



Staff Report

Report Title: Lakeshore Public Works Shed

Prepared By: John Yungblut, Director of Public Works

Department: Public Works

Date: Feb. 26, 2021

Report Number: PW-2021-02-16

File Number: A19 PUB21

Attachments:

Recommendation:

That the Township of Huron-Kinloss Council hereby receives for information Report Number PW2021-02-16 prepared by John Yungblut, Director of Public Works.

Background:

Township staff were unsuccessful in retaining a qualified contractor to complete winter maintenance activities along the Lakeshore in the summer of 2020. The decision was then made to purchase the necessary equipment and hire additional season staff to maintain our Level of Service along the Lakeshore.

Due to the lack of suitable buildings that were available in the fall of 2020, Township staff were forced to store winter maintenance equipment outside at the Point Clark Pavilion near the Point Clark Community Centre.

Discussion:

Storing winter maintenance equipment outside is a reasonable short-term solution, however, this not the preferred solution over the long term. The requirement for our operations staff to have to remove snow and ice from their equipment before starting their route is one concern, however there are other issues with this situation. Storing Township equipment outside in a public area leaves our assets exposes to potential vandalism and when our facilities are being used on a regular basis, there is a risk of vehicles parking in such a manner that the block heater receptacles are no longer accessible.

Another issue our vehicles that apply treated sand have to make frequent trips to the Ripley Public Works shed to complete their routes. This adds considerable time to

their routes which increases the wear and tear on our vehicles, burns more fuel and extends the working hours of our operations staff.

The preferred solution would be to find a suitable building that can be leased until a long-term site can be established. Township staff have reached out to owners of significant land along Lake Range Drive but were unable to find a building that was available. Township staff will continue to search for any private buildings in the Lakeshore area that might be available for lease.

If we are unable to find a suitable private building, then the next best option to construct a structure on a poured concrete surface. A concrete surface is necessary to prevent the salt contained within the sand from leaching into the soil below the building. The building does not need to be heated but it will need to have electrical wiring to plug in the engine block heaters.

Not only would a Lakeshore shed be a benefit during the winter months, but it would also be useful in the rest of the year because the requirement for Public Works to undertake maintenance tasks along the Lakeshore increases every year. Having a site to securely store equipment and materials throughout the year will increase the productivity of our staff and will decrease the wear and tear on vehicles that have to make regular trips between the Ripley Public Works shed to the Lakeshore.

Another option is to attempt to hire a contractor that is capable of winter maintenance along the Lakeshore for the 2021-2022 winter season. Public Works staff do believe that there is a high probability of being successful. Most contractors are moving away from winter maintenance work on public roadways because of the high cost of insurance and increasing probability of having to defend a claim.

Financial Impacts:

The proposed 2021 Capital Budget includes \$200,000 for the construction of a Lakeshore shed.

Strategic Alignment / Link:

The information provided in this report is consistent with and in keeping with the Municipality's Vision & Mission. The recommendations contribute to our goals in achieving an accessible community by being open and transparent.

Respectfully Submitted By:

John Yungblut, Director of Public Works.

Approved By:

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer