A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report FAF.19.259 entitled “Investing in Canada Infrastructure: Green Stream”;

AND THAT Council direct staff to submit an application for the tertiary upgrade at the Thornbury Wastewater Treatment Plant.

B. Overview

This report outlines options for Council’s consideration for potential projects for the Town to apply to under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure: Green Stream.

C. Background

In October 2019, the province released the third stream under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Grant Program. The first stream was the Rural and Northern Grant which focused on road infrastructure. The Town applied for the Thornbury Road Improvement Project, being a combination of the Elma and Alice Street reconstruction and the Louisa and Victoria Street reconstruction projects. The Town was unsuccessful in that application.

The second stream was the Community, Culture and Recreation Stream. This grant was a bit different than most as eligible entities were encouraged to submit multiple applications and simply rank them. The Town submitted for renovations at the Craigleith Heritage Depot, Beaver Valley Community Centre and the LE Shore Memorial Library, in that order. The Town has not heard back from the application.

The third stream is the Green Stream and focuses on water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure. The Town is applying for funding to provide tertiary treatment to Thornbury Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP).

Currently, the Thornbury WWTP is an extended aeration treatment facility with equipment that meets the standard of secondary treatment. The approval to operate the facility given through
the province in the form of the Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA), requires that the current ECA of the treatment plant’s effluent limits meet the criteria of tertiary treatment facility. The effluent limits are dictated by the receiving body where the plant discharges to. This plant discharges to the Beaver River, which is a cold water fishery. The Beaver River is considered a sensitive receiver and therefore the Town is required to upgrade the plant to tertiary treatment. Staff feel that this is an appropriate project to apply for as it meets all three of the Province’s criteria.

D. Analysis

Basic Information for the Green Stream grant application:

- Priority given to projects that address critical health and safety issues
  - Increase capacity to treat and/or manage wastewater and stormwater
  - Increase access to potable water
- Applications due by January 22, 2020
- Funding Split is Federal – 40%, Provincial – 33.33% and Town – 26.67%
- Maximum Project Cost is $3M (or $2,199,900 in grants)
- Internal staff salaries and benefits are not eligible expenses
- Project must be completed by March 31, 2027

New to this grant application is an additional form, *ICIP Aboriginal Consultant and Environmental Assessment Smart Form*. This form will be used by the Federal government to determine if there are any federal environmental assessment requirements and/or any requirements to consult with Indigenous Groups.

The Province will be using the following three criteria for the project assessment and staff have used these criteria to determine which projects offer the Town the best chance at being successful.

1. Initial Technical Review – Scope, eligibility, technical review. Projects must meet eligibility requirements, be technically viable and be achievable in the given timeframe.
2. Criticality of Health and or Safety Risk – Health and safety aspects of the project will be evaluated based on technical assessment criteria. The review will also fall back on the standards, policies and requirements of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.
3. Funding Need – Project will be assessed according to their relative funding needs, including the cost per person serviced by water and wastewater. Median Household income and weighted property assessment per household. Applicants with greater funding needs will be more competitive; however, they must demonstrate the ability to fund their portion and any potential over-runs.

According to Stats Canada the Town has the following median incomes:

- Median Total Income of Households - $78,490
- Median after-tax income of Households - $68,518
- Median Total Income of 1-person Households - $42,112
- Median after-tax of 1-person household - $36,992
• Median Total Income of 2 or more-person Households - $96,796
• Median after-tax of 2 or more-person household - $83,021

MPAC Weighted Property Assessment per Household (2019) - $540,000

These stats were given as information for Council and the Public.

E. The Blue Mountains Strategic Plan

The Blue Mountains Strategic Plan

Goal #4: Promote a Culture of Organizational and Operational Excellence
Objective #4: To Be a Financially Responsible Organization

F. Environmental Impacts

Providing tertiary treatment at the Thornbury WWTP will improve the effluent quality being discharged into the Beaver River reducing the possibility of negative impact on the aquatic life in the river.

G. Financial Impact

Staff will be requesting the full $3M for the tertiary upgrades. If successful the Town will receive a Federal grant of $1.2M, a Province grant of $999,900 leaving $800,100 to be funded by the Town. The Town portion will be funded from the Wastewater Asset Replacement Reserve Fund.

H. In consultation with

Ruth Prince, Director of Finance and IT Services
Shawn Carey, Director of Operations
Allison Kershaw, Manager of Water and Wastewater

I. Public Engagement

The topic of this Staff Report has not been subject to a Public Meeting and/or a Public Information Centre as neither a Public Meeting nor a Public Information Centre are required. Comments regarding this report should be submitted to Sam Dinsmore, Deputy Treasurer/Manager of Accounting and Budgets at finance@thebluemountains.ca.
J. Attached

None.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Sam Dinsmore
Deputy Treasurer/Manager of Accounting and Budgets

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Ruth Prince
Director of Finance and IT Services

For more information, please contact:
Sam Dinsmore
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