

Staff Report

Report To: City Council
Report From: Mike Crone, Director of Public Works and Engineering
Meeting Date: July 25, 2022
Report Code: OP-22-040
Subject: Bell Canada Fibre Optics Locating Services Agreement

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report OP-22-040 respecting a Bell Canada Fibre Optics Locating Services Agreement, City Council directs staff to bring forward a by-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute the agreement.

Highlights:

- Bell Canada is undertaking an extensive Fibre Optics Project called "Fibre to the Home" (FTTH) that will provide City Residents and Businesses access to ultra-high-speed internet
- Public Works and Engineering staff are providing extensive support to facilitate this project by locating services and providing authorization in the form of Municipal Consents.
- The agreement will provide partial cost recovery for the City's costs related to the FTTH project.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

Prosperous City - KR2 - Develop a framework to attract key industry sector(s) for economic growth and investment that are matched to Owen Sound's economic strengths

Previous Report/Authority:

Report OP-22-037 – Closed Report

Background:

The FTTH provides ultra-high-speed internet access for all City residents and businesses. The project results in Public Works and Engineering staff expending additional time, effort, and resources to offer locating services and authorizations in the form of Municipal Consents to support this project.

Municipal Consent is the authorization provided by the City's Engineering Division for a utility company to locate its utility within the City's Right of Way. This process involves submitting plans from the utility company, which are reviewed, amended if required, and agreed to before any work is done.

The City's GIS information about its Linear Infrastructure (water, wastewater, and storm) is incomplete. To adequately locate these services for the FTTH, extra costs continue to be incurred. These costs include purchasing additional locating equipment, a vehicle lease, hiring another seasonal utility locator in the Water Distribution group, re-directing wastewater collection and water distribution staff to provide the locating service, and increased Engineering and GIS support to support the FTTH project.

Analysis:

The City is responsible for providing accurate locating services for its Linear Infrastructure.

The FTTH has illustrated the need for improved GIS records relating to the City's Linear Infrastructure to perform this service. This is mainly due to the unprecedented volume of locate requests. The volume of submissions has increased by approximately 175%, directly related to the FTTH.

Fulsome GIS Records would have facilitated the locating process and reduced the time and effort in locating much of the City's Linear Infrastructure. Through the FTTH, the City can improve its GIS records relating to its Linear Infrastructure.

The agreement with Bell Canada to provide the utility locating service offers the City a means of recovering some of the costs to update its GIS Records related to Linear Infrastructure.

Financial Implications:

The agreement will reimburse additional costs related to the City's support for the FTTH project.

Communication Strategy:

N/A

Consultation:

Water Distribution Superintendent, Wastewater Superintendent, Public Works Manager, Water and Wastewater Administrative Assistant, Manager of Engineering Services, City Manager

Attachments:

N/A

Recommended by:

Mike Crone, Director of Public Works and Engineering

Submission approved by:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Mike Crone, Director of Public Works and Engineering, at mcrone@owensound.ca or 519-376-1440.