



Infrastructure Services Staff Report

Report Title: Boundary Road Agreement – Wellesley
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Reviewed By: Jared Puppe
Final Review: Senior Management Team

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Township of Woolwich, considering Report IS30-2021 authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign the Boundary Road Agreement with the Township of Wellesley as attached to the report in Appendix A.

Background:

The Township of Woolwich and the Township of Wellesley share common municipal boundaries. The Township of Woolwich shares a portion of its south-west border with the Township of Wellesley, between Cedar Grove Road and Regional Road 85, with Kressler Road (Township Road 2), and Steffler Road acting as shared boundary roads. Prior to the boundary road agreement being presented in this report, staff could not find any previous formal agreements on the cost sharing of maintenance and capital works on the subject boundary roads.

Comments:

The Ontario Municipal Act, under Section 20(1) allows municipalities to enter into an agreement with an adjoining municipality to provide, for their joint benefit, any matter which all of them have the power to provide within their own boundaries. In the case of boundary roadways where two municipalities share joint jurisdiction, this allows municipalities to share the responsibility in order to reduce the duplication of maintenance and repair services between adjoining municipalities.

Currently, the Township of Woolwich and the Township of Wellesley have had an informal agreement for the routine maintenance and winter control maintenance of boundary roads for at least the last 10 years. Staff searched historical documentation and could not find

any formalized agreement between the Townships for the cost sharing of maintenance and/or capital works.

The proposed Boundary Road Agreement clearly defines each party's responsibilities for routine maintenance and winter control maintenance, for legal responsibilities, and for cost sharing of major maintenance or construction works for a period of 10 years. On the date of expiry of the original agreement, the agreements automatically renew for a further 5 year term and will continue in this fashion indefinitely. The agreement can be terminated by either party upon 180 days written notice, refer to Appendix A.

Essentially the proposed agreement formalizes the historic and equitable practice that has been occurring between the subject municipalities.

The proposed agreement states that each municipality will be responsible for maintenance of the following road segments, including bridge maintenance for structures located on those road segments:

Wellesley

- Steffler Road (Township Road 23) between Listowel Road (Regional Road 85) and Hemlock Hills Drive (Township Road 22);
- Kressler Road (Township Road 2) between Cedar Grove Road and Weimar Line (Regional Road 14).

Woolwich has not historically maintained any of the boundary roads that boarder the Township of Wellesley. As a result, the Boundary Road Agreement between Wellesley and Woolwich has a cost recovery clause to allow Wellesley to recoup 50% of the maintenance costs on these roads.

Finally, the proposed Agreement states that no new Capital work (as distinguished from routine maintenance) of any kind shall be undertaken on the boundary roads without having first been approved by the Councils of both municipalities. The cost for all new Capital work shall be shared equally between municipalities.

Interdepartmental Impacts:

None.

Financial Implications:

Under the proposed boundary road agreement with the Township of Wellesley, the Township of Woolwich would be responsible for 50% of the operating expenses associated with the two boundary roads shared with the Township of Wellesley. The Township would be required to reimburse Wellesley for their portion of the operating and maintenance costs for the two roads, since Woolwich has not historically maintained any of the boundary roads shared with Wellesley.

Capital costs associated with any of the identified boundary road segments will be equally cost shared between the municipalities when they are identified and approved by both municipalities. Items eligible for cost sharing are as follows:

- Municipal Class Environmental Assessments;
- Permits and Approvals;
- Contract Documents;
- Construction Costs.

Strategic Plan Impacts:

The Boundary Road Agreement between the Township of Woolwich and the Township of Wellesley, allows for enhanced Infrastructure Maintenance and Transportation Planning through the optimized use of municipal infrastructure, with an emphasis on continuous improvements and greater efficiencies.

Conclusion:

Staff recommend that Council authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign the Boundary Road Agreement, in order to formalize the cost sharing of works on boundary roads between the Township of Woolwich and the Township of Wellesley.

Attachments:

Appendix A – Boundary Road Agreement (Wellesley)