



Staff Report

Report To: Council Meeting
From: Magda Badura, CAO/Treasurer
Date: 2024-05-09
Subject: West Lorne Sewer – Fiberoptic Services

Recommendation:

That West Elgin Council hereby receives the report from M. Badura, CAO/Treasurer for information; and That West Elgin council authorizes the signing of an agreement with North Frontenac Telephone Corporation Ltd. for a five-year term at a rate of \$225.00 per month plus applicable taxes.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to obtain reliable high-speed internet connection for the West Lorne sewage treatment facility located at 25030 Thomson Line, West Lorne.

Background:

In 2021, municipal staff and the Ontario Clean Water Agency approached North Frontenac Telephone Corporation Ltd. (NFTC) to request the installation of a fiber optic line extending 1 km from Graham Road to the West Lorne Sewage Plant. At that time, the estimated capital cost for this project was \$75,000.00. The municipal council approved this capital cost in the 2022 budget, and the request was submitted to NFTC. However, NFTC was unable to commit to the project due to resource constraints and timing, leading us to understand that the project was cancelled.

Recently, NFTC has proposed to move forward with the fiber optic connection to the sewage plant. There will be no capital cost to the municipality, but NFTC requires a commitment for a 5-year term at a monthly rate of \$225 plus applicable taxes.

The fiber connection is essential for the efficient operation of the SCADA system at the plant. Currently, the plant relies on archaic dial-up connection that significantly hinder program efficiency. Upgrading to high-speed internet will enable faster report retrieval and improve the responsiveness of real-time monitoring system. Additionally, given the rapid evolution of technology, this upgrade will allow us to accommodate additional applications and streamline remote access more effectively.

Based on the above considerations, staff recommends signing the agreement with NFTC to proceed with the fiber optic connection, which will greatly enhance the operational capabilities of our SCADA system.

Financial Implications:

The monthly internet cost was not accounted for in the 2024 West Lorne Sewage Operating Budget. If the council decides to proceed with the recommended option, the overall transfer to reserves will be decreased by approximately \$1,350.00.

Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

Infrastructure Improvement	Recreation	Economic Development	Community Engagement
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To improve West Elgin’s infrastructure to support long-term growth.	<input type="checkbox"/> To provide recreation and leisure activities to attract and retain residents.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To ensure a strong economy that supports growth and maintains a lower cost of living.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To enhance communication with residents.

Respectfully submitted by,

Magda Badura
 CAO/Treasurer

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	West Lorne Sewage - Fiberoptic service - 2024-11-Administration Finance.docx
Attachments:	- NFTC - 50MB - West Elgin 25030 Thompson Line.pdf
Final Approval Date:	May 3, 2024

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Terri Towstiuć