



Corporation of the Municipality of Temagami

2023-M-169

**Memorandum to Council**

**Subject:** Report of the Treasurer Administrator

**Agenda Date:** August 10, 2023

**Attachments:**

**RECOMMENDATION**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive the report from the Treasurer/Administrator dated August 10, 2023.

**INFORMATION**

**Current Replacement Value Report**

The Ministry of Infrastructure added a report this year. According to information contained in their instructions, they hope this report will form the basis of future formula based Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) funding. The report asked for the replacement value of assets, the basis for which this was determined and the percentage of assets that are expected to be replaced within the next 10 years and the percentage expected to be replaced over 30 years from now. The Ministry of Infrastructure requires the Treasurer and / or Administrator 'sign off' the estimates being reported.

While it is noted above the report asked for the replacement value of assets, it was not all assets but only those that are supported by the OCIF Formula Based funding. The functions supported are roads, bridges, water, wastewater and stormwater assets and not including any 'rolling stock.

This report was completed and filed in advance of the July 31<sup>st</sup> deadline.

**Ombudsman**

The Ombudsman, by default, acts as the closed meeting investigator for the Municipality of Temagami. Following our closed session held on June 20<sup>th</sup>, the Ombudsman received a complaint. While they cannot tell us who filed the complaint or even provide a copy of the detail of the complaint, there were a few days of Staff time answering questions and providing information to the Ombudsman. We are expecting we will receive a report from the Ombudsman at some point before the end of the year.

It should be noted that, apart from the Closed Session held in January dealing with Freedom of Information decision letters, this is the first time this year we have had a closed session. While, given history, we are not surprised that there was a complaint it is sad that some still believe it is their obligation to be the watcher of Council. The immediate consequence of this is that Staff is taken away from assigned duties which increases the labour costs and decreases both morale and output.

**Freedom of Information**

After receiving two further requests for information under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, we now sit with three open files. In all three cases we have asked for clarification of the requests and are waiting the reply prior to calculating and sending an estimate letter.

We are also still dealing with matters before the Information Privacy Commissioner's office. The latest dealt with the ongoing arbitration of file 2019-002. This time, they asked that the submission from May 2022 have the pages numbered and resubmitted. There are still three or four files that we know have been appealed to the Information Privacy Commissioner's office. This appears to be a standard procedure for a few regular filers of FOI requests. It appears to be designed to take Staff away from their work as, in one case, we have been holding an envelope with information, waiting for payment of the appropriate fee prior to release, for the past three years.

Last point.....

While there is a list of strategic priorities, and work that Council has directed to be completed (RFP and related scoring matrix), when we get a call from the Ombudsman or Information Privacy Commissioner, we are given an extremely short window to reply. As such, the other work gets moved to the 'back burner' as we tend to those matters.

It may be interesting to note that just prior to the last municipal election we received a request from the Information Privacy Commissioner and when we asked for an extension due to the municipal election we were denied.

The previous topics are meant to inform Council of some of the extra work that is being completed on a regular basis.

Employment matters

Interviews for the By-Law Enforcement Officer are scheduled between the writing of this report and Council meeting.

We have an open advertisement for Public Work Operators. During the last month we have received two notices of retirement and one resignation. The resignation was barely over three months.

ICIP Projects

We should know, shortly, the work schedule for the Lagoon Disinfection project.

One of the administrative requirements for this program (for the first time) requires online access to our Canada Revenue Account. To do this, the Social Insurance Number of a Staff member is required. We requested this process start a year ago and have not made it through waiting on hold in order to actually gain access. As work is about to start our efforts will increase to get online access as we cannot submit claims until we provide the Province with an electronic HST clearance certificate. They will not accept scanned copies of letters we receive after we file.

Good News

Council may recall that we had filed a complaint with the Ombudsman for Enbridge. This was after our gas bill at the Train Station when from about \$2,000 to just over \$4,000 and then we received an adjustment that increased the bill by a further \$4,000 to a total annual bill of over \$8,000. They have now replied and provided a credit of \$6,800 to this account.

**Respectfully Submitted:**

**Craig Davidson**

**Treasurer/Administrator/Acting Clerk**