



**Media Release**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 23, 2025

Here are the highlights from the South Dundas Council meeting held January 22, 2025.

*For more information, contact **Tia Fraser-Dupuis, Acting Economic Development & Communications Officer** at 613-543-2673 ext. 4772*

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**Delegations**

Road Rationalization Study

United Counties of Stormont Dundas, and Glengarry's Director of Transportation, Ben de Haan presented Council with the draft findings of the Road Rationalization Study. The goal of this study was to investigate classifications of roads to ensure they receive the approval level of service and ensure they are under jurisdiction of the appropriate authority.

The study included multiple phases:

1. Assessment
2. Functional Characteristics
3. Evaluations and Recommendations
4. Implementation Options

Study conclusions in South Dundas:

- County Road 40 (South Dundas). Reclassify as a Local Road

"We would not want to provide a liability to the municipality, nor would we want to accept a liability. I think there is a good conversation to be had about cost sharing," said de Haan when asked about bringing the road to prime condition when transferred to South Dundas.

O.P.P. Update

Sergeant James Blanchette provided Council with an overview of the January – December 2024 Police Services Board Report, which contains crime statistics.

"I don't see any trends that are significant, certainly nothing concerning," said Blanchette.

Councillor Ward added "I just wanted to relay my thanks from a few community groups that the O.P.P. was able to assist last year...we really appreciate your support."

Rideau St. Lawrence Holdings Inc.

Simon Wu, Chief Executive Officer with Rideau St. Lawrence Holdings Inc spoke to Council on proposed changes to Unanimous Shareholder Agreement (USA). These changes include:

- Updating Legal Names of Parties



- RSL Distribution Governance Issues; In certain areas it was not clear which entity was being referred to.
- Permitted Business Activities; An update to make more current the definition of permitted activities for the Corporation and subsidiaries.
- General Update to Certain More Standard Provisions
- Formatting/Clean-up

In addition to the above proposed changes, CEO Wu discussed changes to how major decisions were made. Currently, when shareholders make major decisions, it is based on 80% of shares. South Dundas has 33.6% of common shares. The proposed change would be instead of 80% of shares, it would be 80% of “shareholders.” This would remove the veto power that South Dundas has due to its 33.6% of shares, however it would enable South Dundas to make a change without other major shareholders, as long as 4 out of 5 shareholders are in alignment.

“South Dundas earned that right 25 years ago with the initial investment,” noted Mayor Broad.

I think we currently have an agreement that currently works, and works well, so I think we should continue moving forward,” added Deputy Mayor St. Pierre.

Council unanimously would like to leave the agreement as it stands and not make the change to shares. “We would like to keep our voting power the way it is,” said Mayor Broad.

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### **Valecraft Homes: Pre-Servicing Agreement**

Council has approved the execution of a Pre-Servicing Agreement with Valecraft Homes Ltd. Draft plan approval for the Valecraft Plan of Subdivision was issued by SDG on March 28, 2024. The subdivision consists of approximately 313 units. The developer requested permission to commence pre-servicing work prior to final subdivision approval to expedite the development process, to meet market demands. The pre-servicing agreement will allow development to proceed in a timely manner while protecting municipal interests by ensuring proper oversight of infrastructure installation.

The agreement’s provisions include:

- Providing securities and insurance before commencing underground work.
- Covering all costs associated with municipal review and inspection.

“The Billing Street east & west numbering has caused some issues with emergency services in the past, so can we please look at how to mediate this since we are going about it now,” requested Mayor Broad.

For more information, contact Stephanie Morin, Planner at 613-543-2673

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### **Williamsburg Wastewater Rates**

Council has approved a by-law to impose a sewer service rate in Williamsburg. Based on the 2022 Asset Management Plan, the Municipality was not meeting the recommended annual contribution to reserve of \$48,000 for Williamsburg wastewater operations. During 2024 budget discussions, Council was presented with 10 rate increase options to consider. Option 2 was chosen which required a two-year commitment (2024 and 2025) of 34.6% increase in rates to achieve the recommended target annual reserve commitment. On January 10, 2024, Council directed staff to increase the Williamsburg residential unit rate for 2024 to \$251.97 from \$187.20 (34.6%), to achieve the recommended Asset Management contribution of \$48,000 in as early as two years.

For more information, contact Julie Stewart, Treasurer at 613-543-2673 ext. 4770

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### **Updates Fees & Charges**

By-law 2024-08 was passed to establish fees and charges to be collected by various Municipal Departments. Changes made include updates to marriage related fees, building permit fees, Galop Canal Marina fees, Iroquois Campground fees, facility rental fees, recreation programming fees and public works fees.

Find the updated fee schedules [here](#).

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### **Animal Services – Agreement with the Township of Russell**

Council has approved a by-law to enter into an agreement with the Township of Russell for the use of the Russell Township Animal Shelter. Russell Township offers multiple trained, uniformed officers in marked vehicles and provides expanded response capacity compared to the current single-responder model. Russell Township offers professional shelter facilities with Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) approval and it enhances public safety response capabilities for at-large animals. The animal control services provided by Russell Township focuses on dog management and sheltering, operating during regular business hours with 24/7 on call support, and include transportation to the Russell shelter facility.

The partnership offers significant cost advantages through its per-use billing model and proximity-based savings, eliminating the need for new facility construction, while fitting within the 2025 draft budget at reduced operational costs. The arrangement ensures risk management, maintains service continuity with multiple available officers, and operates from an OMAFRA-compliant facility.

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### **2025 Budget**

Council has officially approved the 2025 budget by by-law. Budget discussions and review with Council and Staff occurred on December 6th, 2024, and January 13th, 2025, for general



municipal functions. The overall annual net tax levy for 2025 is \$9,390,935, a \$579,912 increase (6.58%) over that of 2024. In comparing the residential tax rate from 2024 to 2025, ratepayers will see an increase of approximately \$71.86 or 5.45%, for lower tier municipal purposes, on a residential assessment of \$220,267. The passing of the budget will allow staff to proceed with calculating the final tax rates for the Municipality for the 2025 taxation year.

Find the budget summary [here](#).

For more information, contact Julie Stewart, Treasurer at 613-543-2673 ext. 4770

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### Upcoming Meetings

Regular Council Meetings: February 5, 2025, at 6:00 pm

February 19, 2025, at 6:00 pm