



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

Date: November 27, 2024
Time: 4:30 P.M.
Location: Council Chamber, City Hall

Sub-committee Present: Councillor Burbach - Chair Presiding, Councillor Nijjar - Vice Chair, Councillor Beatty, Councillor Hunter, Councillor McCabe

Staff Present: Tatiana Dafoe – Clerk, Taylor Crinklaw - Director of Infrastructure Services, Neil Anderson - Director of Emergency Services/Fire Chief, Sadaf Ghalib – Climate Change Programs Manager, Sean Beech – Manager of Environmental Services, Miranda Franken - Council Clerk Secretary

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the Meeting to Order.

Land Acknowledgment

Moment of Silent Reflection

Respectful Conduct Statement

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 disclosures of pecuniary interest were made by a Member at the November 27, 2024, Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee meeting.

3. Delegations

None scheduled.

4. Report of the Manager of Climate Change Programs

4.1 Annual Corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions – 2023 (COU24-021)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "Annual Corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions – 2023" (ITS24-021), be received for information.

Sub-committee Discussion: The Climate Change Programs Manager reviewed the report, highlighting the following:

- overall corporate emissions increased by 7.52% in the year ending 2023;
- staff using the baseline created as part of the Corporate Energy Emissions Plan annual reporting process and seeing an emissions decrease overall since 2017;
- identified factors for the increase, including the greenhouse gas intensity increase for the electricity grid, this being dictated by the province, expansion in fleet vehicles for service delivery and weather fluctuations having led to increase in historical energy consumption;
- corporate emissions driven primarily by buildings, accounting for 46% of total emissions and fleet accounting for 35%, this not including transit busses at this time;
- 160 tonne decrease in carbon emissions in 2024 resulting from efficient use of energy and light to medium retro fit initiatives;
- more retrofit projects planned for 2025 and coming years with significant progress anticipated for corporate building emissions;
- aging fleet being replaced with more efficient and hybrid or electric options where feasible, this being an ongoing process;

- Stratford Police having transformed 12 of 32 vehicles to hybrid options resulting in cost savings;
- reporting now including EV charging station inventory, which is on the rise with NRCan funding, and staff seeking further funding opportunities; and
- energy usage for 1 year having been established and now staff tracking fuel savings, energy use and average sessions.

Discussion on the update occurred between Sub-committee and Staff.
Highlights of the discussion included:

- the report being presented annually and tracking progress to support long term initiatives;
- FCM (Federation of Canadian Municipalities) Green Municipal Fund having granted \$200,000 towards feasibility studies helping staff to further understand how to proceed with upgrades under the retrofit to drastically reduce building emissions;
- 2023 staff created a benchmark for reporting and 2024 being an investigation into how to best address retrofits and fleet upgrades;
- upgrades and retrofits reducing emissions and saving operational costs over time;
- energy consumption from Water and Wastewater Plant being higher than expected with a 28% increase;
- methane being used to heat the primary digester at the plant with the excess being burned off;
- the Pollution Control Plant components primarily run by electricity with limited technological advances available for significant improvements in efficiencies;
- the facility being a heavy energy consumer now and in future and not likely to change in near future; and
- staff looking into reducing costs through peak energy demands.

Motion by Councillor Hunter

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "Annual Corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions – 2023" (ITS24-021), be received for information.

Carried

5. Report of the Manager of Environmental Services

5.1 Dunn Road Well Failure - Emergency Purchase Update Report (ITS24-020)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "Dunn Road Well Failure - Emergency Purchase Update Report" (ITS24-020), be received as per Section 39.1.b. of the City of Stratford's Purchasing Policy P.5.1.

Sub-committee Discussion: The Manager of Environmental Services reviewed the report, highlighting the following:

- in April 2024 the Dunn Road Well having the aging submersible motor and pump break off and fall into the well during minor rehabilitation work;
- Lotowater Technical Services having successfully removed the pump and motor and these being determined unsuitable for use;
- Lotowater Services being retained to install replacement pump and motor and while out of service, performing cleaning and inspection of the well casing;
- this having met the criteria of an Emergency Purchase under Purchasing Policy P.5.1 with the risk of the second largest water supply being nonoperational and putting the City at risk of inadequate supply should further failures occur; and
- the total cost of the project being projected at \$55,000 and costing a final amount of \$119,000 after replacement of the pump and motor and additional work on well while out of service.

Discussion on this matter occurred between Sub-committee and Staff. Highlights of the discussion included:

- the incident occurred during contracted work to remove the pump from the well casing; and

- there being advanced corrosion on one of the couplings which failed and led to the pump and motor dropping into the well.

Motion by Councillor McCabe

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "Dunn Road Well Failure - Emergency Purchase Update Report" (ITS24-020), be received as per Section 39.1.b. of the City of Stratford's Purchasing Policy P.5.1.

Carried

5.2 Stratford Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) - Primary Digester Roof Failure - Update Report (ITS24-023)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "Stratford Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) - Primary Digester Roof Failure - Update Report" (ITS24-023), be received per Section 39.1.b. of the City of Stratford's Purchasing Policy P.5.1.

Sub-committee Discussion: The Manager of Environmental Services reviewed the report, highlighting the following:

- in May of 2024 an over pressure event occurred in the Primary Digester at the Stratford Water Pollution Control Plant;
- the existing roof on the Primary Digester lifted and the Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA) retained CIMA to assess the roof and concrete to determine damage and options for repair;
- this having met the criteria of an Emergency Purchase under Purchasing Policy P.5.1 with the efficiencies in the Water Pollution Control Plant being jeopardized and this being considered core City infrastructure;
- the CIMA report indicating the digester roof showed no visual signs of warping, deflection or weld cracking with the exception of one localized area;
- the roof coating having extensive corrosion on the entire surface including the equipment supported;
- significant concrete damage with lagging bolts lifting out of the concrete as a result of the overpressure event;

- the cost to refurbish and repair the roof and concrete being estimated by CIMA at \$1.5 million with this option expected to last a maximum of 15 years at which time a new roof will be required with associated cost of valves and piping;
- the cost for a full replacement of roof including concrete repair being estimated at \$2.6 million;
- staff working with OCWA to determine course of action with options being brought back to Council; and
- staff having received an update from OCWA on November 27, 2024 of a possible partial cost recovery through the insurance provider with OCWA looking into this further to verify.

Discussion on this matter occurred between Sub-committee and Staff. Highlights of the discussion included:

- the life expectancy of a full replacement and repair being 30-40 years;
- the current digester roof having been replaced in 1984 and being 40 years old;
- options for relief through the air relief valve in the digester roof being jeopardized as an overflow of sludge had occurred causing the valve to plug and a significant amount of pressure to build;
- the replacement costs being accounted for in the Water and Wastewater Rate Study and reflected in the appendix with a sum listed at \$2.4 million;
- details coming in 1-2 months regarding insurance coverage and options to refurbish or replace; and
- there being a buffer should the cost be of a lower scope.

Motion by Councillor Beatty

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "Stratford Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) - Primary Digester Roof Failure - Update Report" (ITS24-023), be received per Section 39.1.b. of the City of Stratford's Purchasing Policy P.5.1.

Carried

6. Report of the Supervisor of Waste Operations

6.1 Stratford Landfill Public Input Invite November 2024 (ITS24-022)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "Stratford Landfill Public Input November 2024" (ITS24-022), be received for information.

Motion by Councillor Hunter

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "Stratford Landfill Public Input November 2024" (ITS24-022), be received for information.

Carried

7. Department Update

Sub-committee Discussion: The Director of Infrastructure Services provided the following highlights from the department update:

- staff preparing a report for Council's consideration regarding Automated Speed Enforcement;
- directional arrows being painted at the Albert Street traffic circle on November 27 in response to public concern regarding use of the traffic circle;
- pedestrian crossing improvements paused at Waterloo and William Street and at McCarthy Street due to challenges with scheduling a sub-contractor, and looking to spring for finalization;
- Environmental Services Water Staff having toured the Thamesford Water Filtration system to investigate how other municipalities navigate off colour water, and possible mitigation strategies in Stratford;
- Public Works winter operations at full capacity with staff assigned to appropriate shifts; and
- the warm weather allowing for further patching of potholes before snow starts falling.

8. Advisory Committee/Outside Board Minutes

No Advisory Committee/Outside Board minutes were provided to Sub-committee.

9. Next Sub-committee Meeting

The next Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee meeting is January 29, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall.

10. Adjournment

Motion by Councillor Nijjar

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

Carried

Meeting Start Time: 4:30 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 4:56 P.M.