

Meeting Date: April 2, 2024
Department: Finance Department
Report No.: FIN-2024-10
Submitted by: Bill Dakin – Director of IT/Finance-Treasurer
Approved by: Trisha McKibbin - Chief Administrative Office

SUBJECT: Chippewas of the Thames First Nation Lands to be Added to the Reserve

RECOMMENDATION: THAT: Council receive report FIN-2024-10 for information, and further; **THAT:** Treasurer and the CAO be authorized to work with the Chippewas of The Thames First Nation (COTTFN) to expedite the transfer of the subject land to the Reserve; and further **THAT:** the Treasurer and Tax Collector be authorized to designate the subject property as municipally exempt from property tax until such time as the Order in Council is received designating the subject lands as Reserve lands thus alleviating the need of future exemption.

BACKGROUND:

The subject property's listed below are currently held by a numbered company of the COTTFN awaiting formal addition to the Reserve:

Parcel #'s:

1. Part Lot 17, Range 1, SLR, Strathroy-Caradoc; 95.41 Acres
2. Part Lot 7, Range 1, NLR, Strathroy-Caradoc; 49.08 Acres
3. 20923 Burwell Road, Strathroy-Caradoc; 196.86 Acres
4. Part Lot D, WMR, Strathroy-Caradoc; 50.92 Acres
5. Part Lot D, WMR, Strathroy-Caradoc; 85.42 Acres

CHIPPEWAS OF THE THAMES

Recently, we received an email request from Kodi Chrisjohn-Deleary, Consultation Engagement Specialist from Chippewas of the Thames First Nation. COTTFN has upcoming meetings with Minister Hajdu to explore ways to expedite the process to add land to the Reserve.

COMMENTS:

ADDITIONS TO RESERVE

This will take some time (and maybe years) to have a certified true copy of Order in Council from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. Until this Order in Council from INAC is officially completed, MPAC, Municipal Assessment Department, stated this property will remain in Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc and it will be assessed at residential taxable.

MUNICIPAL PORTION - MUNICIPALITY OF STRATHROY-CARADOC

Strathroy-Caradoc Council has the authority to exempt the municipal portion of the property taxes only if they so choose.

COUNTY PORTION - MIDDLESEX COUNTY

FROM MUNICIPAL ACT, S.C. 2001, C. 25 from Section 311.

Instalments, counties

[\(13\)](#) In each year, a lower-tier municipality in a county shall pay amounts to the upper-tier municipality in the following instalments:

1. 25 per cent of the amount required to be raised by the lower-tier municipality for upper-tier purposes in the previous year, on or before March 31.
2. 50 per cent of the amount required to be raised by the lower-tier municipality for upper-tier purposes in the current year, less the amount of the instalment paid under paragraph 1, on or before June 30.
3. 25 per cent of such current amount, on or before September 30.
4. The balance of the entitlement for the year, on or before December 15. 2001, c. 25, s. 311 (13).

We have spoken with Mr. Chrisjohn-Deeary and informed him that an exemption from the County levy would require the County to pass a similar exemption by-law.

EDUCATION PORTION – THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD and LONDON and DISTRICT CATHOLIC SCHOOL BOARD

FROM EDUCATION ACT, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.2

When amounts paid to boards

[257.11 \(1\)](#) In each calendar year, a municipality shall pay amounts levied for school purposes in the following instalments:

1. Twenty-five per cent of the amount levied for the previous calendar year, on or before March 31.

2. Fifty per cent of the amount levied for the current calendar year less the amount of the instalment under paragraph 1, on or before June 30.
3. Twenty-five per cent of the amount levied for the current calendar year, on or before September 30.
4. The balance of the amount levied for the current calendar year, on or before December 15. 1997, c. 31, s. 113 (2); 2006, c. 33, Sched. Z.3, s. 8 (19).

We have spoken with Mr. Chrisjohn-Deleary and informed him that an exemption from the School Board's Education Levy would require the Boards to pass a similar exemption by-law.

CONSULTATION:

Kodi Chrisjohn-Deleary – COTTFN

Trisha McKibbin, Chief Administrative Officer

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

As the subject lands are currently being farmed the municipality would be forgoing Agriculture property tax of approx. \$12,000/annum until such time as the subject lands are added to the Reserve.

ATTACHMENTS:

None.