

## Highlights of March 2021 Council meeting:

### Item 10.1 The 2021 Capital Budget and Operating Budget

The budget for 2021 was initially presented to Council in November 2020. That budget would have put a huge financial burden on taxpayers as it included a tax increase of 7.06%, many of the capital projects which would have been funded by taxpayers should be funded by grants from other levels of government. Council voted in favour of directing staff to come back with a more reasonable budget. After much negotiation, that resulted in a more moderate tax increase of 5.5%.

A part of the Budget resolution involved borrowing \$1.5 million to pave a number of roads in the Township within the 2021/2022 time period. The following roads were in consideration with staff to report back in April with pricing and prioritization;

- Concession Road 7 Adjala - Sideroad 5 to County Road 14 (prep and pave)
- Concession Road 7 Tosorontio - County Road 5 North (prep and pave)
- Concession Road 7 Tosorontio - 350 Metres South at County Road 5 (patch and pave)
- Concession Road 3 Adjala - Sideroad 20 to Sideroad 25 (prep and pave)
- Concession Road 3 Adjala - Sideroad 25 - Highway 89 (prep and pave)
- Ballycroy Road - Adjala - (prep and pave)
- Intersection of Trillium Trail and Deer Lane - (prep and pave)

Council was informed that many residents have been asking for roads to be paved, and reports received from our staff and consultants state that maintaining gravel roads is costly. The roads chosen were identified in the roads reports as candidates for hard topping and this report was approved.

Another part of the Budget resolution was that the members of Council do not receive the C.O.L.A. (Salary) increase for the year 2021. Concerns were raised by members that Council should get their annual salary raise as we are already on the low end of Council salaries, but the majority of Council felt that we should not take a raise this year considering the many residents who are struggling with pay cuts and job losses.

Concerns were also raised that the water and wastewater rates should not be raised and the whole Township should continue to subsidize the water and wastewater rates. Council was informed that these rates were artificially frozen in 2014 and do not reflect today costs of maintenance and repairs and the rates if not increased will continue to put a financial burden on the Township, making it more difficult to maintain our roads and infrastructure. The report by Watson and associates, the Township economist, indicated that this debt will only be repaid by 2034. This was a huge concern as this would restrict the Township moving forward with fixing our capital infrastructure.

**Details of all capital projects for 2021 will be provided to residents along with your tax bill.**

**Item 10.8** – Council agreed to take part in the Simcoe County Bursary Program where the Township allocates \$1000 and the County allocates \$1000 towards scholarships for

students of the Township to pay for higher education. The County will be making the selection based on County criteria.

**Item 10.11** – Council approved directing staff to put out a tender for asphalt crack sealing. This will help extend the life of our municipal office parking area.

**Item 10.12** – Gravity Sanitary Sewers, Colgan 1 & 2, Tribute Development. – This was in relation to the Colgan development, many residents raised concerns about the lack of proper information in the reports presented to Council and the public. To provide more clarity the original motion was amended by Deputy Mayor Bob Meadows and seconded by Councillor Bays. The amended motion read as follows,

“THAT Infrastructure & Development Report #2021-05 Dated March 10th, 2021 entitled “Endorsement of MoECP ECA, Gravity Sanitary Sewers, Colgan 1 & 2, Tribute Development” which represents solely the gravity sanitary sewers that are contained within the boundaries of the development, be received; and further, THAT staff be authorized to sign the Colgan 1 & 2, Tribute Development MoECP (Ministry of Environment, Conservation & Parks) ECA (Environmental Compliance Approval) application forms, on behalf of the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio, to allow for commencement of the Ministry’s review and approval of this application and all public comments be sent to the County as part of the public record, as amended. This motion was approved. For more clarity the motion approved allows the developer to perform gravity work only within the boundaries of the development.

**Item 10.16** – Nottawasaga O.P.P Board requested that the amount of fees that the province receives for Criminal record checks etc. be refunded back to the O.P.P. Council approved this as the revenue was always paid to the O.P.P, but due to recent changes in the way the province pays these amounts, the money is sent to each municipality instead of directly to the O.P.P. These funds are used by the O.P.P to provide services for our residents.

**Item 11.2** - Council approved the appointment of Alice Byl as the Township Deputy Clerk. We wish you all the best in your new role in the Township Alice!

**Item 12.1** – Deputy Mayor Bob Meadows put forward a Notice of Motion for land acknowledgment, acknowledging the various Indigenous Nations. Staff has been directed to provide a report on the Significance and Accuracy of the acknowledgement before its placement on the agenda.