number: CW-2026-036

Moved By: Councillor Ropp

Seconded By: Councillor Grantham

THAT Middlesex County Employment Lands Readiness Program: Township of Adelaide Metcalfe Application report be received for information;

AND THAT Council approve the loan application from the Township of Adelaide Metcalfe under the Middlesex County Employment Lands Readiness Program for the Centre Road Industrial Lands in the amount of \$200,000.00;

AND THAT a by-law be introduced at the April 14, 2026, Council meeting to:

1. Authorize and approve the Loan Agreement with the Township of Adelaide Metcalfe; and
2. Authorize the Warden and the County Clerk to execute the Agreement.

Carried

10.c.4 Middlesex County Employee and Family Assistance Program

Report from Sandra Schulz, Director of Human Resources & Josh White, Procurement Services Manager

Resolution Number: CW-2026-037

Moved By: Councillor DeViet

Seconded By: Councillor Burghardt-Jesson

THAT the Middlesex County Employee and Family Assistance Program report be received for information;

AND THAT Council approve the acceptance of the proposal from Homewood Health Inc. in the amount of \$3.70 per employee per month excluding taxes;

AND THAT the Director of Human Resources be authorized to execute the agreement with Homewood Health Inc. in a form satisfactory to the County Solicitor.

Carried

10.c.5 Middlesex County MLPS Waterloo Street Renovations – Phase 3

Report from Chris Traini, P.Eng., Deputy CAO/County Engineer & Josh White, Procurement Services Manager

Resolution Number: CW-2026-038

Moved By: Councillor Ropp

Seconded By: Councillor Brennan

THAT the Middlesex County MLPS Waterloo Street Renovations – Phase 3 report be received for information;

AND THAT Council approve the acceptance of the quote from Tradition Construction Inc. in the amount of \$384,600.00 excluding taxes for Phase 3 renovations;

AND THAT the County Engineer be authorized to execute the agreement with Tradition Construction Inc. in a form satisfactory to the County Solicitor;

Carried

10.d CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION ITEMS

10.d.1 2025 Council Remuneration and Expenses

Report from Nikki Nourse, Director of Financial Services

10.d.2 2025 Development Charges Annual Report

Report from Nikki Nourse, Director of Financial Services

- 10.d.3 Strathmere Lodge Monthly Census Report - January 2026
Report from Brent Kerwin, Strathmere Lodge Administrator
- 10.d.4 Strathmere Lodge Monthly Census Report - February 2026
Report from Brent Kerwin, Strathmere Lodge Administrator
- 10.d.5 County Procurements Awarded between the amounts of
\$100,000.00 and \$250,000.00
Report from Josh White, Procurement Services Manager
- 10.d.6 Regional Conservation Authorities Announcement
Report from Durk Vanderwerff, Director of Planning and Development
- 10.d.7 Minutes of the February 17, 2026 Meeting of the MLPS Authority
Board
- 10.d.8 MLPS Authority Board Meeting Highlights - February 17, 2026
Resolution Number: CW-2026-039
Moved By: Councillor Smibert
Seconded By: Councillor McGuire
THAT Items 10.d.1 to 10.d.8 be received for information.

Carried

11. RISE FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Resolution Number: CW-2026-040
Moved By: Councillor DeViet
Seconded By: Councillor McMillan
THAT Committee of the Whole rise at 2:49pm.

Carried

12. CLOSED SESSION

Resolution Number: CC-2026-033
Moved By: Councillor McGuire
Seconded By: Councillor Smibert
THAT the next portion of the meeting be closed at 2:50pm in order to consider the

following:

12.a - Collective Bargaining Update - Labour relations or employee negotiations and 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, in accordance with subsection 239(2)(d) and (k) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, as amended.

12.b - SWIFT Broadband Program. Advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose and 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, in accordance with subsection 239(2)(f) and (k) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, as amended.

12.c - Order of Ontario. A personal matter pertaining to identifiable individuals, including municipal employees, pursuant to subsections 239(2)(b) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, as amended.

Carried

12.a SWIFT Broadband Program

12.b Collective Bargaining Update

12.c Order of Ontario

Resolution Number: CC-2026-034

THAT Council rise from Closed Session at 3:14pm.

Carried

13. RISE AND REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION

Councillor Cathy Burghardt-Jesson exited the meeting at 3:00pm.

Resolution Number: CC-2026-035

Moved By: Councillor Smibert

Seconded By: Councillor Mayhew

THAT the closed session reports be received for information.

Carried

14. BY-LAWS

14.a #7397 - A BY-LAW to Authorize a Transit Operator Services Agreement for the Community Transportation Service between Voyago and the County of Middlesex

14.b #7398 - A BY-LAW to Confirm the Proceedings of the March 24, 2026 Meeting of County Council

Resolution Number: CC-2026-036

Moved By: Councillor McMillan

Seconded By: Councillor Brennan

THAT the By-Laws be given a first and second reading.

Carried

Resolution Number: CC-2026-037

Moved By: Councillor McGuire

Seconded By: Councillor Smibert

THAT the By-Laws be given a third and final reading.

Carried

15. ANNOUNCEMENTS

15.a Next Meetings

- Tuesday, April 14, 2026
- Tuesday, April 28, 2026
- Tuesday, May 12, 2026

16. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution Number: CC-2026-038

Moved By: Councillor Smibert

Seconded By: Councillor Grantham

THAT the meeting adjourn at 3:00pm.

Carried

Accessible formats and communication supports are available up request. Please contact Marcia Ivanic, County Clerk to make a request at clerk@middlesex.ca

Marci Ivanic, County Clerk

Sue Clarke, Warden