



## **Media Release**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 22, 2026

Here are the highlights from the South Dundas Council meeting held January 21, 2026.

*For more information, contact **Tia Fraser-Dupuis, Community Development and Communications Coordinator** at 613-543-2673*

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### **2025 Biennial Structure Inspections**

Nicolas Brown and Tashi Dwivedi from HP Engineering Inc. presented Council with the 2025 Biennial Structure Inspections.

A total of 12 bridges and 21 culverts were inspected, totalling 33 structures. They were scored as followed:

Excellent: 1 Structure

Good: 18 Structures

Fair: 8 Structures

Poor: 6 Structures

In accordance with the inspection results, HP Engineering provided recommendations for replacement and an estimated cost associated with such work.

Find the full presentation [here](#).

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### **Park Use By-law**

Council has formally adopted a Park Use By-law. The purpose of this by-law is to enact rules and regulations with specific provisions within open parklands within the Municipality of South Dundas including the penalties for offences.

The implementation of a Park Use By-Law will give staff the tools they need to create and enforce consistent rules at all municipal parks, including the beaches.

Find the Park Use By-law [here](#).

For more information, contact [djansen@southdundas.com](mailto:djansen@southdundas.com)

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### **Draft Procurement Policy Update**

Director of Parks, Recreation and Facilities Jansen provided Council with an overview of the draft updated procurement policy. This policy has not seen a significant holistic update in several years. Consequently, several sections of the existing document have fallen behind



current provincial regulations and best practices. Furthermore, the significant inflationary pressures experienced over the last five to ten years have effectively lowered the purchasing power of the existing spending thresholds, making routine operations more administratively burdensome. The proposed update provides a modernized policy that reflects current economic realities and aligns with contemporary municipal best practices.

Some of the key updates to the document include:

- Regional Consistency & Legal Review: The policy has been reformatted and updated based on a review of neighboring municipalities within SDG.
- Standardized Procurement Limits: To simplify administration, the policy now utilizes a single set of spending limits applicable to all departments.
- Financial Services: A new section has been added to define the specific roles and requirements of the Financial Services Department, ensuring clear protocols for invoice approvals.
- Security & Bonding: The "Securities" section has been significantly updated to align with new provincial regulations regarding bid deposits and performance bonds.
- Modern Bidding Platforms: The update provides clear language regarding the use of online bidding platforms.
- Recurring Services & Risk Mitigation: Staff have introduced a section dedicated to recurring services and publicly procured work. By utilizing hourly rates for works with many unknowns or those that are easily supervised, the Municipality can lower the risk for all parties and often secure better pricing.
- Supporting the Local Economy: The increase in the "Quotation" threshold was specifically reviewed to improve local contractor relationships. Because quotations (between \$10,000 and \$50,000) are generally acquired from local suppliers, this change helps "Buy Local" initiatives.

Suggestions made by Council included a formal review after the project is complete and the inclusion of pre-qualifications.

For more information, contact [djanssen@southdundas.com](mailto:djanssen@southdundas.com)

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### **St. Lawrence Parks Commission Water/ Wastewater Extensions**

CAO de Haan provided Council with an update regarding the SLPC Water and Sewer Project.

In July 2025, the Ontario government provided the St. Lawrence Parks Commission (SLPC) with \$82 million to upgrade their water and wastewater infrastructure; including connections to municipal systems in both South Stormont and South Dundas. 2. The investment was intended to address long-standing infrastructure issues that SLPC faces at its properties, improve their environmental outcomes and allow for further development, diversification and growth of their parks, recreational sites and vacant/ unused properties.



Staff have raised concerns about operational costs for the new infrastructure, which will have large capacity but low seasonal usage. SLPC has committed to ensuring current ratepayers don't bear additional financial burden.

The municipality is retaining consultants to conduct a rate study and independent design review. Discussions are exploring adding more users—including industrial, commercial, and residential properties—to spread costs.

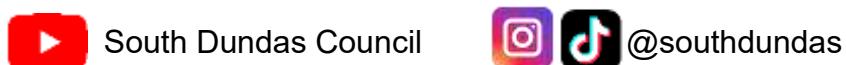
Staff will present a connection agreement to Council in February, with SLPC seeking finalization by March 31, 2026.

## 2026 Budget

Council has officially approved the 2026 budget by-law. Budget discussions and review with Council and Staff occurred on December 5th, 2025. The overall annual net tax levy for 2026 is \$9,390,935, a \$579,912 increase (6.58%) over that of 2025. In comparing the residential tax rate from 2025 to 2026, ratepayers will see an increase of approximately \$71.86 or 5.45%, for lower tier municipal purposes, on a residential assessment of \$220,267. The passing of the budget will allow staff to proceed with calculating the final tax rates for the Municipality for the 2026 taxation year.

For more information, contact [jstewart@southdundas.com](mailto:jstewart@southdundas.com)

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## Upcoming Meetings

Regular Council Meetings: February 4, 2026, at 6:00 pm

February 18, 2026, at 6:00 pm