



STAFF REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Report No: PW 2021-02

January 20, 2021

From: Dean McDonald, Acting Director of Public Works

RE: Public Works - Work Plan Update January 2021

Recommended Motion:

THAT the Committee of the Whole receives report PW 2021-02, Public Works – Work Plan Update January 2021 for information purposes only.

Background / Analysis:

COVID-19

The recent state of emergency and new restrictions have not affected the day-to-day operations of the department as the services offered are essential. Management has recently introduced a mandatory daily COVID-19 self-assessment tool where they can view employee results as soon as they are entered. Staff are being asked to complete this self-assessment every day before coming to work. The department continues to place an emphasis on staying vigilant, practicing social distancing and following all guidelines.

Roads Department

Winter Maintenance

Road crews have been dispatched several times this season, but less than in previous years due to less snow. Staff have completed the first snow removal in Alexandria, Glen Robertson and Maxville to allow space for future storms and to ease traffic and parking issues. Staff contracted out the services of one trucking company, but otherwise all Township equipment was used to minimize cost.

Fleet

There have been a few minor breakdowns on Township snow removal equipment, but all units have been quickly repaired. The newly purchased tandem truck equipped with an ice scraper was delivered to the Kenyon garage on January 12th and was in service the following day. The new

sidewalk tractor, which was purchased from Holder Tractors in Embrun, is anticipated to arrive by the end of January. The new sidewalk tractor comes equipped with an additional salt box unit that will reduce turnaround time and improve the level of service on Township's sidewalks.

Brushing

Staff have been operating the new razor mounted excavator in areas where trees and branches are encroaching on the road. Branches have been trimmed back to allow for more room during snow clearing. There have been several calls from residents about the use of the razor. Some residents have been displeased seeing the trees and branches cut. The clearing is important for safety reasons and to prevent vehicular damage. Staff have been relaying this information to residents.

Water and Sewer

Alexandria Water Treatment

The annual inspection for the Alexandria/Maxville water system was completed in September by an MECP inspector. The Township received the draft inspection report with a score of 100% for the ninth year running. Staff will present the final report to Council at a later date.

Alexandria Distribution

Since November, there have been five water breaks that required repairs. Three of these repairs were performed by external contractors to prevent close contact between operators. A waterworks operator is onsite when contractors are working, to ensure disinfection/sampling procedures are followed and to operate valves as required.

Alexandria Water Plant

Staff noticed two abnormal conditions in the water plant before Christmas, but operators were quick to troubleshoot and rectify the situation. Staff will be looking into videoing and a sonar scan of the intake pipe in early spring to look for any abnormalities or possible blockages.

Glen Robertson Distribution

Waterworks staff noticed increased flows at the water plant before Christmas. Staff reached out via Facebook and then followed up with hand delivered letters to all users to look for any possible leaks. After receiving the letter, a resident called in to report a leak in their crawl space. A waterworks operator attended the site and fixed the leak.

Maxville Water Update

Plumbers are continuing to connect residents to the municipal water but due to the latest lockdown, some residents are refusing entry and requesting an extension. Staff have been granting extensions to homeowners requesting relief due to COVID. There are approximately 60% of residents connected.

Maxville Sewage

Staff had to remove a faulty sewage pump from one of the lift stations and send it in for repairs. These pumps are used to pump sewage to a location upstream where it can then flow by gravity to the main pumping station.

Landfill

Between Christmas and New Year's, consultants had six monitoring wells installed on newly acquired land at the Glen Robertson landfill site. These wells were installed to monitor any ground contamination to neighboring lands, as per MECP's request.

Infiltration and Inflow

Infiltration and inflow continue to be a major problem in the Township's sewer system. Excessive flows can severely limit the capacity of existing sewer systems. They can also generate sewer backups, basement flooding and health risks, increase the operation and maintenance costs of the treatment and pumping facilities, and raise the overflow risk of wastewater to watercourses. Staff have been aggressive over the last few years on identifying and repairing leaky sewer mains. Staff would now like to target illegal sump pumps in households. The Township has a bylaw in place to enforce the removal of illegal installations and will be following up with a report on how to address these connections.

Winter Storage

The winter storage rental has been successful with approximately \$8,000 in revenue to help offset the utility and maintenance costs of the building. There are presently 18 vehicles in storage.

Alternatives:

N/A

Financial Implications:

N/A

Attachments & Relevant Legislation:

Others Consulted:

Michel Cuerrier, Manager of Transportation
Zoe Bougie, Public Works Specialist
Internal Department Staff

Reviewed and Approved by:
Sarah Huskinson, CAO/Clerk