



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Committee of the Whole - November 1, 2021



Please note that all Committee of the Whole decisions are subject to Council approval. The next Council meeting is scheduled for November 8, 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.

ORILLIA AND LAKE COUNTY TOURISM UPDATE

Kris Puhvel, Executive Director of Orillia and Lake Country Tourism (OLCT), presented to Council the history of OLCT and accomplishments in 2020, despite COVID-19. Mr. Puhvel reported that OLCT will complete the following in 2022: continue to promote 65 businesses in Ramara through their website, promotional material and social media; promote Ramara's new **Tourism page** on the OLCT website, and relaunch their print Visitor guide. OLCT is requesting continued support of \$20,000, the same amount asked for the past seven years, to help with economic development and visitor attraction. The Committee approved the request for \$20,000 to be forwarded to the 2022 Draft Budget meeting on November 15, 2021.

Next Council Meeting is on November 8, 2021 at 7:00 pm

RAMARA TOWNSHIP LIBRARY BUDGET REQUEST

Janet Banfield, Chief Executive Officer, and Larry Thompson, Acting Chair for the Ramara Public Library Board, presented the library's proposed 2022 Operating and Capital Budgets to Committee. With the 10-year capital forecast, the Ramara Library plans to spend an average of \$41,680 per year on capital costs, such as computer and photocopier replacement. For the 2022 Budget, the Ramara Public Library is requesting \$437,683 from the Township to conduct core operations. Committee approved to forward the request to the 2022 Draft Budget meeting on November 15, 2021.

RAMARA TRAILS COMMITTEE BUDGET REQUEST

Larry Barton and Bob Masching from Ramara Trails Committee presented to Committee on their accomplishments in 2021, projects planned for 2022 and proposed 2022 budget. In 2021, the Trails Committee was able to complete the following:

- Secure funding from the Trans Canada Trail to build a trail off of Howlyn Pines Trail to County Road 169.
- Construct a ramp on Ramara Trail to increase access to the historic fishing weirs.
- Landscaped Heritage Trans Canada Trail sign on the Ramara Trail with rock, sod and a plaque.
- Designing and installing Heron gates on the Lagoon City Trail to reduce the vehicular traffic on the trail during the Heron mating and nesting season.

- Installing member-donated picnic tables on the Lagoon City Trail.
- Complete regular maintenance by clearing bush, fixing erosion and filling holes on all trails.

Unfortunately, the Trails Committee needs to move their one project of creating a trail on Sideroad 15 to the railbed to 2022. The funding for this project will also be moved to 2022. The Trails Committee is requesting \$40,000 from the Township of Ramara to be used for 2022 trail projects. The Committee approved to forward the request for \$40,000 to the November 15, 2021 Draft Budget meeting.

STREET NAME REVIEW AND UPDATE

Asset Management Coordinator/GIS Analyst presented the street name review that analyzed forty-four road sections proposed for renaming. The **Fire Master Plan** identified the Street Name Review to help eliminate confusion or delay in response from emergency services. Committee reviewed the road sections and approved for the Concession Road 10 road sections to begin the renaming road process, for a public meeting to be conducted in Spring of 2022 for the other proposed road naming sections, and for the road name 'Old Indian Trail' to be forwarded to the Rama First Nation cultural department for road name review.

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

NEW GRADER PURCHASE

Committee approved to accept the bid from Brandt Tractor Ltd to supply the Township with a new grader at the bid price of \$484,900 plus taxes with a trade-in value of \$60,000. As the tenders received were over budget, the remaining \$44,900 will be deducted from surplus funds from the 2021 equipment budget and Infrastructure reserves.

WATER TOWER FIVE YEAR REVENUE BREAKDOWN

The Water Tower, located in Brechin, has generated a surplus of revenue over the past five years. This surplus is placed into a separate reserve to cover future capital costs.

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION AWARD

Committee approved to establish the "Spirit of Ramara" award that will recognize a resident with outstanding community involvement and contribution through community engagement, community leadership, volunteerism, and achievement. This award will proceed in 2022 once a Terms of Reference has been drafted.

MULTI-YEAR ACCESSIBILITY PLAN REVIEW

Committee approved the updated Accessibility Policy, Multi-Year Accessibility Plan and 2021 Status report. The Township conducted its annual accessibility plan public meeting on September 20, 2021, and heard from residents regarding adding the following accessible features: Upgrade to the playground at Brechin ballpark, accessible parking spaces at the Brechin beach lots, designated picnic tables with accessibility features and accessible traffic signals at the intersection in Brechin. With these suggestions, and the goal of the AODA to be fully accessible in Ontario by 2025, the Township will designate funds in the 2022 budget for Accessibility Projects.

SEPTIC RE-INSPECTION PROGRAM

Chief Building Official answered some additional questions from Committee regarding the Discretionary Sewage Re-Inspection Program. The Mandatory and Discretionary On-Site Sewage System Maintenance Inspection Program was initiated by the Township to help preserve and protect surface water and groundwater quality. Both programs are outlined in **The Ontario Building Code** and supports the **Clean Water Act, 2006 (CWA)**.

The Mandatory Re-inspection Program was established in 2011 as the Discretionary Sewage Re-Inspection program was established in 2019 with **Bylaw 2019.73**. With both programs, all properties within the identified mandatory and discretionary inspection program areas will be inspected once every five years. Committee approved to waive the bills for large properties where the sewage system is not within the inspection area.

Residents can visit our **website** to see the **list of mandatory and discretionary sewage systems** that will be investigated this year and answers to frequently asked questions.

COVID-19 PRACTICES IN COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit published recommendations for Council Chamber practices, both with in-person public access and without. With the guidance, Council members must be 6 ft apart, even with Plexiglas, to conduct a meeting without masks. As a result, only five out of the seven Council members will be on the screen at one time and will require Council members to identify those who approve or deny motions.

DID YOU KNOW?

HAVE A CONCERN?



Residents who have bylaw, parking, short-term rental accommodation, roads and water/waste water concerns can submit their concerns **online!** When a concern is submitted online, staff are notified by email of the issue in order to act according to the nature of the problem. **Report your concerns online** today!

MONTHLY UPDATES



Have you missed Ramara's Monthly updates in the Orillia Today? Check it out on our **Community Engagement page and subscribe to get it emailed to you at the beginning of each month.**



Follow us on @Ramaratwp on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter first access to news and information.



CONTACT US - MEDIA

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



Visit the Township website at www.ramara.ca for up to date information on changes to services and programs.



HAVE A COMPLAINT?

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