

STAFF REPORT: ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

REPORT TO: Infrastructure and Recreation
 Committee

MEETING DATE: November 13, 2012

REPORT NO.: EPW.12.090

SUBJECT: Ontario One Call System Update

PREPARED BY: John Caswell, Manager of Water &
 Wastewater Services/Asst. Director

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Report EPW.12.090 entitled “Ontario One Call System Update” for their information.

B. Background

Bill 8, *The Ontario Underground Infrastructure Notification System Act, 2012*, was ratified on June 19, 2012. Bill 8 establishes a not-for-profit, single point-of-contact call system for all underground infrastructure location services in Ontario.

The new industry-led one call system provides homeowners, surveyors, and contractors with a single number to ensure underground utilities are notified about digs needing to be marked. This eliminates the need for the many time consuming calls that needed to be made to utility owners and operators. The burden of co-ordinating locates among multiple utility providers often stalls progress, consumes valuable resources, and increases project costs. These costs ultimately get passed on to consumers and taxpayers. This new one call system will streamline the locate process, helping to keep projects moving and increase safety for workers utility.

One Call and The Town of The Blue Mountains

This passing of Bill 8 does not alter the Town’s involvement with One Call immediately. In June 2010, Council approved Report EPW.10.040 ‘Ontario One Call Membership for the Water and Wastewater Locates’ recommending that the Town execute the Ontario One Call Membership Agreement to become a member.

Currently the Administrative Assistant for Water and Wastewater Services manages the incoming locate requests. Attachment #1 outlines the flow when a request is received from Ontario One Call. In order to cut down on service duplication, the Water and Wastewater Division operate on a 14 (fourteen) day rotating locate schedule. When the Water Section is on locate duty, Water Operators receive and complete all incoming locate requests for both water and wastewater infrastructure; similarly when the Wastewater Section is on duty.

It is estimated that each locate takes between 30 minutes and 1 hour to complete from start to finish, including time to perform the locate, create the service drawing, enter the information into a tracking sheet and send out the locate confirmation to the requestor. To mid October 2012, the Town has received about 700 requests from One Call. The Town received a total of 1270 requests in 2011.

Future Involvement with One Call

The Town owns a significant number of street lights energized with underground services. As necessary, the Town hires an independent electrical contractor to undertake the locates. Furthermore, there are many areas of the Town that have storm sewers and catch basins. This infrastructure also requires locating from time to time by the Roads and Drainage Division. The challenge with both street lights and storm sewers is the Town's incomplete records and resources available.

It is a goal of the Engineering and Public Works Department to continually improve the Town's locating services for the above noted infrastructure. Although changes to the locate process have reduced duplication of services, additional efficiency measures to further simplify and improve the locate system still need to be defined and implemented. Additionally, a strategy for improving the Town's GIS database of underground infrastructure will be considered in order to adequately manage locate requests.

At this point there is no impact to the Town's current One Call process with the passing of Bill 8. At some point, however, mapping charges may apply if Ontario One Call's mapping department requires more information and an update to the maps provided by the Town.

C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

The Ontario One Call System Update aligns with the Strategic Plan Goal # 2, "Addressing the Town's Municipal Infrastructure needs".

D. Environmental Impacts

None

E. Financial Impact

None

F. In Consultation With

None

G. Attached

Attachment #1- One Call Flow Sheet

Respectfully submitted,

John Caswell

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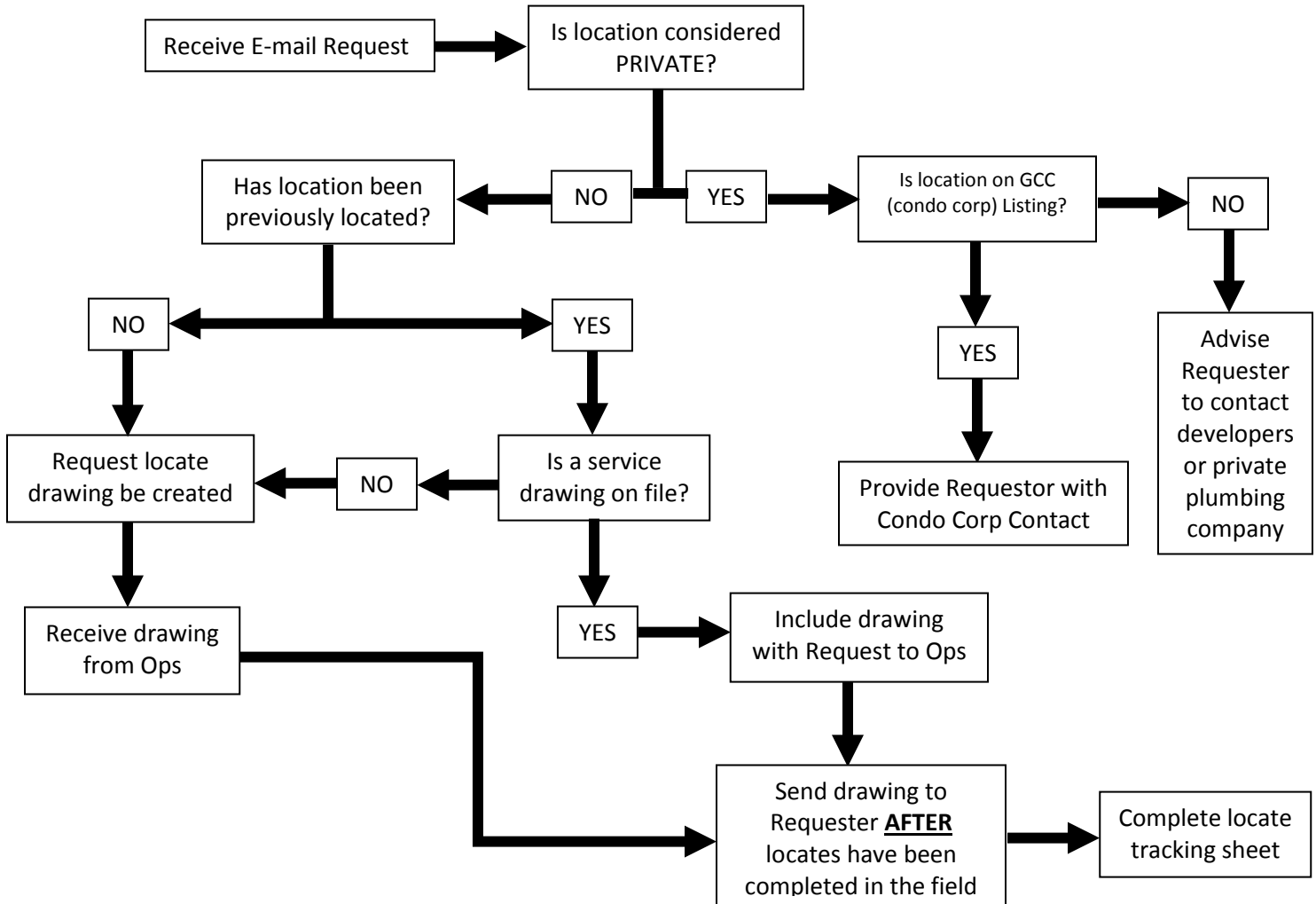
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Locate Process

STANDARD REQUESTS:



SERVICE DRAWING REQUIREMENTS

- Clearly labeled civic address
- Accurate measurements to at least 2 permanent reference points (ie. hydro pole)
- Include both existing water & wastewater services

NOTE: Providing photocopies of engineered drawings are only acceptable for large scale locates and locate areas that are not specific to a civic address (ie. intersections)