



**The Corporation of the City of Stratford
Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee
MINUTES**

Date: March 24, 2021

Time: 3:30 P.M.

Location: Electronic Meeting

Sub-committee Present: Councillor Vassilakos - Chair Presiding, Councillor Burbach - Vice Chair, Councillor Gaffney

Regrets: Councillor Ingram, Councillor Sebben

Staff Present: Ed Dujlovic - Director of Infrastructure and Development Services, Jodi Akins - Council Clerk Secretary, Allison Jordan - Events Coordinator, Chris Bantock - Deputy Clerk, Johnny Bowes - Manager of Environmental Services, Adam Ryan - Manager of Public Works

Also present: Geoff Love, President of Cycle Stratford

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the Meeting to Order.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

The *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* requires any member of Council declaring a pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof, where the interest of a member of Council has not been disclosed by reason of the member's absence from the meeting, to disclose the interest at the first open meeting attended by the member of Council and otherwise comply with the *Act*.

Name, Item and General Nature of Pecuniary Interest

No disclosure of pecuniary interest was made by a Member at the March 24, 2021, Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee meeting.

4. Report of the Director of Infrastructure and Development Services

4.1 AMO-LAS Water & Sewer Warranty Program (ITS21-008)

Staff Recommendation: THAT Council directs staff to bring forward an agreement between Service Line Warranties of Canada, Inc. and the City of Stratford for Council's consideration.

Sub-committee Discussion: The Director of Infrastructure and Development Services provided some highlights on the program, noting it was started by the City of Hamilton. They had heard of a warranty program in the United States and developed a request for proposal for which Service Line Warranties (SLW) was the successful proponent.

This is a warranty program, not insurance. Several insurance providers are now providing this coverage, however, it would be a separate rider and there would be a deductible. It was noted that SLW has never denied a claim in Canada.

Staff in Kingston, Windsor and Hamilton are all very happy with the program and have found it to be a benefit to their residents.

With respect to why Council endorsement is required, the company feels that the endorsement gives them credibility and will only enter a market with endorsement by the City. Their mailers have the City logo on them and that can generate calls to Council and staff. It was noted that the City does not provide any personal information. SLW will buy a mailing list and the City will just confirm that the people reside in Stratford.

It was noted that although it is an American company, they have a Canadian branch and they rely on local contractors to do the work.

A 5% royalty is provided back to the municipality to compensate for City staff time spent, although it is Council's choice to take a lower percentage or none at all, which would result in reduced costs for residents.

This program is only for residential properties. The City's insurance broker did not raise any concerns with the program. The Association of

Municipalities of Ontario has reviewed and endorsed this program and they are now in approximately 60 cities in Ontario.

In response to questions, the Director confirmed that SLW will do a marketing campaign and the City logo will be on the mailers and there are no restrictions in residential units that he is aware of with respect to age of the property.

The Director advised he would need clarification from the company as to whether condominiums or multi-residential dwellings could participate but he believes it is intended for single family type homes.

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT Council direct staff to bring forward an agreement between Service Line Warranties of Canada, Inc. and the City of Stratford for Council's consideration.

Carried

3. Delegations

3.1 Presentation by Cycle Stratford

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Sub-committee Decision: THAT the presentation by Geoff Love be heard.

Carried

Sub-committee Discussion: Geoff Love, President of Cycle Stratford, provided background on the organization. He noted they have been in business for 8 years and organize regular rides and advocate for cycling infrastructure.

A petition was launched in the Fall of 2019 in support of active transportation in the City.

Mr. Love read out the contents of the petition for Sub-committee as follows:

"Whereas a vibrant, continuously improving active transportation system that includes cycling infrastructure is a core element of a safe, healthy and sustainable city;

Whereas the City of Stratford and the County of Perth are generally safe places to cycle, improvements can and should be made immediately to their active transportation systems; and

Whereas the City has a useful 20 year active transportation plan that has been implemented slowly and needs to be updated;

We ask that:

1. The City of Stratford and Perth County review, revise and accelerate the implementation of their active transportation and cycling plans, programs and infrastructure investments.
2. The City fulfill its commitment to support active transportation programs and infrastructure at a consistent level of 2% of annual capital spending, about \$400,000 per year, over the next 15 years, and dedicate time from engineering staff to guide its implementation.
3. The City and County become provincial leaders in active transportation in conjunction with other environmental climate actions to make our communities better, more resilient and more sustainable places to live.”

To date, there are 325 signatures on a hard copy of the petition and a further 86 on their website

Mr. Love highlighted positive actions taken by the City:

- working on development of a wayfinding strategy,
- promoting active transportation in schools,
- applying to become recognized as a bike-friendly community, and
- measures taken to protect cycling lanes and the closure of Lakeside Drive last summer.

Two changes he wished to see are:

- completion of the annual report card, and
- quicker implementation of the active transportation plan.

He noted that the Economic Recovery Task Force consultant's report last fall referenced cycling and cycling infrastructure improvements as important for tourism recovery. He has submitted a proposal to Destination Stratford and RT04 for support of their annual ride on September 12, 2021 and building that event into a tourist attraction.

Discussion took place regarding referral of the petition to the 2022 budget. Updates to the transportation master plan including Zero Vision and updates to the bike and pedestrian master plan were also discussed.

In response to timing, the Director advised there was funding in the 2021 budget but the project engineer who specialized in active transportation is no longer with the corporation. Mr. Love expressed interest in supporting staff with public consultation.

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the petition from Geoff Love with respect to active transportation be referred to the 2022 budget and to the Transportation Master Plan planning process.

Carried

5. Report of the Events Coordinator

5.1 Request for Exemption from Noise Control By-law 113-79 for the 2021 Stratford Festival Outdoor Season at the Festival Theatre and Tom Patterson Theatre (ITS21-006)

Staff Recommendation: That approval be given to the request from Stratford Festival for their 2021 outdoor season for exemptions from Noise Control By-law 113-79 at the Festival Theatre 55 Queen Street and at Tom Patterson Theatre at 111 Lakeside Drive for daily rehearsals from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. between May 1, 2021 and June 14, 2021 and for daily performances between 11:00 a.m. to 8:45 p.m. from June 15, 2021 to September 30, 2021 from the following provisions:

- Unreasonable noise [Schedule 1 clause 8]
 - The operation of any auditory signaling device, including ringing of bells or gongs and the blowing of horns or sirens or whistles [Schedule 2 Clause 1]
 - The operation of loud speakers and amplification of sound [Schedule 2 Clause 2]
 - The discharge of prop firearms for sound effects [Schedule 2 Clause 7]

- Yelling, shouting, hooting, whistling or singing [Schedule 2 Clause 16]
- The operation or use of musical instruments [Schedule 2 Clause 17]

Sub-committee Discussion: The Events Coordinator reviewed the report and advised the Festival requested an exemption from the City's Noise Control By-law for their 2021 season.

As a result of COVID-19, outdoor performances will be held under tents in the following locations:

- on the upper deck of the Stratford Festival Theatre, and
- in the parking lot off Morenz Drive at the Tom Patterson Theatre.

Dates and times for the requested exemption include a rehearsal period from May 1 to June 14 starting at 10:00 a.m., and on occasion lasting until 10:30 p.m. Daily performances will be held from June 15 to September 30 from 11:00 a.m. to 8:45 p.m.

Letters were delivered to all residents and businesses within 120 metres of both locations and no comments were received. Notice was also issued in the Town Crier and no comments were received.

Staff are recommending the exemption be granted and the staff recommendation was reviewed.

Motion by Councillor Gaffney

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT approval be given to the request from Stratford Festival for their 2021 outdoor season for exemptions from Noise Control By-law 113-79 at the Festival Theatre 55 Queen Street and at Tom Patterson Theatre at 111 Lakeside Drive for daily rehearsals from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. between May 1, 2021 and June 14, 2021 and for daily performances between 11:00 a.m. to 8:45 p.m. from June 15, 2021 to September 30, 2021 from the following provisions:

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- **The discharge of prop firearms for sound effects [Schedule 2 Clause 7]**
- **Yelling, shouting, hooting, whistling or singing [Schedule 2 Clause 16]**
- **The operation or use of musical instruments [Schedule 2 Clause 17]**

Carried

6. Report of the Manager of Environmental Services

6.1 2020 Water Summary Report (ITS21-009)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the 2020 Water Summary Report be received for information to keep within the compliance standards set out in Ontario Regulation 170/03.

Sub-committee Discussion: The Manager of Environmental Services provided an overview of the report. He advised this summary is presented to Council on an annual basis and then posted on the City's website.

The report looks at the requirements to obtain a municipal drinking water licence and summarizes the key regulations that govern water operations. It also summarizes any compliance issues and none were identified by the Ministry of Environment or third party and internal audits.

Hydraulic performance, flow rates and exceedances were noted. It was noted that the monitoring well section is important as we are a ground water source system, as it speaks to aquifer levels. Current water taking is sustainable for the foreseeable future.

In response to a question about flouride and sodium exceedances, the Manager responded that the exceedances were reported and identified through sampling. The Ministry allows for a 57 month window as both flouride and sodium are naturally occurring and common in groundwater source systems. The Ministry wants to track it but acknowledges there is not much that can be done as it is naturally occurring.

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the 2020 Water Summary Report be received for information to keep within the compliance standards set out in Ontario Regulation 170/03.

Carried

7. Report of the Manager of Public Works

7.1 City of Stratford Winter Operations Plan (ITS21-007)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the Winter Operations Plan be approved by Council.

Sub-committee Discussion: The Manager of Public Works advised the purpose of the Winter Operations Plan is to have a defined level of service. To date, the City has not had one. Staff are recommending officially adopting the Minimum Maintenance Standards outlined in the Municipal Act, 2001, for municipalities to use for winter operations.

The document would be reviewed annually for changes such as traffic counts or zoning changes. The purpose is to provide residents with information on what winter maintenance entails and it sets out timelines and expectations for service levels.

It was noted by the Vice-Chair that the Community Services lots are not included in parking lot clearing. It was questioned whether savings could be achieved by having Public Works complete winter maintenance operations in these lots. The Manager advised Community Services has their own equipment and maintains their own lots at the Rotary Complex and arenas. They run on a separate schedule than Public Works, although he noted that sharing of equipment and employees has occurred in the past and there is room for investigating opportunities there. It was suggested that staff look into whether cost savings could be achieved in the future.

The Vice-Chair advised the Energy and Environment Committee has discussed salt use at previous meetings. The Committee is hoping a member of staff could speak to them about whether there is a salt management plan and how much salt is used annually. The Manager advised that salt use numbers from last season have not been received and the development of a salt management plan is included as part of

phase 2 of the winter operations plan. Staff are hoping to complete this initiative in 2022. The negative environmental effects of salt were acknowledged, and the ways staff try to mitigate the risks were outlined. The Director explained that the City uses less salt than other jurisdictions and compared how bare the roads are in other areas, due to increased salt use. Residents often complain how bad Stratford's roads are compared to elsewhere and staff explain that the City has adopted a level of service that reduces environmental impact and reduces costs, while ensuring safe roads.

It was noted that common grass cutting and snow plowing was referred for further investigation during the Service Delivery Review undertaken recently. Staff are investigating how to achieve efficiencies.

Motion by Councillor Gaffney

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the Winter Operations Plan be approved by Council.

Carried

8. Capital Project Update

Sub-committee Discussion: The Director of Infrastructure and Development Services advised April will be a very busy month for the Engineering department. The following highlights from the update were provided:

- An open house will be held in April for the Queen Street storm sewer project;
- The footbridge replacement in Upper Queens Park should be open to the public by the end of the week;
- With regard to asphalt resurfacing, staff are hoping to have an open house in April on the reconstruction of Romeo Street North from Arden Park to the Court Drain, and Romeo Street South from Norfolk Street to Lorne Avenue and tender the project shortly after;
- Huron Street design is underway, open house scheduled for June, construction scheduled for 2022;
- The tender for the sidewalk project is scheduled for April;
- Argyle and McKenzie Street reconstruction tender closes on April 13;
- Phase 1 design of the T.J. Dolan multiuse trail is complete, phase 2 will be presented to Council for consideration at a future meeting;
- Allman application is in and a lot of building permits are out;

- 17 watermain breaks for the year to date;
- The water level is being raised at the dam; and
- Sod damage can be reported to Public Works.

A Sub-committee member asked why Wightman services and lighting did not do their work when the road was open on Redford Crescent. The Director confirmed it was a matter of scheduling and when each contractor could get there.

9. Advisory Committee/Outside Board Minutes

The following Advisory Committee/Outside Board minutes were provided for the information of Sub-committee:

- Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) of minutes of January 27, 2021
- Accessibility Advisory Committee minutes of February 2, 2021
- Energy and Environment minutes of February 4, 2021

10. Next Sub-committee Meeting

The next Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee meeting is April 28, 2021 at 3:30 p.m.

11. Adjournment

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Sub-committee Decision: THAT the Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee meeting adjourn

Carried

Meeting Start Time: 3:30 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 4:14 P.M.