

# Council reviews code of conduct policies

by Sylene Argent

At a special council meeting held inside the Council Chambers at the Essex County Civic Centre on Monday evening, administration brought the draft Code of Conduct for Council Members to the table for Council to consider.

The draft Code of Conduct for Councilors was attached to the July 13 Essex Council meeting. Essex had received it at that time to look over before adoption.

The draft Code of Conduct for Council covers a wide scope of aspects, including integrity, accountability, responsibility, leadership, respect, and openness. Essex Director of Corporate Services Donna Hunter provided the background information.

The draft code noted that Council members shall not accept a fee, gift, ad-

vantage, advance, personal benefit, or service. There is a section that notes some gifts and benefits are deemed exceptions, with a limit of \$300 per year. This could include campaign donations, Hunter said.

The draft code also noted that confidential information shall not be disclosed or used for personal or private gain.

Under the "Use of Town Property, Services, Resources" section, it noted those running for positions on Council shall not use Town facilities, equipment, supplies, services, or other resources for their campaign, undertake campaign initiatives on Town property, or use person receiving compensation from the Town during working hours.

The draft code also addresses behavior at Council meetings. This portion includes that Council members shall

conduct themselves with decorum in accordance with the Town's procedural by-law, create an atmosphere conducive to solving issues, listen to and be respectful of various points of view. They should also be respectful of others, Hunter noted, adding Council is also expected to respect staff.

Hunter explained that an integrity commissioner could be appointed by Council and would report to Council. The individual of this position would investigate complaints and determine if there have been violations. This person would also provide an annual report. The draft code also highlights the complaint procedure and recommendations for corrective action.

Hunter noted Essex does not have an integrity officer, but Amherstburg has put forward a request for proposal with hopes to share this position with the County and area municipalities.

Hunter noted that this policy was out on the table for Council to begin reviewing at the July 13 Essex Council meeting. Councillor Voakes noted that this was in the works before the conflicts that arose out of that particular meeting.

"This is not damage control. Administration had intended on [bringing this forward] beforehand," he said.

Essex CAO Russ Phillips also conducted a presentation called "Clarity

on Roles and Responsibility."

He used the opportunity to remind Council of the duties and responsibilities assigned under the Municipal Act of Ontario and in Council's Procedural Bylaw. He discussed the differences between the roles of Councillors, Deputy Mayor, and Mayor. He said a Councillor can only speak once to an issue, Council reps should not disturb the Council by disorderly conduct or comments, they shall not use profane or offensive words, and they must be recognized by the Mayor or Chairperson before speaking. Members of Council are also requested to notify the Clerk when planning to be absent from a meeting of Council.

Members of the public, he added, shall also refrain from outbursts, shouting, etc. The mayor or chairperson can request any individual conducting such behavior to vacate the Council Chamber.

Hunter explained that in 2007 a policy covering staff and council conduct was implemented, it was determined recently this policy should be split into two to deal with each position (staff and Council reps) separately. Administration is in the process of drafting the staff code of conduct. It is hoped this will be ready for review in couple of months.

Council adopted the policy and received the presentations.

## CLEC 2015 Charity Golf Classic Raises \$15,000

*Submitted to the EFP*

Community Living Essex County played host to the 25th Annual Charity Golf Classic at Fox Glen Golf Club in McGregor on Wednesday, July 8th.

A field of 130 golfers, including representatives from municipalities from across Essex County, enjoyed a fun day of golf.

Highlights of the annual best ball scramble tournament included a live and silent auction, eighteen holes of golf, and a dinner reception where awards and prizes were presented to the participants.

Team LaSalle beat out teams from the municipalities of Lakeshore, Kingsville, and Milicia.

Essex, all vying for the coveted "Municipal Cup" and bragging rights for the municipality with the lowest overall team score.

Congratulations again to the winning team from the Town of LaSalle that included Mayor Ken Antaya, Deputy Mayor Marc Bondy, Town of LaSalle Chief Administrative Officer Kevin Miller, and Joe Milicia.

The foursome of Aldo DiNardo, Jamie Martinello, Keith Manchurek, and Dave Hill had the best overall low gross team score shooting a 57. The winners of the Men's and Ladies' Longest Drive Contest were Jamie Martinello and Mary Lou Henderson. The Closet to the Pin Contest winners were Sue Enns for the Ladies' and Dan DiGiovanni for the Men.

It is with the help and generosity of many area businesses and organizations, along with staff and volunteers, that this successful event raised \$15,000 for Community Living Essex County in support of local people with an intellectual disability and their families.

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