

TO: Administration & Finance Executive Committee
FROM: Laurie Lindberg, Treasurer
DATE: February 27, 2018
SUBJECT: Town of Essex Resolution – Offering School Property to Municipalities

BACKGROUND

At the February 26, 2018 Council Meeting the letter received from the Town of Essex requesting support of their resolution regarding the offering of school property to municipalities was referred to the Planning & Development Executive Committee for recommendation with input from the Administration & Finance Executive Committee.

As stated in the attached letter from R. Auger, Clerk, Legal and Legislative Services for the Town of Essex, that the ongoing issue of school closures throughout Ontario results, in many cases, properties that are left as vacant and unused for substantial periods of time and that many municipalities might be interested in purchasing for development and sustainment as a hub in their community. The Town of Essex is seeking support for their resolution requesting that when school boards make a decision to close schools, that they have to offer the building to the local municipality for a dollar replacing the current regulation of properties required to be purchased at fair market value. Their Council believes that providing the opportunity for municipalities to purchase the buildings would ensure that these properties remain a hub for social and economic development in their respective communities.