

Staff Report

Report To: City Council
Report From: Lara Widdifield, Director of Public Works and Engineering
Meeting Date: April 13, 2026
Report Code: OP-26-020
Subject: Extension of Grey County Street Sweeping Agreement

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report OP-26-020 respecting an Extension of the Grey County Street Sweeping Agreement, City Council directs staff to bring forward a by-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute the agreement.

Highlights:

- The Street Sweeping Agreement between the Corporation of the County of Grey and the Corporation of the City of Owen Sound is up for renewal.
- As the Urban Highway Transfer program has been deferred pending additional consultation, an agreement must be in place to maintain operations until a decision on that matter is reached.
- The agreement covers 15.2km of Grey County Roads 1, 5, and 15.
- The City of Owen Sound is to provide street sweeping services at the County's cost.
- The term is to terminate on July 31, 2030, and applies retroactively from July 31, 2025.

Vision 2050 - Strategic Plan Alignment:

[Strategic Plan](#) Priority: A City that Moves – Facilitating sustainable transportation options and creating community connectivity.

Previous Report/Authority:

None.

Background:

In addition to winter maintenance, the City has been responsible for street sweeping on behalf of the County of Grey for many years. Under contract with the County, the City provides an estimated cost for the provision of street sweeping on County roads, and upon completion, invoices the County for these expenses.

The current agreement expired on July 31, 2025. As street sweeping is undertaken prior to June 1 of each year, in light of the proposed Urban Highway Road Transfer date previously contemplated, it had not been considered a high priority to renew the agreement at that time.

Analysis and Options:

The draft agreement is consistent with current practices. Under the agreement, the City is responsible for:

- Provide street sweeping for all County Roads within the City's boundary by June 1 of the given year.
- Work in conformance with the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Act* (Ontario), *the Human Rights Act* (Ontario), and applicable regulations under such legislation and all other legal obligations with respect to worker health, safety, and treatment.
- Provide an estimate of cost to undertake the work to Grey County prior to initiating the work, and invoicing the County once the work is complete. Any substantial variance from the initial estimate is to have been agreed-to by both parties.

The agreement also lays out the following:

- Mutual liability and indemnification clauses.
- Liability Insurance is required by both parties, naming the other as an additional insured.
- Compliance with Workplace Safety and Insurance Board obligations and other safety legislation.

This longstanding agreement reflects a symbiotic partnership committed to maintaining safe and passable road conditions post-winter control, while

ensuring clear operational and financial protocols between Grey County and the City of Owen Sound.

Resource Alignment:

Financial Resources

This report is consistent with previous years, extending the same terms as the most recent agreement. Rather than setting a specific unit price, the Agreement allows the City to calculate the cost at its current billable rates.

Human Resources

As this is an existing arrangement that is proposed to be continued, no additional human resources are required to execute and administer the program.

Time and Scheduling

The agreement is effective retroactively to July 31, 2025, and concludes on July 31, 2030, after a term of five (5) years. The agreement includes a voluntary termination clause which can be given by either party with 30 days of written notice.

Technology and Infrastructure

No additional resources are required as the City is already providing this service.

Climate and Environmental Impacts:

The recommendation supports the City's Corporate Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

Sediments from winter sand can pollute the local water bodies and impact predatory fish and the viability of fish spawning areas.

Communication and Engagement:

As this is primarily an administrative agreement, public communications will consist of the Council Agenda publication and typical media releases advising the public of spring cleanup activities throughout the City.

Report Developed in Consultation With:

Kristen M. Van Alphen, Manager of Legislative Services

Lauren Stewart, Purchasing and Claims Coordinator

Attachments:

None.

Submission approved by:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Lara Widdifield, Director of Public Works and Engineering at lwiddifield@owensound.ca or 519-376-4440 ext. 1201.