

**COUNCIL NEWS**

**FROM THE MARCH 28, 2022 COUNCIL MEETING**

**NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE**

**Overview of Police Services in Niagara and West Lincoln**

Bryan MacCulloch, Police Chief of the Niagara Regional Police, Jen Lawson, PSB Member, Shaun Parrent, Staff Sergeant of 8 District, Brett Flynn, Deputy Chief of Police, Patrick McCauley, Inspector, Stephanie Sabourin, Corporate Communications and Marco Giannico, Superintendent of District Operations, reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on the overview of Police Services in Niagara and West Lincoln. Some of the items discussed were the organizational structure and programs, statistical trends for calls of service, mental health calls and general occurrence calls. There has been an increase in West Lincoln with respect to these items, but numbers are lower compared to the rest of the local area municipalities: Grimsby, Lincoln, Pelham and Wainfleet.

**2022 MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION – ALTERNATIVE VOTING METHODS**

Staff have put forward a recommendation that Council offer traditional in-person voting and internet voting (during advance voting only) for the 2022 Election. The recommendation was based on the alternative voting method research, balancing resources, opportunities, budget and public health concerns during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Township of West Lincoln presented an opportunity to modernize its election operations and enhance accessibility and convenience for electors and to improve election efficiency. Council deferred the staff report to the April 19<sup>th</sup> Administration/Finance/Fire Committee meeting, and requested that a representative from Voatz Canada Ltd. be in attendance to address any questions relating to internet voting prior to approval.

Advance Voting, Important dates and methods for voting are as follows:

2022 Municipal and School Board Election			
Election Day –Voting in Person only October 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2022		Advance Voting in Person & internet Voting September 26 <sup>th</sup> – October 17 <sup>th</sup>	
Ward 1	Caistor Centre Public School	ALL	West Lincoln Community Centre
Ward 2	Gainsborough Public School	ALL	Legion Villa Seniors Complex
Ward 3	West Lincoln Community Centre	ALL	Internet Voting
		ALL Administration Building *NOTE: Equipment will be securely available for residents to access the internet voting method only, during regular business hours at the Township Administrative Office*	

**CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS AND CEMETERY & HALL BOARD GRANTS**

Council adopted the 2022 Corporate Sponsorship and Cemetery and Hall Board grant allocations as presented. Many of the applications received in 2022 are from groups that the Township has had a long partnership with and have supported on an annual basis. All of these organizations provide community activities within the Township.

### **NEW PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT WADE ROAD & REGIONAL ROAD 20/WEST ST.**

The new pedestrian crossover installed by the Region of Niagara at the location of Wade Road and Regional Road 20/West Street is now completed and in operation. This is a new type of crossing where drivers and cyclists are required to stop for pedestrians intending to cross the road. Drivers and cyclists must allow pedestrians to cross the full width of the road before proceeding.

### **INTERNET SERVICE FOR SIX (6) HAMLETS**

The Mayor joined Councillor Rehner, Councillor Trombetta, MPP Sam Oosterhoff, and Regional Councillor of Lincoln, Rob Foste, at the Caistor Community Centre for a SWIFT announcement. It was announced that six (6) hamlets will be getting fibre optics with Cogeco being the main provider, however, once in place a full range of providers will be available.

### **CHANGE TO PLANNING FEES**

Council adopted a by-law to amend the *Committee of Adjustment Tariff of Fees and Tariff of Fees for Planning Matters* as prepared by BMA Management to come into effect July 1, 2022. <https://www.westlincoln.ca/en/township-office/by-laws-and-policies.aspx>

### **SMITHVILLE LANDOWNERS GROUP REQUEST FOR SUPPORT OF MINISTER'S ZONING ORDER (MZO)**

Members of Planning Committee recommended that the report regarding the approval of the Smithville Landowners Group request for support of Minister's Zoning Order (MZO), be deferred to the March 28<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting. Council then recommended that the report be tabled.

### **GYPSY MOTH UPDATE**

The Director of Planning & Building shared that spots have already filled up for the 2022 Gypsy Moth Spray Program, noting that 2022 is the biggest spray to date with over 1,200 acres of land being sprayed locally. It was recommended that if anyone requires a spray services or would like more information, to visit the Township's website at: <https://www.westlincoln.ca/en/living-here/gypsy-moth.aspx>