



STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

Report No: PW-2021-17

July 26, 2021

From: Tara Clayton, Director of Public Works

RE: Private Septic System Inspections

Recommended Motion:

THAT the Council of the Township of North Glengarry approve procurement of the septic inspections for the systems as per the Ontario Building Code; and

FURTHERMORE, that Council approves the cost of the inspections which can be accommodated within the existing operating budget.

Background / Analysis:

There are 11 private septic systems near the Alexandria water intake and 17 private septic systems near the Glen Robertson municipal well. Through the lens of the Clean Water Act, the 27 septic systems are considered Significant Drinking Water Threats. Therefore, the systems must be managed. Appropriate management is classified as regular clean out and inspections as per the Ontario Building Code. The systems were all inspected in 2016 by North Glengarry's septic contractor with the initial cost of the inspections being funded for by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, now the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). Re-inspections are required every 5 years which means they are due this year and the responsibility is with the municipalities to determine how the inspections will be paid for.

Staff are proposing that the municipality collaborate with South Nation Conservation Authority (SNC) as they have a septic inspection program and an inspector on staff. The proposed program involves education, outreach, coordination and communication with the property owners. The owners are responsible for getting the septic tank cleaned out prior to the inspection at their own cost. Once the tank is cleaned the Township along with SNC will coordinate the inspection with the Township covering the cost of the inspection. Any repairs or works required to improve the system to meet code would be the responsibility of the private property owner.

Alternatives:

This is a requirement of the Ontario Building Code to complete every 5 years. There are options for how the program is delivered as noted below:

1. Partner with SNC for the coordination of inspections.
2. Procure a septic inspector to complete the inspections for the Township.

Staff are recommending option 1 as SNC was involved in the initial inspections and they are risk officials for the Source Water Protection Act.

Financial Implications:

The Township has not specifically budgeted for this work in 2021. However, there is money available in the operating budget to accommodate the works based on a rough estimate of costs being \$200/septic system inspection, as per South Nation Conservation Authority, for a total of approximately \$5400. This amount will be dependent on the quotes received.

Others Consulted:

Monique Sauve, South Nation Conservation Authority
Phil Barnes, Raisin Region Conservation Authority
Kim Goyette, Director of Finance/Treasurer

Reviewed and Approved by:
Sarah Huskinson, CAO/Clerk