



MUNICIPALITY OF **West Elgin**

Staff Report

Report To: Council Meeting
From: Magda Badura, CAO/Treasurer
Date: 2020-12-17
Subject: 2020 Completed Projects and Initiatives

Recommendation:

That West Elgin Council hereby receives the report from Magda Badura, CAO/Treasurer re: 2020 Completed Projects for information purposes.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a recap of all the projects and initiatives completed or initiated during 2020.

Background:

Council and Staff managed to complete a fair number of projects and initiatives despite a very challenging 2020.

West Lorne Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades – Completed in March 2020, the redevelopment of the West Lorne Wastewater Treatment Plant was a \$2.7 million project equally funded by the Federal, Provincial and Municipal governments through the Small Community Grant.

Website – Launched on May 31, 2020, the redesign of the municipal website was a project that began in October of 2019 and continued with staff and Council input until the launch. This new website conforms to the AODA requirements that are set to take effect in January 2021. Funding for the redeveloped website was granted through the Municipal Efficiencies Grant.

Organizational Review – West Elgin Council initiated an organizational review in November 2019 and this resulted in the creation of one new position and the re-deployment of staff to find efficiencies. This review was partially funded through the Municipal Modernization Grant.

Accessible Playground in Miller Park – West Elgin partnered with the West Lorne Optimist Club who, were able to purchase a accessible playground structure through a Provincial Trillium Grant and fundraising campaign, to install this new equipment in Miller Park.

Hiring of new Fire Chief – In March 2020, West Elgin Council approved the creation of a recruitment committee for a part-time Fire Chief for West Elgin Fire Department. The result of this recruitment process was a shared services agreement with the Municipality of Southwold for the services of a part time Fire Chief.

Municipal Wide Curbside Garbage & Recycling Collection – in January 2020 Council held a public information session regarding the possibility of expanding curbside collection of garbage and

recycling to all residential properties in West Elgin. In June 2020 Council approved the expanding curbside collection to all residential properties in West Elgin, with collection beginning August 3, 2020,

Community Engagement – In January 2020, Council hosted two public information sessions on possible initiatives for residents, Municipal Wide Curbside Garbage & Recycling Collection and Rural Waterline Connections. In February 2020 Council approved a Social Media Policy and instructed staff to create a Municipal Facebook Page. There have been numerous inserts included in utility bills and mailout of information to residents, all in an effort to increase community engagement.

Spruce Up West Elgin Tree Giveaway – the Municipality, in cooperation with Lower Thames Conservation Authority purchased a total of 300 saplings to give to West Elgin Residents to help increase our tree coverage. Starting in March 2020 residents could sign up for one of the free trees with the pick-up day in May 2020 which included COVID-19 protocols.

Pandemic Response – In March 2020, the Global Pandemic was declared, municipal staff and Council worked hard to address the needs of the community and the safety of staff and residents. The Emergency Control Group and staff responded by continuing to provide services to residents through these unique circumstances.

- Council adapted to meet virtually starting in March of 2020
- Staff brought together all recreational trailer parks within West Elgin in order to share signage and information on the closure and re-opening of recreation trailer parks as well as act as a resource source for COVID-19.
- Staff developed policies and procedures to maintain municipal services and provide recreational services to the public, including developing waivers and check lists for all facility rentals as restrictions eased.
- Staff adapted to provide contactless payment options and curbside delivery of some services such as Marriage Licenses, commissioning of documentation and payment of accounts receivable prior to office re-opening to the public in June 2020.
- Staff worked with the two other Service Ontario locations to co-ordinate re-opening of the offices.
- Staff partnered with Dutton Dunwich for Municipal Hazardous waste day, with COVID-19 precautions in August 2020
- Council resumed many committee meetings, mainly virtually in June 2020
- Council resumed in person, public meetings in August, with social distancing and masking rules in effect.
- Staff resumed performing marriage ceremonies in July, with a total of 9 outdoor ceremonies performed.

There were a number of other Capital and smaller projects that were initiated in 2020, such as road paving, waterline replacements on Todd Place and Chestnut/Wood Streets, cast iron watermain replacement in Rodney, purchase of the fish cleaning station, mould remediation at the West Elgin Community Complex, resurfacing of the tennis courts, installation of keyless entry in municipal facilities, replacement of the filter in the West Elgin Community Pool, lighting retrofit at the West Lorne Complex and the consultation and engineering of the septic system at the Port Glasgow Trailer Park.

West Elgin staff also applied for a number of grants in 2020 such as the Enabling Accessibility Fund, Canadian Tire Jump Start Accessibility Fund, Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Old Town Hall in Rodney, Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Black’s Road Bridge Reconstruction, Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Green Stream – Rodney Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades, Safe Restart- Municipal Operations Grant, Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Transit – Four Counties Transit Bus Replacement, Municipal Modernization Grant, to name a few.