

Date: March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Report To: Mayor and Council

From: Patrick Briere, By-Law Enforcement Officer


Re: Town of Essex Request Letter for Support (i.e.: Offering Vacant School Properties to Municipalities).

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Council will recall at their regular meeting held on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018, that a request letter for support from the Town of Essex was received by Council and referred to the Planning & Development Executive Committee for recommendation.

With this stated, the Planning & Development Executive Committee at their meeting on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 discussed the request letter from the Town of Essex. The Planning & Development Executive Committee is recommending that Mayor & Council send a letter showing their support for the resolution from the Town of Essex.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick Briere  
By-Law Enforcement Officer

<p><b>Council approval of this report will:</b> direct a letter to be prepared and sent showing Council's support for the resolution from the Town of Essex.</p>
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February 1, 2018

Association of Municipalities of Ontario(AMO)  
200 University Avenue, Suite 801  
Toronto, Ontario M5H 3C6  
Email: amo@amo.on.ca

Rural Ontario Municipal Association  
200 University Avenue, Suite 800  
Toronto, Ontario M5H 3C6  
Email: roma@roma.on.ca

Ontario Municipalities

Re: Offering School Property to Municipalities

Dear Sir/Madam,

At its regular council meeting of January 15, 2018, Essex Town Council discussed the ongoing issue of school closures throughout Ontario. These school closures in many cases result in properties that are left as vacant and unused for substantial periods of time and this often results in properties that not only become eyesores for the affected communities but as well often have further negative impacts on the social and economic development of that community and its municipality.

Many municipalities might be interested in purchasing these properties for development and sustainment as a hub in their community. However the feasibility of this certainly becomes more daunting and for some municipalities even impossible when municipalities that are interested in purchasing must first (pursuant to current regulations) purchase these properties at fair market value with taxpayer dollars and then may need to spend further taxpayer monies in order to retrofit and/or remediate the building (s) on these properties.

Given the fact that these properties were already originally purchased and developed into schools using taxpayer dollars we ask that consideration be given to the fact that the taxpayers should not again have to purchase these properties at fair market value if the intent



is for the particular Municipality to develop and/or sustain these properties for the betterment of its community.

As a result of the discussion the following resolution was passed by Essex Town Council at its January 15, 2018 regular meeting:

Moved by Councillor Bondy  
Seconded by Councillor Voakes

**(R18-01-013) That** the Town of Essex send a request to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), ROMA and all other municipalities in Ontario requesting that when schools boards make decisions to close schools, that they have to offer the building to the local municipality for a dollar.

**Carried**

Council believes that providing the opportunity to purchase the buildings for a dollar would give municipalities a meaningful opportunity to ensure that these properties remain a key hub for social and economic development in their respective communities.

Should you have any questions or comments regarding this matter, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Auger".

Robert Auger, L.L.B.  
Clerk, Legal and Legislative Services  
Town of Essex  
Email: [rauger@essex.ca](mailto:rauger@essex.ca)

RA/lm