

Meeting Date: January 15, 2024
Department: Engineering & Public Works
Report No.: EPW-2024-03
Prepared by: Steve Morriss, Drainage Superintendent
Submitted by: Jake Straus, Director of Engineering and Public Works
Approved by: Trisha McKibbin, Chief Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: Winters Drain 2023 – Court of Revision

RECOMMENDATION: THAT: Report EPW-2024-03 Winters Drain 2023 – Court of Revision be received for information; and further, THAT: Subject to any appeals, provisional By-law No. 92-23 be referred to the Consideration of By-laws section of the agenda for third and final reading.

BACKGROUND:

A Request for Major Drain Improvement was received by the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc for the Winters Drain 1967 on January 14, 2022. Council accepted the petition on February 7, 2022 and appointed Spriet Associates Ltd. to prepare the engineer's report.

The Winters Drain was originally constructed pursuant to a report submitted by A.S. Code, O.L.S. dated August 10, 1927. The drain was later reconstructed pursuant to another report submitted by A.J. DeVos, P. Eng. dated May 15, 1967. The existing drain extends southeast from the McEvoy Drain 2008 just west of the centre of Lot 15, Concession 4. The drain continues in this direction crossing under Falconbridge Drive into Lot 15, Concession 3. It turns east and north running parallel to the road allowance before continuing southeast in the west half of Lot 16, Concession 3 then continuing until its end in the northwest part of Lot 16, Concession 3.

The required on site meeting was held on May 18, 2022 where landowners reported that the existing drain is not working properly and requires frequent maintenance. The drain is located close to a forested area where roots frequently plug the drain. Due to the installation of the major gas main along Falconbridge Drive the tile has been damaged in several areas and although repairs have been completed, replacement of this length of tile has been recommended. The engineer attended site to complete investigations of the existing drain on May 12, 2022, and July 14, 2023 with additional data collected on October 26, 2023. Site investigations confirmed that the existing tile is in poor working conditions and heavily plugged with roots.

On May 30, 2023 the municipality held an informal public meeting to present the preliminary design and cost distribution prepared by the engineers to the assessed landowners where further input was provided at that time. A second preliminary meeting was held with some of the assessed landowners on June 12, 2023. One landowner expressed a need for a direct connection to the existing drain to service his lands and a petition under Section 4 of the Drainage Act was received by the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc on June 27, 2023 to construct a new branch as part of this project.

On December 4, 2023, Council held the statutory meeting to consider the final engineer's report and to adopt the report by by-law where Council then gave the first and second reading for by-law #92-23.

COMMENTS:

The purpose of this meeting is to provide landowners an opportunity to appeal their assessment under Section 46 of the *Drainage Act*. Assessed owners are requested to provide in writing a minimum of ten days prior to the meeting their appeal so that the Engineer can review and provide comment at the court. At this time, no appeals have been submitted.

CONSULTATION:

This report was reviewed in consultation with:

- Drainage Superintendent – Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc
- Manager of Public Works

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

- Schedule of Net Assessment included in the report.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This matter is in accord with the following strategic priorities:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

- Spriet & Associates Engineering Report on the Winters Drain 2023
- Provisional By-Law 92-23 – Winters Drain 2023