

COUNTY OF RENFREW

DEVELOPMENT AND PROPERTY DEPARTMENT REPORT

TO: Development and Property Committee

FROM: Craig Kelley, Director of Development and Property

DATE: November 24, 2020

SUBJECT: Department Report

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream**

Recommendation: THAT the Development and Property amend Resolution No. DP-C-20-11-72 passed on November 10, 2020 which reads “That the County of Renfrew apply to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) – COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream for renovation of the Council Chambers for required physical and technical infrastructure to ensure compliance with COVID-19 health advice that would allow County Council to continue to operate in Council Chambers” to have the application redirected to the Algonquin Trail as it has been deemed an appropriate project for nomination towards such a program.

Background

At the November 10, 2020 meeting of the Development and Property Committee Resolution No. DP-C-20-11-72 was passed recommending that the County of Renfrew apply to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) – COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream for renovation of the Council Chambers.

Attached as Appendix I is the submission package for the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure funding stream. You will note that applications are to be submitted by December 21, 2020, but that they still must be nominated to the Federal government for approval. Project costs are eligible only if they are incurred after federal approval. Funding decisions

are expected to be announced in Spring 2021, pending federal approval timelines. No work must be started prior to approval. Applicants are advised not to start the project or award any tenders for any portion of their project to avoid the potential risk of the federal government deeming their entire project ineligible, should it be approved by the Province and nominated to the federal government.

This timeline would delay the necessary upgrades of the County Council chambers to an undetermined future date, restricting us from taking advantage of our current contractor who is on site completing Service Improvement Delivery Project upgrades. It was hoped that the Council Chambers would be made ready much earlier in the year than later Spring 2021. Previously, Council had put forward a motion for upgrades to the Council Chambers to be paid out of the Provision for Unallocated Funds. That opportunity still exists and would allow staff to work with our architect and contractors to design and provide estimates for the space.

Given recent deputations at Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and other venues, the Algonquin Trail has been deemed an appropriate project for nomination towards such a program. While the County of Renfrew made a presentation to the various ministries for a much larger ICIP Resilience Stream funding request, the County's cap of \$255,699 would allow County staff to proceed with the application of stone dust to the trail, as provided to us by the Ministry of Transportation in the area north of Petawawa as a Highway 17 bike lane alternative route, for an additional estimated 10km-15km of completed trail.

The Province will be sharing details about the Investing in Canada Infrastructure fund for Long-Term Care (LTC) homes shortly. The allocation we received for our municipality (i.e. \$255,000) does not include the funding that will be provided specifically for LTC homes.

2. Council Chambers Renovations – County Administration Building

Recommendation: THAT the Development and Property Committee recommend that County Council direct staff to proceed with the design and concept for the necessary physical and technical upgrades to the Council Chambers.

Background

Attached as Appendix II is a copy of +VG Architects' proposed design for the Council Chamber. It is proposed that the horseshoe outline would remain the same with the furniture to be refinished and 3-sided Plexiglas dividers installed at each councillor desk location. All audio visual equipment would be upgraded and new acoustic panels installed. The design plan also includes the technology to live stream and record all committee and council meetings, along with a number of required audio and system upgrades to adapt to the new layout. Director Craig Kelley is awaiting estimates for this work, and will present them at the time of the meeting.

BY-LAWS

3. Funding Agreement to Support Enterprise Renfrew County and Small Businesses and Entrepreneurs

Recommendation: THAT the Development and Property Committee recommend that County Council adopt a By-law to enter into a Conditional Flow Through Grant Agreement Small Business Enterprise Centres (SBEC) between the County of Renfrew (Enterprise Renfrew County) and the Business Advisory Centre Durham Inc., Whitby, Ontario to secure \$32,000 of special funding being provided to Small Business Enterprise Centres (SBEC) by the Province of Ontario and available to Enterprise Renfrew County.

Background

Enterprise Renfrew County (ERC) is a Small Business Enterprise Centre (SBEC) operating in the Small Business Enterprise Centre Network (SBEC) of 47 SBECs supported by the Province of Ontario. The COVID-19 crisis created the need for all SBEC small business and entrepreneur support programs to be delivered remotely and on-line. Further, many operating and past small business client businesses have reached out to ERC for assistance to navigate the new challenges of restricted operating conditions in the COVID-19 environment.

This has resulted in a greatly increased need for specialized service delivery of business coaching and mentoring and the need to develop new tools for on-line learning and networking amongst our entrepreneurs and with our staff and subject matter experts.

The SBEC provincial network, recognizing these challenges, coordinated a plan of action and a request to the Province of Ontario for additional specific funding to support investments in creating Virtual Business Advisor tools and resources to support hiring additional subject matter consultants as Business Advisors. This request was received positively and a special funding allotment is being provided to the SBEC Network. This funding will be distributed to all participating Ontario SBECs through the Business Advisory Centre Durham (BACD) of the Regional Municipality of Durham.

This new funding will assist the SBEC Network and ERC to expand the capacity of virtual business advisory services and improve access to funding, crucial information and comprehensive resources to equip businesses to respond to COVID-19 and to sustain and grow through the recovery phase and into the future. This funding must be utilized by September 30, 2021 and will be in addition to the regular funding provided annually to ERC to support Core administration and activities and the Starter Company Plus and Summer Company programs.

ERC will utilize their allotment of \$32,000 to:

- Contract additional business subject matter experts in the areas of finance, marketing, sales, business law, health and safety, human resources, insurance, social media and management to provide coaching sessions to clients.
- Record key presentations for wider re-use, broadcast and sharing on-line with additional clients through the COVID-19 crisis and beyond.
- Deploy a range of on-line learning platforms and deliver a series of webinars.
- Subscribe to a Client Management System to effectively monitor client engagement and results of this model of service delivery and to evaluate presenters, content and value to ERC clients.