

STAFF REPORT: ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT



REPORT TO: **Infrastructure & Recreation Committee**
MEETING DATE: **January 12, 2010**
REPORT NO.: **EPW.10.006**
SUBJECT: **Clarksburg Servicing Update**
PREPARED BY: **John Caswell, Manager of Water & Wastewater Services/Asst. Director**

A. Recommendation

THAT Council receives Staff Report EPW.10.006 entitled “Clarksburg Servicing Update” for their information.

B. Background

Subsequent to the Town being unsuccessful in obtaining Building Canada Funding for Water and Wastewater Servicing in Clarksburg, Report EPW.09.040 (Revised) was presented to Infrastructure and Recreation Committee on April 28, 2009. The report included approval for Staff to assist residents of Clarksburg in investigating interim alternative servicing arrangements. It also approved Staff to issue an RFP to retain the services of a Consultant to provide a review of water quality in the Beaver River and to investigate and determine the location of wells and septic systems on each property in Clarksburg.

The Clarksburg resident groups, over recent months have investigated communal Wastewater Treatment Systems. On November 10, 2009 Town Staff, along with Councilor John McGee, met with the group to review a concept submission.

The Town met with the Ministry of Environment (MOE) on December 8, 2009 to discuss the possibility of implementing communal Wastewater Treatment System(s) for Clarksburg. The MOE will be able to support a communal system either privately or publically owned subject to meeting all the legislative requirements. The requirements that the MOE have indicated are as follows:

1. Retain a Professional Engineer
2. Undertake a Class C Environmental Assessment (EA) if a new treatment system is anticipated. A Class B Environmental Assessment has been completed that recommended the extension of municipal servicing. Extensive Consultation will be needed as part of the EA with all agencies and First Nations
3. A preliminary assimilative study on the Beaver River will have to be done to ensure the river can handle the effluent. If the results are non-conducive, an even more in-depth study may be necessary
4. Design preparation
5. Certificate of Approval to construct and operate the facility

The MOE indicated that there wouldn't be significant hurdles as long as the EA and necessary studies prove adequate treatment and appropriate discharge.

There were earlier discussions with a residents group regarding Point of Use (POU) water treatment products such as Ultraviolet Irradiation or Reverse Osmosis for individual wells. The ownership and ongoing maintenance of a communal system was briefly discussed and the residents were made aware that there would be a substantial capital and maintenance cost. It may not be less than a traditional municipal system. The Town will not have to be the operator of a private system because there are independent companies that employ licensed water and wastewater treatment operators.

Staff will continue to work with the residents and make them aware of discussions from meeting with the MOE. A meeting with the residents groups has been arranged for January 21st 2010.

C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

Providing assistance to the residents to service Clarksburg, will assist in the Town's Strategic Plan goal #2 "Addressing the Town's Municipal Infrastructure needs".

D. Environmental Impacts

The addressing of well water quality issues and septic issues in Clarksburg will have a positive impact on the Beaver River. This would improve the resident's drinking water quality.

E. Budget Impact

The proposed 2010 Water and Wastewater budgets include \$10,000 each for initial investigation of interim Water and Wastewater Servicing options in Clarksburg. The Class EA and design activities will require additional funding.

F. Attached

None

Respectfully submitted

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