



## MEETING MINUTES

Township of North Frontenac  
Council Chambers – 6648 Road 506, Plevna

March 2, 2018 at 9:30 a.m.

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**PRESENT:** Ron Higgins – Mayor, Township of North Frontenac; Brian Stewart – Mayor, Township of Lanark Highlands; Robert Kingsbury – Mayor, Township of Horton; Glenda McKay – Mayor, Township of Greater Madawaska; Shawn McLaughlin – Mayor, Township of Mississippi Mills; and Tom Peckett – Mayor, Township of McNab-Braeside; John Hall - Deputy Mayor, Township of Lanark Highlands.

**ABSENT WITH REGRETS:**

Henry Hogg – Reeve, Township of Addington Highlands; Robert Reid – Mayor, Head Clair and Maria; Brian Campbell – Deputy Reeve, Township of Tay Valley; Kim Love – Mayor, Township of Madawaksa Valley; and Vivian Bloom – Mayor, Township of Hastings Highlands.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Township of North Frontenac Staff: Brooke Drechsler, Deputy Clerk (Secretary); Kelly Watkins, Treasurer; Eric Korhonen, Director of Emergency Services.

**1. Welcome**

Mayor Higgins thanked everyone for attending the meeting in the new Council Chambers at the Township of North Frontenac Municipal Building.

**2. Presentation – Lanark County Economic Development Strategic Plan 2018-2020 “Developing a Healthcare Strategy” (See Attached Presentation)**

Stacie Lloyd, Regional Economic Development Officer, Valley Heartland Community Futures Development Corporation and Richard Schooley, Consultant, presented the Healthcare Strategy Presentation.

**Question and Answer**

Mayor Higgins commented that the Healthcare Strategy was a Lanark Plan and asked if Valley Heartland CFDC was looking to expand into other communities. Lloyd advised that, due to the nature of the issue, political boundaries don't come into play. Mayor Higgins asked if area hospitals needed to expand their services. Schooley advised that health care services should be planned with aggregation in mind. Services should be planned together with the affected communities.

Mayor Kingsbury explained that there are three hospitals within his area that are in competition for resources.

Mayor Higgins asked if municipalities should be focusing on healthcare services to promote economic development. Lloyd responded that improved healthcare services attract, repatriate and retain talent to an area.

Mayor Kingsbury commented that it is difficult to retain family physicians due to competition. Mayor McKay stated she has concerns with hospital capacity, retirement of family physicians and lack of mental health services.

Mayor Higgins asked how the RMFEO would be involved in the Healthcare Strategy, as it appeared to be a large project. Lloyd responded that RMFEO could be included as a potential collaborator to provide input into the strategy and advise of additional shareholders/partners.

Mayor Stewart asked if the presentation could be shared with the County Wardens and Township CAOs, as well as the Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus (EOWC). He suggested a meeting with the Counties of Frontenac, Renfrew and Lanark, inviting Medical Health Officers to attend.

### **3. Presentation – Commercial Education Taxes (See Attached Presentation)**

Deputy Mayor John Hall and Kathy Baker (MPAC) presented the Commercial Education Taxes presentation.

#### **Question and Answer**

Blake explained that the Commercial Education Tax rate applies to old construction. New construction will be taxed at the new Business Education Tax (BET) rate of 1.09%. If a business adds an addition to a building, the old section is taxed at the old rate while the new section at the new tax rate.

Mayor McKay stated that she had approached the Renfrew County Treasurer regarding the tax rate and was told that Renfrew taxed at the maximum Business Education Tax rate of 1.34%. Mayor McKay explained that she had used the City of Ottawa on line tax rate calculator and determined that the City of Ottawa, which has services (i.e. garbage collection) pays \$300.00 less in education tax than Renfrew County (limited services). She felt that this created an unfair playing field with regards to commercial construction in Renfrew County and made it difficult to attract new businesses.

Blake advised she had contacted Chris Broughton, Director of Property Tax Policy, with regards to meeting with the RMFEO about the tax rate.

Mayor Higgins asked if a resolution would be beneficial. Mayor Stewart suggested the issue should be brought to the attention of the five Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) and the EOWC. Baker suggested the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA). Mayor McKay suggested the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

Mayor McLaughlin asked if the Business Education tax rate was reduced, where the difference would come from. Would the province provide the difference or would there be an increase in residential rates?

Note: Watkins left the meeting at this time.

Director of Emergency Services/Fire Chief Eric Korhonen arrived at this time.

#### **4. Fire Fighter Regulation – Mandatory Training and Certification for Fire Fighters**

Director of Emergency Services/Fire Chief Eric Korhonen updated the RMFEO regarding the Ministry of Community Services and Correctional Services (MCSCS) proposed Regulation related to new requirements for mandatory training and certification for fire fighters. Korhonen advised the Ontario Fire Chiefs are in favour and fully support the new regulation, as the new standards will improve safety for fire fighters and the public. Training levels for fire fighters must be up to date by January 2019.

Mayor Higgins stated he was concerned with attracting new Volunteer Fire Fighters in rural areas. Korhonen explained that the Fire Chiefs are aware of the challenges facing new volunteers with training time and training costs to municipalities.

Mayor McKay has concerns with new hires having to use personal vacation time to attend training. Korhonen explained that training can be extended over 4 weekends at approved facilities.

Korhonen advised that the final date for public comment to the MCSCS regarding the regulation is March 11, 2018.

Korhonen advised that the Fire Chiefs are preparing a response to the MCSCS. Mayor Higgins suggested the RMFEO wait to see to see what resolution comes from the Chiefs before taking action.

Note: Korhonen left the meeting at this time.

#### **5. Finalize Election Platform Letter to three Party Leaders**

Mayor Higgins will provide the letter to the 3 Party leaders after the leader for the Progressive Conservative party is chosen.

#### **6. Round Table/New Business**

Mayor McKay felt the meeting dealt with some controversial subjects and was very informative. She thanked Mayor Higgins for his hard work and effort, noting the meetings would not run as efficiently without him.

Mayor Stewart also thanked Mayor Higgins for his work with the RMFEO and welcomed Mayor McKay back to the RMFEO.

Mayor Kingsbury thanks the presenters for the information provided, adding the information will be helpful when reviewing the issues.

#### **7. Review of Action Items from Today**

- i. Attach Lanark County Economic Development Strategic Plan 2018- 2020 “Developing a Healthcare Strategy” to Minutes;
- ii. Mayor Higgins and Mayor Stewart to invite the Wardens and CAOs of Frontenac County, Renfrew County and Lanark County and special guests (medical

- professionals) to the April 6, 2018 RMFEO meeting in Lanark to discuss the Healthcare Strategy;
- iii. Mayor Higgins to draft a letter regarding the Healthcare Strategy Meeting;
  - iv. Attach Commercial Education Taxes presentation to minutes;
  - v. Mayor Higgins and Mayor Stewart to invite the five MPP's to the April 6, 2018 RMFEO meeting in Lanark to discuss the Business Education Tax rate;
  - vi. RMFEO to wait for Ontario Fire Chiefs' resolution regarding new regulation before taking action.

## **8. Meeting Adjourned at 1:40 p.m.**

### Enclosures (2)

- Lanark County Economic Development Strategic Plan 2018-2020 "Developing a Healthcare Strategy";
- Commercial Education Taxes.

## Lanark County Economic Development Strategic Plan 2018 - 2020 Developing a Healthcare Strategy

Rural Mayors' Forum of Eastern Ontario  
March 2, 2018



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### Project Goals and Accomplishments

- ▶ County-wide Economic Development Strategic Plan with realistic and evidence-based actions for the County and all municipalities
- ▶ Provide the County and lower tier municipalities with an opportunity to plan and implement around economic development
- ▶ Build community capacity and develop strong partnerships
- ▶ Plan toward strengthening our local economy




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### ...and along the way

- ▶ A Leadership Team of 30+ established, with 4 active working groups
- ▶ All 8 municipalities in Lanark County were represented on the Leadership Team
- ▶ Incorporated Stakeholder input from Lanark County, Smiths Falls and Region - public meeting and 338 responses to Questionnaire:
  - ▶ entrepreneurs, residents, students and 30+ from economic development service organizations (e.g., Chambers of Commerce, BIAs, Vital Signs, Community Employment Services, Small Business Advisory, etc...)




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### Sample of Data Highlights


**Lanark County is an overall net exporter**  
of labour in all industries, with significant outflow of labour in Construction, Public Administration, Professional, Scientific and Technical Services, Administrative and support, Waste Management and remediation service, and Healthcare and Social Assistance, in that order  
(Labour Flow, based on 2011 NIS)




**Strong growth in population**  
In 2016, Lanark County's population was 68,096, a 4.0% growth since 2011. This growth rate matches Ontario's growth from 2011 to 2016  
(2016 Census, StatsCan)




**Small Businesses contribute over 85% of employment in the county**  
(Econ. Dev. FSA)



**Lanark County has a well-diversified economy** with few highly specialized industries  
(Econ. Dev. FSA)



**Future opportunities** exist in Home/Healthcare, Arts, Entertainment & Recreation, Tourism & Accommodation/Food, Construction, Manufacturing, & Agriculture  
(Econ. 2011 NIS, Industry Tables, local insights)



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### Five Main Themes



**Lanark County  
Economic Development  
Strategic Planning**




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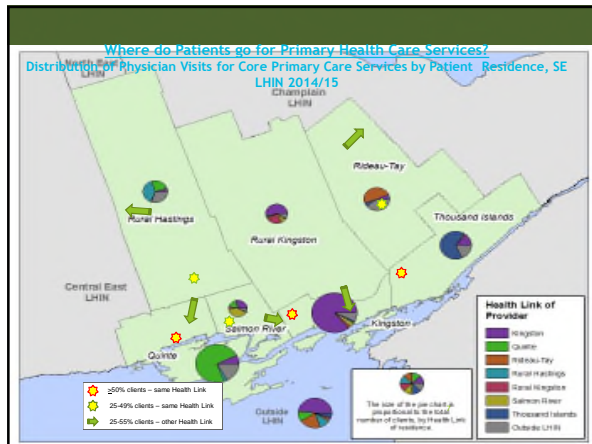
### Top 5 Priority Action Plans Identified

- ▶ Implement a county-wide BR&E program
- ▶ Improve Broadband Infrastructure throughout the county
- ▶ Develop a Healthcare Strategy
- ▶ Develop an Investment Readiness Plan
- ▶ Develop Family and Business-friendly land-use planning policies



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### Coordinated Healthcare Strategy

...for Healthcare Services Recruitment, Retention & Repatriation of a workforce responsive to Community Health & Wellness

ST - Identify healthcare community stakeholders in the region, strike a volunteer task force.

LT - Collaborate with Healthcare Service Providers, Social Service Providers and communities of interest to develop a Coordinated Strategy & Future Needs and Services Development, with consideration to Seniors Care, Families, Walk-In Clinics and overall Community Health & Wellness

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### Next Steps for developing a strategy

- ▶ Healthcare Community Stakeholders and Collaborators
- ▶ Task Force
- ▶ Role of RMFEO, CAO's, others...
- ▶ Ideas from RMFEO?

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### Thank you

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 Regional Economic Development Officer  
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**Richard Schooley**

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# Commercial Education Taxes

John Hall  
February 2018

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### Comparison Commercial to Residential

Lanark Highlands  
Assessment \$300,000

	2017 Residential			2017 Commercial			Ratio Comm/ Res
	Tax Rate	Taxes	% Of Total	Tax Rate	Taxes	% Of Total	
Municipal	.00576561	\$1,730	51%	.01021304	\$3,064	34%	1.8
County	.00376627	\$1,130	33%	.00667146	\$2,001	22%	1.8
Education	.00179000	\$537	16%	.01285667	\$3,857	43%	7.2
Total	.01132188	\$3,397	100%	.02974117	\$8,922	100%	

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## Education Tax Rates

- 1998 – Province took control of setting Education taxes (Previously education taxes were determined by school boards)
- Regulation 400/98 made under the Education Act sets the education rates
  - Residential rate set at .00179 for all municipalities
  - Rates for Commercial, Industrial, Pipeline and Landfill property are set in Table 1 for each municipality at the upper tier level

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Municipality	Tax Rate for the Residential Property Class	Tax Rate for the Commercial Property Class	Ratio Comm/Res	Res Taxes on 300k Assess	Comm Taxes on 300k Assess
Lanark, County of	0.00179	.01285667	7.2	\$537	\$3,857
Smiths Falls, Separated Town of	0.00179	.01390000	7.8	\$537	\$4,170
Frontenac, County of	0.00179	.01390000	7.8	\$537	\$4,170
Leeds and Grenville, County of	0.00179	.01308668	7.3	\$537	\$3,926
Lennox and Addington, County of	0.00179	.01390000	7.8	\$537	\$4,170
Renfrew, County of	0.00179	.01362616	7.6	\$537	\$4,088
Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, County of	0.00179	.01390000	7.8	\$537	\$4,170
Ottawa, City of	0.00179	.01129880	6.3	\$537	\$3,390
Prince Edward, County of	0.00179	.00749030	4.2	\$537	\$2,247
Toronto, City of	0.00179	.01140000	6.4	\$537	\$3,420
Dufferin, County of	0.00179	.01012107	5.7	\$537	\$3,036
Muskoka, District Municipality of	0.00179	.00686026	3.8	\$537	\$2,058

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## Table 1 Formula ??

- Contacted MPP Randy Hillier – very helpful but no answer to date – still working on it.
- Memo Dec 22, 2017 from Allan Doheny, ADM, Provincial Local Finance Division regarding taxation including 2018 Education Rates

“If you have any questions related to these decisions, please contact Chris Broughton, Director of the Property Tax Policy Branch at Chris.Broughton@ontario.ca or 416-314-3801”. Sent email Jan 5 – no answer to date.

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### Education Property Tax Rates

To assist municipalities with their budget planning, draft education property tax rates for 2018 are attached. The province-wide residential education property tax rate and the target and ceiling business education tax (BET) rates are summarized in the following table. The Province will notify municipalities when these rates have been set in regulation.

	2017 Rates	2018 Rates
Residential	0.18%	0.17%
BET Target	1.14%	1.09%
Commercial BET Ceiling	1.39%	1.34%
Industrial BET Ceiling	1.39%	1.34%

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