



Adam A. Donaldson @adamadonaldson

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Coming up at 1 pm, it's this month's Joint Social Services and Land Ambulance Committee Meeting at Wellington County. Stand by for coverage!



MEETING PREVIEW: Joint Social Services and Land Ambulance Com...

After a very consequential October meeting of the Joint Social Services and Land Ambulance Committee don't expect things to get anymore chill for November in spite of the cool weather. At thi...

<https://guelphpolitico.ca/2024/11/08/meeting-preview-joint-social-services-and-land-am...>

Due to the number of people this meeting, we've had a last minute change of venue to the council chambers as the Guthrie Room is too small. If you're coming, you'll find us there!

Chair Anderson calls the meeting to order:

-Regrets from Cllr Busuttil

-Anderson announces that this will his last meeting as chair. Busuttil as vice will take over in 2025.

Also, this meeting is being recorded, which is a new development for County business.

Also, regrets from Warden Lennox.

First, 65 Delhi St. Transitional Housing Construction Project: Status Report 9. This might be last report, the completion date is still sometime in December. Kevin Mulholland, Construction & Property Manager, says it's going well, exterior's done and services done.

Mulholland says all that's left is the finishing work.

Motion to receive the report approved.

Next, Request For Proposal Award for Solar Photovoltaic Systems. Jackie Osti, Manager of Purchasing and Risk Management Services explains that an RFP was issues to install some solar panels at 3 Guelph buildings owned by the County:

411 Waterloo Ave

263 Speedvale Ave E

and 33 Marlborough Ave.

The proposals were evaluated on a points based system, and not just who had the lowest bid. Osti says it's a good news story in terms of savings, \$800k in electricity, and let's not forget enviro impact.

Also, a clean energy tax credit in the offing.

Based on their evaluation criteria, County staff have opted to give the tender to VCT Group out of Kitchener, who will fulfil the project based on a budget of almost \$579,000 plus HST.

Recommendation moved by O'Rourke/Downer.

Recommendation:

That County of Wellington Project No. CW2024-016 an RFP for the design and installation of rooftop solar photovoltaic systems at three (3) County owned residential buildings as specified in the City of Guelph be awarded to VCT Group Inc. of Kitchener, Ontario at the total amount of \$578,736.00 exclusive of HST @ 13%; and

That the funding for this project be approved as set out in the attached Financial Summary; and

That staff be authorized to issue the Purchase Order for the contract; and

That the Warden and Clerk be authorized to sign the necessary agreements.

Cllr Cork asks why they're not taking the lowest bid. (The winning tender was the middle of the pack in terms of price.) He would like to make a motion to defer until there's a full evaluation of the different submissions.

Osti says that the winning tender ticked all the boxes outlined in the RFP, it's a values based award so the group that offers the best value, plus long-term service and warranties. She also says that their servicing was cheaper than others.

There's doesn't seem to be a seconder. Cllr Bulmer says he has a "friendly amendment", but Guthrie notes that you can amend a motion that's not on the floor.

Mayor Guthrie adds that the questions are valid, but he wonders if there's some missing insight in the report. Wonders why Guelph Solar didn't meet criteria. Staff says they had an excellent submission, but VCT got two points more.

Cllr Downer thanks the County for taking on these climate change initiatives. Cllr O'Rourke asks about promo. Osti says this is a good news story, and will work to make sure it's broadcast.

Cork asks that in the future they get more information, especially in the case where the winning tender and lowest tender have a quarter-of-a-million-dollar difference. Bulmer asks if staff can offer additional info b4 County council. Osti says sure.

Motion approved.

Next, Tender Award: Heat Pump Installation at 130 Grange Street – The County is seeking to install electric heat pumps for these 72 units in Guelph. Out of nine bids, the winning tender is Airwave Heating and Cooling from Guelph for almost \$632,900 plus the HST.

Recommendation moved by O'Rourke/Guthrie

Recommendation:

That County of Wellington Project No. CW2024-034 for the installation of heat pumps as specified at 130 Grange St in Guelph be awarded to Airwave Heating and Cooling of Guelph, Ontario at the total amount of \$632,812.95 exclusive of HST @ 13%; and

That the funding for this project be approved as set out in the attached Financial Summary; and

That staff be authorized to issue the Purchase Order for the contract; and

That the Warden and Clerk be authorized to sign the necessary agreements.

Guthrie asks about the amount required for delegated authority. Osti says the purchasing policy is \$500k limit for what staff can approve solo.

Anderson asks about savings from the heat pumps. Staff says they don't know yet, but the difference is baseboard heating doesn't provide AC in the summer, residents have their own units for AC, so there will be some savings, not sure what.

Next, Financial Statements as of October 31, 2024. Treasurer Shauna Caulder says the statements are consistent with what was presented last month, but they have received more Reaching Home funding, which they just received notice today, so not sure about financial impact.

Guthrie asks about the allocation. Calder says it's 4-year, and incremental. They have to crunch the numbers to see who it's spread out, and there's a different fiscal. Will have update in January.

O'Rourke: So this will cover the winter housing plan?

Calder: It will go into that column, not sure it will cover all the costs, but it will have an impact.

Motion to receive the report approved.

Next, Ontario Works 2025 User Fees and Charges – The Ontario Works office offers a number of services including photocopying and faxing, but the only change to the charges for the 2025 is interpreter services for external organizations.

Recommendation:

That the attached 2025 User Fees and Charges for Ontario Works be approved.

Passes.

Next, 2025-2034 Preliminary 10-Year Plan: Social Services. They're project 11% increase for the County and 14% increase for the City on housing. Decrease in overall homelessness funding due to one-time funding last year, but there is more funding with Norfolk, Winter pla,

\$80.8 mn planned for county owned housing, and there's been adjustments to affordable housing that minor. 1.7% increase in OW for County and 0.5% for the City. This is based on OW projections, but costs covered by ONgov.

County also got increase in admin funding for OW, which is a first since 2018. Childcare costs decreasing by 26.9% for County and 20.3% for City. This is due to federal funding, but

there are still some questions about exact costs b/c they're still awaiting guidelines.
Children Early Years funding has grown too, and that requires more oversight to implement.
Small capital costs for 2025 too.

Recommendation moved by Guthrie/O'Rourke:

That the preliminary 2025-2034 Social Services Ten-Year Plan as set out in this report be endorsed and forwarded to the Administration, Finance & Human Resources Committee for inclusion in the County of Wellington's Preliminary 10-Yr Plan

O'Rourke asks about affordable housing plan. 3,000 people on wait list, but can the County come back with recommendations about the cost to build as many urgent housing as needed?

Calder says "affordable housing" means County-owned housing, which is built from the money they allocate, which is different from "social housing." Administrator Artuso says they're doing that work in housing dept now, doing break down by municipality for needs.

O'Rourke wants to assure that this is a rolling plan. Calder says there's a one-year approval and they can make modifications as things change.

Bulmer asks if Guelph wants to be a housing provider, they can work with County staff to make that happen? Calder says that the City can add money to their budget to build social housing, and the County would have to look at their opportunities.

O'Rourke notes that as social services manager, she would be looking at the County about how to direct funds as opposed to just putting money aside for something. What numbers, what timeline?

Recommendation approved.

Next, three reports for Land Ambulance. Guelph DCAO Colleen Clack-Bush will present.

First, Agenda Forecast: Projected Land Ambulance Reports.

The forecast:

Oct, 09, 2024	Impact from Closure of Consumption and Treatment Services Guelph Site
Nov, 13, 2024	2025 Budget Update Presentation
	Agenda Forecast – Projected Land Ambulance Reports
	Update to the Optimal Resource Deployment Of Paramedic Services Study
Jan, 08, 2025	Paramedic Services Q3 2024 Budget Variance Report
Apr, 09, 2025	Paramedic Services Year-End 2024 Budget Variance Report – Draft
Jun, 11, 2025	Paramedic Services Response Performance 2024 and Performance Plan 2025
	Paramedic Services Q1 2025 Budget Variance Report
Sep, 10, 2025	Paramedic Services Q2 2025 Budget Variance Report

Bulmer says thanks, and he knows he's been "less than polite" about the absence of material. Asks why no second quarter report from this year? Clack-Bush says this is a new process for the City and they've been working on the best way to report to JSSLAC.

Bulmer says he doesn't see some form of regular updates from service workers, or some regular update. For instance, no report about impact in the hiring of offload nurse in August, or impact of traffic crash involving an ambulance. He just wants to know workers are okay.

Clack-Bush says that staff can provide more time sensitive updates as needed by email and they could look at connecting through both clerks between meeting cycles.

Cllr Cork says that Chief Dewar, who's here today, that he's "our man on the ground" and having him at the meeting is no different when the head of police services is at those meetings. Cannot replicate that access through second-hand reports. Wants Dewar here on the regular.

Clack-Bush says it's responsibility to oversee things, so when she's providing information, it's not second hand. Obviously Dewar has professional expertise, but he's not the end of the expertise about paramedics.

Recommendation: That the Joint Social Services and Land Ambulance Committee recommend that the report, Agenda Forecast – Projected Land Ambulance Reports, be received by City Council as part of the weekly information items.

Approved.

Next, Update to the Optimal Resource Deployment of Paramedic Services Study. Dewar will present this one.

Dewar: Guelph had a consultant run simulations in 2016 about potential growth in the service, and that's informed the last 8 years of planning. Over the last several months, they've been running sims to update that model.

Dewar says the 2016 predictions were remarkably accurate, and that despite the pandemic which their models did not predict. It also compares services as a way of being predictive, which is information that other paramedic services also take advantage of.

Dewar says data analysis shows that service response has improved in the city and fallen somewhat in the county. Much of the work looked at developing more responsive time equity between townships, and the new targets represent small improvements.

To do that: 40 new full-time paramedics will be needed in the next 10 years. Relocating stations is also a way of improving efficiencies in a cost effective way.

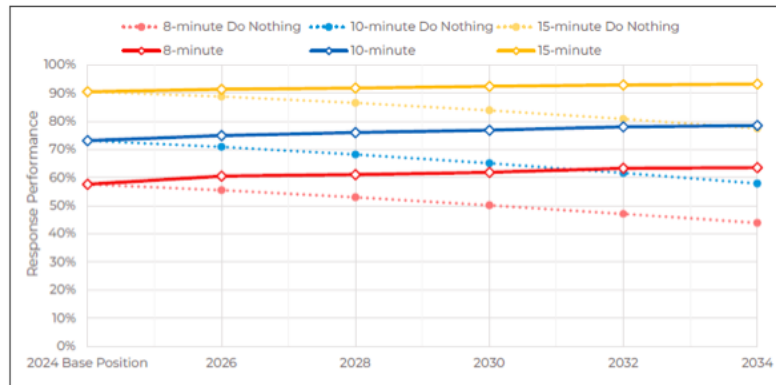
Local targets:

Proposed Targets based on Total Weighted Geometric Mean

LTM	Population	Area (sq km)	Population Density	TWGM	TWGM Rank	Base Position Performance		Proposed
						P4 % in 8 mins	P4 90th %ile	
Guelph	147,100	86.2	1,633.9	2,586.7	1	69.0%	10:58	11:00
Centre Wellington	32,204	415.3	74.9	354.2	2	61.8%	12:41	12:30
Guelph/Eramosa Wellington North Minto	14,297	297.4	56.5	156.9	3	28.3%	17:57	16:00
	13,012	534.4	23.3	136.0	4	57.9%	17:33	16:00
	9,572	301.2	30.2	122.4	5	29.9%	17:00	16:00
Erin	12,270	299.2	40.0	67.4	6	18.3%	19:34	18:00
Puslinch	8,166	219.2	36.2	41.9	7	10.6%	17:30	18:00
Mapleton	11,179	541.7	20.0	32.0	8	30.8%	19:17	18:00

Impact on response times if we do nothing:

Impact on Response Times 2024 – 2034 ORH 'Do Nothing' Scenario



Paramedic Stations

- Many of the current facilities are relatively well located
- Facilities are not appropriately sized or purpose-built
- Capacity constraints prevent additional resources

Challenges:

- Land availability in optimal locations
- Financial capacity for land and construction dictates pace

Sequence of new station construction starting in 2026:

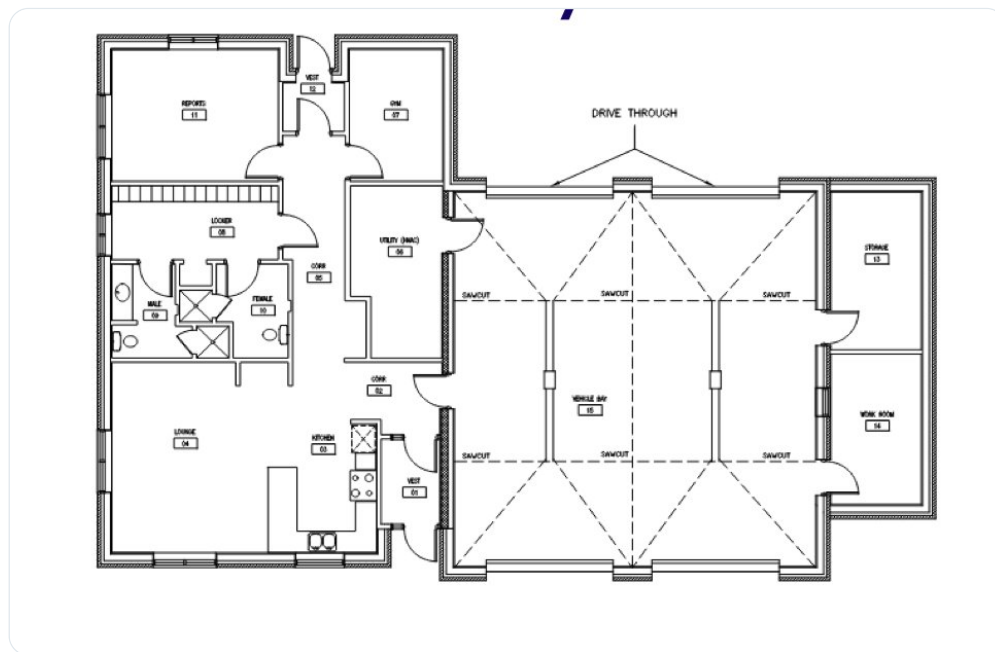
ORH Report - Recommended Station Construction Sequence

YEAR	LOCATION
2026	Guelph (Speedvale Avenue)
2028	Erin (Hillsburgh)
2028	Guelph-Eramosa (Rockwood)
2030	Minto (Harriston)
2030	Wellington North (Mount Forest)
2032	Centre Wellington (Fergus)
2032	Puslinch (Aberfoyle)
2034	Wellington North (Arthur)
2034	Mapleton (Drayton)
2034	Guelph (Gordon Street)

Source - ORH Report Figure 1 - Recommended Trajectory

Not on the chart is Arthur, which is a good future prospect because the County already owns that land.

Layout of purpose-built ambulance station:



Information for budgeting purposes:

- Construction meeting Post Disaster Building Standard
- Land acquisition cost is extra
- Budgetary station cost is \$1390 / sq ft(1)
- Station budget cost estimate for 3400sq ft is \$4.7M

Recommendation That the Joint Social Services and Land Ambulance Committee recommend that report “Update to the Optimal Resource Deployment of Paramedic Services Study” be received by City Council as part of the weekly information items moved by Cork/Guthrie.

Cork asks if the diagram is a 2-vehicle building Antti Vilkkko from the City says yes. Cork asks if most stations already have two, and Dewar says no. Most stations are converted fire halls, and there's only room for one.

Guthrie asks if there might be synergies to be explored, building stations on county property and the like. Vilkkko says yes, and they've been looking at that with the Arthur station, the sudden possibility of that helped inform the report work.

Bulmer says this is a good indication of the cost of growth, and the cost of ONgov delays, but he also gives compliments to the City for its efforts to reduce delays. Still he's concerned about the ambition of building this many stations. Could they get a variety of scenarios?

Dewar says they can do that, but the model presented here is not the best scenario, but it is an improvement over the do nothing scenario. It may be a question of how low does the County want to go? (though that's not ideally the best way to look at it, Dewar adds).

O'Rourke asks if they're looking at modularity so that they can grow the new stations as service grows. Vilkkko says they are looking at that with the design, who can they add new bays or office space if needed.

Cllr Duncan, who represent Erin, asks if the County can set aside a review block for a station through the budget? CAO Wilson says once they adopt this they can pursue acquisition of that's the direction of County council. They've been projecting costs, but need this piece.

Wilson says there are plots in the county that if they're no in the hot zone, they're close. There's lots of options, but does think they will need to go to private market though he doesn't want to get ahead of that either.

Recommendation approved.

Next, 2025 Land Ambulance Budget Update Report.

Shanna O'Dwyer, Acting General Manager Finance/City Treasurer, will present.

One admin position been deferred to 2026, increase supply costs, and increase in provincial funding for service station. There's been a reduction in the costs at the new Elmira Rd station in Guelph. Savings for County comes to \$154k on operating, and \$76k for capital.

O'Dwyer says that they've also put aside \$500k from contingency reserve for as-yet unknown impacts from the closure of the CTS.

Recommendation That the 2025 Land Ambulance Budget Update Report be received by the Joint Social Services and Land Ambulance Committee for information moved.

Motion to receive approved.

Transfer of 440 King Street, Mount Forest, to County of Wellington. Paul Skinner, interim director of housing presents. The Mount Forest Non-Profit Housing Corporation is transferring ownership of this project to the County.

There are just a couple of motions that the committee has to approve in order to complete the transfer, including a direction to the warden and the clerk to execute the Agreement of Purchase, which will go into effect on January 2.

Recommendation moved by Bulmer/Downer.

Recommendation:

That the Joint Social Services Land Ambulance Committee recommend to County Council to pass a by-law authorizing the transfer of 440 King Street East in Mount Forest from Wellington Housing Corporation to the County of Wellington at a nominal consideration, to the satisfaction of the Social Services Administrator and County Solicitor; and

That the Warden and County Clerk be authorized to execute the Agreement of Purchase and Sale and such conveyances, titles, survey plans, forms and other documents on behalf of the County as may be necessary for the above stated purpose.

Recommendation approved.

Wellington Home Child Care Recruitment Campaign. Mandy Koroniak, Director of Children's Early Years, will present.

This is an info report following the County's efforts recruit more license home daycares; this following a decrease from 45 in March 2020 to 27 in March 2022. The result from the outreach is about 18 more providers, especially, GET, Erin and Guelph.

Motion to receive the report for information approved.

Next: Correspondence from Ontario's Big City Mayors: October 18, 2024. <https://pub-wellington.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=12859>.

Guthrie says the "Stop the Crisis" website has gained a lot of traction, Chambers of Commerce and BIAs are endorsing it. The work of this committee is relevant with this and hopes ONgov hear this continued advocacy... for once.

Motion to receive correspondence from Guthrie/Downer.

Anderson says they're always making a point to the ONgov that they have a responsibility here, municipalities are managers. This is another way of getting to them.

Motion approved.

Committee will now move into closed session for personnel matters about identifiable individual, confidential info, and the disposition of land.

Anderson says there will be no direction coming out of closed, so this is the unofficial end of the meeting and the official end of this thread.



@threadreaderapp unroll please!

