

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury Council Meeting – April 21, 2020

Town Taxi to continue providing Taxi-to-GO service

The Taxi-to-GO service was launched in 2014 as an extension of BWG Transit, providing transportation for commuters using the weekday morning and evening GO Train service. Ridership has grown steadily, from approximately 6,000 rides in the first year to more than 12,000 in the fifth full year.

The service has been provided since its inception through a contract with Town Taxi, and the current agreement is set to expire on April 30. Council authorized extending the contract on a month-to-month basis while staff assess the service and determine if efficiencies can be made in terms of operation and budget.

Support for families caring for vulnerable people during COVID-19

Council will send a letter of support for the “Open Letter: A Crisis Unfolding - COVID-19 Impacts on Families Caring for Vulnerable People with Disabilities at Home” to the Premier, Minister of Health and Minister of Children, Community and Social Services. The letter urges the provincial government to provide support for caregivers of individuals with disabilities, including access to PPE and financial support. It can be read here:

<https://bit.ly/2x15YGz>

Council Remuneration

The provincial Municipal Act requires public disclosure of Council remuneration on an annual basis. A complete accounting can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2XSCA5i>

As the chart shows, Council salaries are \$43,734 for the Mayor, \$29,166 for the Deputy Mayor and \$23,310 for Councillors, plus benefits, mileage, internet and per diems for special meetings. There are also per diems and mileage for participating on other committees and boards.

Committee of the Whole

Please note that decisions made in Committee of the Whole are not final until approved at a subsequent Regular Council meeting.

Plan redefines purpose of urban laneways and make them safer

The Committee of the Whole endorsed a proposal to reclassify eight urban laneways and two building lots that have been used for vehicle traffic. The purpose is to improve the safety and condition of these roads and to ensure they receive an appropriate level of service.

Some laneways will remain open but the speed or direction of travel may be changed. Others will be closed or ownership transferred. The Committee requested one amendment to the proposal so that MacDonald Lane will remain a two-way street. The complete report is available here, with specific recommendations for each laneway: <https://bit.ly/35ck0qs>

Town to discuss future of Toll Road with Metrolinx and King Township

The Committee of the Whole supported a recommendation that Town staff consult with the Township of King, Region of York and Metrolinx to discuss options and budget implications of either closing or upgrading the Toll Road rail crossing.

Toll Road is a gravel road fully within the Township of King that runs parallel with Highway 11 from the bridge over the Holland River to Bathurst Street. At its west end, where it connects to Highway 11, Toll Road has a level rail crossing (marked in red on the maps below).

Metrolinx has requested that the crossing at Toll Road be closed as it does not meet Transport Canada guidelines and presents an ongoing safety concern. King Township has also expressed an interest in potentially closing this portion of the road.

BWG has watermain infrastructure on Toll Road (marked in yellow below), which requires daily maintenance by staff. Closing access to Toll Road at the west end would mean that staff need to travel to Bathurst Street and backtrack multiple times a day.

King Township has invited the Town to participate in its evaluation of the matter.



Anticipating the impact of COVID-19 on summer recreation programs

The Committee of the Whole supported a schedule for decisions to be made regarding cancellation of summer programs and permits. If this is ratified at the next Council meeting:

- all remaining spring season permits (up to the end of June) for indoor and outdoor use will be immediately cancelled;
- a decision on cancelling all summer season recreation programs (including summer camps, aquatics camps, swimming lessons, drop in activities and aquatic leadership courses) will be made by May 15;
- a decision on cancelling all summer season indoor and outdoor permits (including use of sports fields by sports leagues) will be made by May 15;
- a decision on cancelling summer season municipal events will be made by the following dates:
 - Trails Day (scheduled for June 13) – May 8
 - Music in the Park (scheduled to start June 17) – May 8
 - Canada Day (July 1) – May 15
 - Walk for Chiari (July 11) – June 5
 - Carrot Fest (August 14) – June 19
 - Outdoor Movies (August 25) – July 17

The dates indicated are the latest at which a decision must be made in order for an event or activity to be either cancelled or executed. Decisions could be made earlier based on information or direction from higher levels of government or health authorities.

Two properties to receive heritage designation

The Committee of the Whole supported giving Heritage Designation to 3176 County Road 27, known as the Gummerson-Thorpe House, and 3769 Line 9, the former Fisher's Corner School.

The Gummerson-Thorpe House, located on the west side of County Road 27 at Line 8, is 27 hectares in size and features a single detached dwelling as well as two large barns and a shed. The Heritage Advisory Committee visited the property in June of 2019 and noted that the building is an example of a very early 1860's home in a rare classic revival style, which is uncommon to the area.



The designation by-law would include the house as a protected attribute but not the farm buildings/structures.

Fisher's Corner S.S.#7 is located on the south side of Line 9 west of Sideroad 5. The brick former schoolhouse dates back to 1877, when it was built to replace the original 1835 log cabin school. The school was used to educate children until the 1960's, when the building was converted to a residence. The Heritage Advisor Committee noted that the building maintains almost all of its original heritage attributes.

