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STAFF REPORT: Finance and IT Services



REPORT TO: Council
MEETING DATE: September 8, 2014
REPORT NO.: FIT.14.56
SUBJECT: Small Communities Fund – Expression of Interest
PREPARED BY: Ruth Prince, Manager of Revenue
 Sam Dinsmore, Financial Analyst

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report FIT.14.56, entitled “Small Communities Fund – Expression of Interest” for information purposes;

AND THAT the Town of The Blue Mountains has a comprehensive asset management plan that includes all of the information and analysis described in “Building Together: Guide for Municipal Asset Management Plans” in place or will have in place by December 31, 2014;

AND THAT the comprehensive asset management plan will be publically available by December 31, 2015;

AND THAT the Clarksburg Water and Wastewater Servicing Project be put forward in this application.

B. Background

On August 18, 2014 the Province announced the intake of applications for the Federal Government’s Small Communities Fund (SCF), which will provide \$272 million from both the federal and provincial governments.

Program Highlights for the SCF are as follows:

- Expressions of Interest (EOI) are due September 19, 2014.
- Eligible projects include highways and major roads, drinking water, wastewater, public transit, solid waste management, green energy, innovation, connectivity and broadband, brownfield remediation and redevelopment, disaster mitigation, local/regional airports, short-line rail and short sea shipping projects.
- Only one project can be submitted.
- Maximum federal and provincial contribution will be 2/3 of the total eligible costs of a project.
- Eligible applicants that successfully pass the EOI stage will be provided with an application package and will have a minimum of 30 days to complete application forms. Applications will be due in December 2014.

The majority of the funding will be available to address urgent public health and safety issues or to maintain public health and safety in the long-term. The program supports

projects that have been identified as priorities in municipal asset management plans and applicants with challenging economic conditions and limited fiscal flexibility. Additional consideration will also be given to applicants who are making significant infrastructure investments.

The Clarksburg Water and Wastewater Servicing Project has been identified as the project Staff wish to apply for. This project fits the health and safety guidelines as wells and septic beds are not as safe and reliable as being connected to municipal services. Without this type of funding, the Town would not be able to move forward with this project because of the high cost that is almost 100% Development Charges and Local Improvement. This funding would make this project affordable to all residents in the Clarksburg Service Area.

C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

Strategic Goal #2

Addressing the Town's municipal infrastructure needs

2.1 Identifying existing deficiencies in the current municipal infrastructure.

Strategic Goal #5

Ensuring long-term financial sustainability

5.4 Develop a capital asset management plan.

D. Financial Impact

Should the Town be successful in receiving grant funding to offset capital costs, the potential savings could be \$12 million. This grant would allow the Town to service the Clarksburg Area, as without any funding this project is not affordable for the residents. The remaining cost of the project will be funded from Development Charges and Local Improvements.

E. In Consultation With

Senior Management Team

F Attached

N/A

Respectfully submitted,

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