



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Committee of the Whole - October, 18 2021



Please note that all Committee of the Whole decisions are subject to Council approval. The next Council meeting is scheduled for October 25, 2021 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.

WATER AND WASTEWATER RATES STUDY

Andrew Mirabella of *Hemson Consulting Ltd.* presented the Draft Water and Wastewater Rates study that outlines water and sewer rates over a 10-year period. The last study was completed in 2015 and was planned to be revised five years later; however, in 2020 it was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the onboarding of the Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA). The draft Water and Wastewater Rates study outlines the following:

- Rates are calculated on full recovery of operating costs and capital needs with provision for future asset replacement.
- With substantial capital work required over the next ten years on all the systems, a **two percent increase** in utility rates is needed to cover capital and operating costs.
- In the short term, the Township will utilize water reserves for capital renewal and replacement.
- In the long term, wastewater reserves will increase yearly to cover capital costs outside the five-year period.
- Consumption is anticipated to remain constant over the following years, even with the projected growth.

Committee approved to receive the report as information and asked for the following information to be brought up at the next Committee meeting: separate benchmark analysis on comparable water rates, comparable sewer rates, and an update to the Bayshore Village sewage system.

Next Council Meeting is on October 25, 2021 at 7:00 pm

2022 PROPOSED COUNCIL/COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

Committee approved the proposed 2022 Council and Committee of the Whole meeting schedule. The proposed schedule will result in the following:

- Committee of the Whole meetings taking place on the 2nd Monday of each month starting at 9:30 a.m.
- Council meetings taking place on the 4th Monday of each month starting at 7:00 p.m. with closed session commencing at 6:00 p.m.

- No meetings will be held on Holiday Mondays or the 5th Monday in corresponding months.
- No meetings will be held during Council's designated summer holiday or winter holidays.
- No meeting will take place on October 17th as it is one week before elections.

Please note that **between August 19th and November 14th**, Council may be in a potential Lame Duck (less than 75% or six members of Council seek re-election). If this occurs, it will limit Council spending, prevent hiring/dismissing staff, appointing or removing a municipal officer, or creating liability for the Municipality. The Procedural Bylaw will be presented to Council **in November of 2021**, with the required amendments.

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

MUNICIPAL RESIDENTIAL DRINKING WATER SYSTEM FRAGMENTATION

Resource Manager provided Committee with a report on the complex process of decommissioning or fragmenting a municipal water system. At the May 17, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting, staff presented a report on the seven municipally owned water treatment and distribution systems and outlined the operating costs versus the revenue generated per system. Staff found that some of the smaller systems are generating no revenue and are operating at a deficit, Committee asked for staff to investigate the feasibility of decommissioning water systems operating in a negative. The fragmentation process is outlined below:

- A written report prepared by a professional engineer is required to describe how the current users would obtain drinking water if the fragmentation proceeded, an assessment of the potential risks, and the availability of safe and sustainable sources of treated water.
- A public meeting between the Township and affected residents to discuss the proposed fragmentation.
- Completed Municipal Class EA.
- Completed application to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) that is consistent with the purposes of the Safe Drinking and Water Act.

Committee approved to include \$50,000 in the proposed 2022 budget to retain the services of a professional engineer to prepare a written report that contains a detailed description of how drinking water would be obtained by the current users of the systems that would no longer be served if the fragmentation proceeded. Council also approved to bring a separate report to Council that would provide user fees for both of the two systems: Davy Drive and Park Lane waterworks.

REQUEST FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF SEVERN FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF RAMARA TO PROVIDE ANIMAL (CANINE) CONTROL SERVICES

Jon Popple, Manager of Community Standards, provided a report to Council with the request from Severn to utilize Township of Ramara Animal Control (Canine) Services over a five year term. The Township of Severn would pay the Township of Ramara a flat fee of \$5,000, for the first year, and a \$50 per hour fee with a minimum of 3 hours to be invoiced per call that occurs afterhours. Committee approved to bring a report to the next Committee of the Whole that would examine the call locations in Severn and comparable statistics on Animal (Canine) Control services.

SHORT-TERM RENTAL ACCOMMODATIONS UPDATE

Jon Popple, Manager of Community Standards, provided an update on enforcement and licensing of Short-Term Rental Accommodations (STRA) in Ramara. At this time, there are 50 total STRA licenses with 6 pending license applications. There have been 21 Administrative Monetary Penalties, 1 Provincial Offences Noise issued, 27 Active Licensing investigations and 79 total STRA bylaw complaints filed and investigated. The report outlines increasing the Administrative Monetary Penalty (fine) to \$2,500 per day/offence and creating a maximum STRA property occupancy rate of 10 occupants/guests between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Committee approved to receive the report and to incorporate the report recommendations into an updated bylaw. As well, Committee approved to include 300 meters distancing between STRAs.

PETITION REGARDING THE COUNTY OF SIMCOE'S NEW WASTE MANAGEMENT CART SYSTEM

Committee received a petition on the County of Simcoe's new Waste Management Cart system and approved for it to be sent to the County. Residents can learn more about the program by visiting the County of Simcoe's [Cart Collection](#) website for providing feedback to the County at info@simcoe.ca or calling **705-726-9300**.

L.C.P.W.C. 2022 BUDGET - WEED HARVESTING EQUIPMENT

Councillor Johnson advised Committee that the L.C.P.W.C is in the process of establishing their 2022 Budget, and in that budget is the recommendation to purchase new weed harvesting equipment. Due to the difficulty in ordering the equipment and having it in time for next year, Deputy Mayor Gough put a motion on the floor for Committee to approve the purchase of the new equipment in order for the Director of Infrastructure to start the tendering process. Committee agreed to approve the purchase of the weed harvesting equipment ahead of the 2022 Budget. Please note that the Draft budget will be presented to Committee on November 15, 2021.

MONTHLY UPDATES



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CONTACT US - MEDIA

Phone - 705-484-5374 ext. 322
Email - awatson@ramara.ca



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HAVE A COMPLAINT?

Submit it online using our 'Report a Concern' form at www.ramara.ca