

COUNCIL REPORT

Meeting Date: October 16, 2023
Department: Engineering & Public Works
Report No.: EPW-2023-59
Prepared by: Steve Morriss, Drainage Superintendent
Submitted by: Jake Straus, Director, Engineering and Public Works
Approved by: Trisha McKibbin, Chief Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: Boersma-Burwell Road Drain 2023 – Report Consideration Meeting

RECOMMENDATION: THAT: Council adopt the Engineer's Report for the Boersma-Burwell Road Drain 2023; and further

THAT: Provisional By-law No. 75-23 for the project be referred to the Consideration of By-laws section of the agenda for first and second reading.

BACKGROUND:

A petition for new drainage works under section 4 of the Drainage Act was received by the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc on February 18, 2022. Council accepted the petition on April 4, 2022 and appointed Spriet Associates Ltd. to prepare the engineer's report.

The required on-site meeting was held on July 12, 2022 with the affected landowners to discuss the petition where information was exchanged at that time and through later discussions. Landowners expressed that the area is currently served by a private main tile which does not provide a proper drainage outlet. Landowners requested that a new municipal drain be constructed to replace the existing private tile

The engineer conducted investigations of the existing conditions on March 17, 2023 with further data collected on April 14, 2023. The results determined that the affected watershed does not have a legal sub-surface or surface drain and is relying on an aged private drain tile. Investigations further confirmed that the private tile is undersized for today's standards and in poor working condition.

On September 7, 2023 the municipality held an informal public meeting to present the preliminary design and cost distribution prepared by the engineers. Further input by the affected landowners was provided at that time.

COMMENTS:

Municipal drains have been a fixture of rural Ontario's infrastructure since the 1800's. Most municipal drains were constructed to improve the drainage of agricultural land by serving as the discharge point for private agricultural tile drainage systems. However, they also remove excess water collected by roadside ditches, residential lots, institutions, industrial lands, commercial lands and any other properties in rural areas. Drains are a vital component of the local infrastructure. Without them, many areas of the rural area would be subjected to regular flooding, reduced production from agricultural land and increased public health risks.

Most municipal drains are constructed on private lands and each drain is adopted under a By-Law when established. The Drainage Act provides access for drainage to have a legal outlet. Downstream landowners must accept flow of water from upstream landowners and must not impede or block the flow of water. As a result, downstream drains are larger and deeper on abutting property owners. Upstream landowners must contribute to the costs of downstream landowners for the allowance of a legal outlet. The landowners including road authorities (municipalities) and public utilities (Hydro One, Union Gas), within the defined drainage watershed, contribute for the construction of the municipal drain and the on-going maintenance of the drain.

CONSULTATION:

This report was reviewed in consultation with:

- Director, Engineering and Public Works – Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc
- Manager of Public Works – Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc
- Drainage Superintendent – Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc
- Spriet Associates Ltd.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

- Schedule of Net Assessment included in the report.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This matter is in accord with the following strategic priorities:

- **Local Infrastructure** - Households and businesses in Strathroy-Caradoc are supported by reliable, financially responsible and well-maintained infrastructure networks.

ATTACHEMENTS:

- Spriet Associates Ltd. - Report and Plans on the Boersma-Burwell Road Drain 2023
- Provisional By-Law 75-23 – Boersma-Burwell Road Drain 2023