



# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Council - September 14, 2020

## MAYOR UPDATE

Our Mayor, Basil Clarke, congratulated the newly elected Rama Band Council and Ted Williams as the new Chief. Also, Dillion Bickell, a young resident who grew up in Ramara was elected to the Rama Council.

## CAO UPDATE

CAO, John Pinsent, provided an update on the reopening of Ramara Township offices. John advised that the Township Administration Office is open now to the public, by appointment only, and other than for services offered by the Finance Department. John reported that residents can book online or by phone and that the [Ramara website](#) has all the information residents need to stay informed. John also advised that OCWA (Ontario Clean Water Agency) started their contract on September 1 and that their vehicles are now being seen around the water and sewer plants. During this transition, we ask the public to be patient as new procedures take place.

## MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND HOUSING

After discussion with the County of Simcoe and the Township planning staff, a letter was sent out the province in order to increase the scope of acceptable uses along the Rama Road Corridor. The restrictions set by the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe and the lack of municipal infrastructure has inhibited growth in this area. The Township would like to review potential partnerships and extend services into the Atherley Uptergrove Settlement area in order to provide mixed-use development. This letter is a pre-amble to future discussions in exploring potential change to the Economic Employment District use and designation.

**Next COW meeting is on September 21 at 9:30 a.m.**

## UPDATE ON INTERNET

John gave an update on the Xplornet towers and reported that the construction of the Rathburn tower should start by the end of September. At this moment, Xplornet is working on five towers in the Ramara area. Stay tuned for more information on when Xplornet is available in Ramara!

## BOUNDARY REVIEW/ ELECTORAL REVIEW

The [Request for Proposal for a Boundary/Electoral review](#) is released and is due on October 1, 2020. The report from the Consultant who is awarded the Boundary/Electoral review will be brought to Council in February of 2021. At this time, the Township of Ramara has five wards with a Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

## **LEGAL INDEMNIFICATION BYLAW**

An indemnification bylaw protects Council members, board members, staff and others for legal costs which would not be reimbursed through the Township's insurance coverage. As advised by our lawyer, the Township will review their By-law 2008.27 and add any recommendations provided in his letter.

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

## **WHEN COUNCIL MEETINGS WILL RESUME IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

CAO, John Pinsent, provided an update to Council advising that the township is waiting for cameras and other technology to be installed in the Chambers to move to in person (council and staff only) council meetings. With this new technology, residents can participate at home and continue to watch Council meetings live on the [Township's YouTube channel](#). The next Committee of the Whole and Council meeting will be held electronically through Zoom.

## **SIGNAGE IN RAMARA**

CAO, John Pinsent reported that staff are working on a plan in 2020 and 2021 to deal with signage in Ramara to focus on roads, trails, parks and beaches. This plan will examine lowering the speed limit to 60 km on gravel roads and adding share the road signs to our roads to ensure that the trails used in the area are used safely. David Snutch reported that the Township of Severn is completing a study on adding street lights into Washago. He also reported that from Rama Road to the top of Fairgrounds road is part of the Trans Canada Trail, and that a plan needs to be put in place to ensure that trail users can use this trail safely. A final report will be brought to Council in late spring with an overall plan.

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## **TRAILS COMMITTEE PRESENTATION**

Council has requested a presentation from the Trails Committee to explore current and future plans for trails in Ramara and the impact trails have on roads, signage and grants. Councillor Snutch reported that the Trails Committee has been in discussion with Michael Goodyear from Trans Canada Trail on the expansion of the TCT and completing a study that would examine how residents can safely connect the trail in Washago. The Trails Committee presentation is scheduled for October 19, 2020.

## **BUDGET**

Deputy Mayor reported raised concerns about discrepancies in the former Environmental Services Department found in previous years. CAO, John Pinsent, confirmed that there is a report coming forward regarding this matter, as well as the equipment to be repurposed since OCWA has assumed operational control. The township has proper procedures and protocols in place to ensure proper procurement and financial management. Councillor Snutch asked how cheques get written for something that has not been budgeted for and advised that proper controls should be in place. CAO, John Pinsent reported that our Procurement Policy ensures that proper controls are in place and auditors are hired to ensure that the Township is doing their due diligence in spending money following these protocols.

## SHORT-TERM RENTAL UPDATE

Councillor Johnson asked for a Short-Term rental update. Manager of Community Standards, Jon Popple, reported that as a result of COVID-19 many of the short-term rentals have switched to long-term (rented for greater than 29 days), and that there are only 75 active short-term rentals in Ramara. At this time, 60 applications are approved or on his desk. Residents can find out more information about how to license their Short-term rentals or where they are found on the [Short-Term Rental Accommodation page](#) on the Ramara website.

## UPCOMING REPORTS AT NEXT MEETING

- Service Delivery Review final report from StrategyCorp
- Mid Year Financial Review
- Strategic Direction/Official Plan Update
- Amendment Procedural Bylaw to allow Electronic Meetings
- Industrial Park Update
- Status of Bayshore Spray Fields
- Indemnification Bylaw

## RAMARA REOPENS

The Township Administration Building is open for appointment only other than Finance Services that is open for walk-in services. **Book an Appointment** with staff and know **what to expect** when coming to the Administration Office at [www.ramara.ca/ramarareopens/](http://www.ramara.ca/ramarareopens/). In order to follow public health recommendations, our services and protocols have changed, and we ask residents to wear a mask, fill out our health assessment, and be patient.



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

**REMINDER**

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