



# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Committee of the Whole - November 2, 2020



Please note that all Committee decisions are subject to Council approval. The next Council meeting is scheduled for November 9th at 7:00 p.m. If you have any questions regarding agenda items or decisions made at Committee or Council meetings, please email [council@ramara.ca](mailto:council@ramara.ca).

## TAX RELIEF - COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL/NOT-FOR PROFIT

Zach Drinkwalter, Director of Finance, advised Council that a mail out was sent with the Commercial tax bills asking businesses to call and advise staff if they require assistance or relief from taxes. Since that mail out, staff have received very few calls from local businesses. In order to determine the need for assistance, Committee approved to implement an application process for commercial and not-for-profit properties.

**Next Council Meeting is on November 9th at 7:00 pm**

## DRAFT BUDGET

Committee approved to receive the draft budget as information and that further discussions regarding budget will take place on Thursday, November 12 at 9:30 a.m. In the draft budget, the following highlights were reported:

1. 0.00% tax increase for 2021
2. No increase in assessment values for 2021
3. Capital Expenses increase 56% where 18.39% is carry-forward from 2020.
4. Operating Expenses increase 10.66%.
5. 0% increases for cost of living for staff and Council
6. No increases in budget for Community Centres
7. No increase in budget for Library Services
8. Decrease in budget for Recreation and Community Services

## TRAILS COMMITTEE

Committee approved for Councillor Fisher to sit as a Council representative on the Trails Committee for the remainder of term ending November 15, 2022. The Trails Committee, which was originally formed in 2003, has grown to nine volunteers and includes representation from both Council and staff. These volunteers, who have dedicated their time and effort, are focused on completing the the trail network, connecting communities and improving safety. To check out the Trails Committee's 2020 accomplishments and future plans, check out the [media release](#).

# RAMA ROAD CORRIDOR

Staff have prepared correspondence to the Province regarding the Rama Road Economic Employment District. Ramara is asking to have the opportunity to discuss potential changes to the uses and designation of the Rama Road Economic Employment District under the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe in order to allow for a mixed and diversified use of housing types. This will help promote growth and allow development within the Rama Road Corridor.

[Click here for full Council Agenda and Minutes](#)

## GIS

Jennifer Stong, GIS/Infrastructure Analyst, presented to Council the work completed in mapping all infrastructure, including vertical infrastructure, in the Township of Ramara. Geographic Information System (GIS) provides staff the ability to analyze, describe and interpret information. This allows for better decision making, more effective means to managing assets, better communication through visual tools, and improve productivity. Residents can access the [County of Simcoe's public mapping](#) for Ramara that has over 75 different layers such as the locations of Ramara Trails and Short-Term Rental.

## SHORT-TERM RENTALS ACCOMMODATIONS BYLAW UPDATE

- Jon Popple, Manager of Community Standards, provided an update to Council regarding Short-Term Rentals Accommodation (STRA). Over the past nine months, the Township has issued 23 licences and has another 22 locations currently in the application process. Residents can view the application process and Short-Term Rental locations by visiting the [Short-Term Accommodation page](#) on the Township website. Jon outlined the following amendments to be considered to the STRA Bylaw 2020.11:
- Building Code Act references.
- Fire Code Act references.
- Mandatory posting of Ramara STRA Licence number on AIRBNB, VRBO, Expedia, Home Away or other websites.
- Amendment of Administrative Monetary Penalty system, to include escalating fines for non-compliance.
- Expansion of the Demerit Point system to include relevant and more common violations.
- As well, two proposed STRA open Houses will be scheduled for the spring of 2021 in order to help individuals licence their STRA and provide information about 2021 renewal process.

[Click here for County Council Highlights](#)

## WATERFRONT STRATEGY AND PARKING PLAN

Committee approved for staff to undertake the work outlined in the Waterfront Strategy and Parking plan report. The report outlines that the Waterfront Strategy and Parking plan will be implemented in six phases from now until May of 2021.

1. Identification and Mapping of Municipal Waterfront Lands
2. Foundation of the Waterfront Strategy
3. Analysis of the Opportunities.Possibilities
4. Draft Waterfront Strategy and Parking Plan
5. Final Waterfront Strategy and Parking Plan and Action Plan
6. Implementation

# CONCESSION ROAD 9 - PETITION FOR MUNICIPAL DRAIN

Committee accepted the petition under Section 4 (c) of the Drainage Act for the drainage of Concession Road 9 and that R.J. Burnside & Associates Ltd. be appointed as the Engineer to prepare a Preliminary Report.

## HOT MIX PAVING AND PATCHING 2020

Committee awarded the tender to Dufferin Construction for Hot Mix Paving and Patching for the amount of \$196,156.40.

### PUBLIC MEETING

On the November 9th Council meeting, the Township of Ramara will hold three virtual public meetings starting at 7:00 p.m.

The public meetings are for the following:

1. Proposed Zoning Bylaw Amendment for to regulate sewage bio-solid storage and application.
2. Proposed Official Plan and Zoning Bylaw Amendment to modify the definition of "Active Recreation" so as not to include "shooting range."
3. Proposed Zoning Bylaw Amendment to regulate the cultivation and processing of cannabis.

Written submissions can be sent electronically to [jconnor@ramara.ca](mailto:jconnor@ramara.ca). For more information, visit the [News and Notices page](#).



## Xplornet Enhances Internet Services in Ramara

Building  
you a faster  
Internet  
network  
together.



Last week, the Township of Ramara and Xplornet Communications Inc. officially started construction on a new wireless Internet tower that will provide enhanced service to residents and businesses in Ramara. The project includes construction of three new wireless sites along with upgrades to five existing towers. This will provide service at up to 50 Megabits per second (Mbps) with unlimited data to over 5,700 rural households. The construction of the Brechin tower is scheduled to be completed by December 2020. Residents who would like to know more about availability, packages and prices can call Xplornet at 1-866-790-5894.

**Remember to follow us (@Ramaratwp) on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for up-to date information.**

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