



Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 28, 2023

Here are the highlights from the South Dundas Council meeting held March 27, 2023.

For more information, contact [Shawna O'Neill](#), **Communications Coordinator** at 613-543-2673 ext. 4768 or 613-577-3157.

Council discusses new tenders

South Dundas Director of Parks, Recreations, and Facilities David Jansen and Director of Transportation Jeff Hyndman presented several tender award recommendations during Monday night's Council meeting.

Staff recommended that two grass cutting tenders be awarded to Superior Group, who had the lowest hourly rate and annual estimate for all years of the tender, with rates increasing just 2 per cent each year between 2023 and 2025. During the 2022 roadside grass mowing season, Superior Group was the hired contractor.

It was also recommended that Council approve the purchase of two half ton trucks — one to be used by the Water and Wastewater Department, the other for the Roads Department, and one provisional truck for Fire and Emergency Services. Council approved these items in the 2023 Budget. Council accepted the report for the purchase of the two half ton trucks but a motion was made to defer the purchase of the provisional truck for Fire and Emergency Services until the Municipality hires a new Director of Fire and Emergency Services.

Council accepted an action report outlining six roads that are set to be reconstructed by the lowest bidding company, Miller Paving Limited. During 2023 Budget discussions, Staff presented a capital roads budget identifying various roads within the Municipality that require a complete reconstruction. The following roads were approved for the program: South Branch Rd, Snowbird Rd, Bongers Rd, McIntosh Rd, Seeley Rd, and Markell Rd.

A report recommending that sidewalk replacement and repair be awarded to JT Concrete Ltd was also accepted. JT Concrete Ltd submitted the lowest bid to perform the sidewalk work. Staff previously identified sidewalks at Dundas St (Caldwell St to Carmen Road) and Carmen Rd (Dundas St to Elizabeth Dr) to be removed and replaced with a proper 1.5 metre-wide walking surface. The 2023 approved capital budget included \$203,520 for sidewalk replacement and the bid from JT Concrete Ltd is \$128,525 including net HST.

"Passing the Budget early... and putting tenders out early is showing great savings... it's great to see all these bids..." said Coun. Danielle Ward.

"I would like to thank Director Hyndman for excellent work on these accounts... and bringing us some savings in a couple of areas..." said Mayor Jason Broad.



Council receives delegation from Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC)

Joyce Gravelle, MPAC Account Manager, spoke to Council about how there was more than \$37 billion of new assessment captured in 2022 across the province.

Gravelle maintained that property values are still based on the market as of Jan. 1, 2016.

“We’re ready to go... we continue to monitor sales and trends in the market... we just have to get that (reassessment) date (from the province),” said Gravelle. “When a property’s value increases, the increase is phased in equally over four years. If a property value decreases, that decrease is applied in the first year.”

“During the pandemic, it really changed how we traditionally have done our work with inspections not allowed during lockdowns, etc. We worked very closely with our Municipal Building Department staff to review plans internally... we had wonderful cooperation so thank you once again to all of staff.”

MPAC also rolled out a digital pilot project to assist with resolving assessment concerns, recommending that residents take the following four steps before appealing an assessment: reflect on the Current Value Assessment; visit MPAC’s [AboutMyProperty.ca](https://www.mpac.ca) to confirm details; view similar properties and their assessed values; and submit a request for reconsideration if they disagree with their assessment. An MPCA newsletter is also available for subscription and can be found on [mpac.ca](https://www.mpac.ca).

Coun. Ward questioned if the phase-in period could be longer once property values are reassessed. Gravelle said she would bring the comment back to her staff.

Council receives delegation from agriculture federation representatives

Members of Council heard from Dundas Federation of Agriculture (DFA) President Ryan Devries and Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) Director of Zone 11 Jackie Kelly-Pemberton on Monday evening. The representatives discussed their organization’s respective efforts to support local agricultural communities.

Kelly-Pemberton noted that the OFA represents over 38,000 farm families in Ontario. She discussed unique challenges and opportunities associated with rural economic development, highlighting an aging farming workforce. She recommended that residents find more information at [Ofa.on.ca/growag](https://ofa.on.ca/growag).

“These are things we lobby for... you’re our first level (of government) we speak to as farmers when we have issues and there’s concerns about legislations. We need people to come and invest in agriculture to have the tools and resources they may have anywhere else in Ontario (like) broadband and high-speed internet...” said Kelly-Pemberton.



Devries said that DFA represents over 400 farms in North and South Dundas, acting as an affiliate of OFA. Devries encouraged Council to engage with the local farming community early and often and consult with farmers on policies and programs that may impact their business,

Deputy Mayor St. Pierre shared that Coun. Tom Smyth has organized an agricultural tour which will allow Council to meet with some members of the Municipality's farming community. He also praised local farmers for all their vital efforts.

South Dundas hiring Director of Fire and Emergency Services

South Dundas Clerk Crystal Lebrun was appointed as the Municipality's Acting Fire Chief during the March 27 regular meeting.

"We did talk to Scott Hayes at the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) and what we're looking at tonight, from an administrative perspective, is to appoint Lebrun as temporary Fire Chief. From there, we will be able to delegate signing authorities to Deputies..." said Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Shannon Geraghty.

South Dundas is currently hiring a new Director of Fire and Emergency Services. The job posting is expected to close on April 3.

A number of other job opportunities are also available, including the position of CAO, Parks and Facilities Operator, and Summer Student jobs. These positions are posted on our website at www.southdundas.com/job-opportunities.

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Upcoming Meetings

Regular Council Meeting: Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at 6:00 pm

Regular Council Meeting: Monday, April 24, 2023 at 6:00 pm

Regular Council Meeting: Monday, May 8 at 6:00 pm