

COUNCIL REPORT

Meeting Date: September 20, 2021
Department: Engineering & Public Works
Report No.: EPW-2021-23
Submitted by: Jake Straus, C.E.T. – Manager of Public Works
Approved by: Fred Tranquilli, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk
SUBJECT: **Stormwater Utility Feasibility Study RFP – Consultant Award**

RECOMMENDATION: THAT: Council award the project for the Stormwater Utility Feasibility Study RFP to Watson and Associates for the amount of \$149,840.00 plus HST.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This matter is in accord with the following strategic priorities:

- The continued focus on timely infrastructure upgrades supports the Corporate Mission for local infrastructure by effective, financially responsible and well-maintained infrastructure networks.

BACKGROUND:

At the November 2, 2020 Council Meeting a report was brought forward detailing the need to establish a Stormwater Utility Rate. The report highlighted the need for funding our existing and future Stormwater assets. Contained in the report was a full implementation of Stormwater user rates for urban residents within Strathroy-Caradoc. Council declined to implement the staff recommendation but agreed to fund the study which would identify the actual rate required to maintain current and future assets.

Municipal staff issued a request for proposal regarding the Stormwater Utility Feasibility Study to obtain a consultant to undertake this assessment and identify the true financial numbers behind our community's needs with respect to stormwater and future forecast.

In the Council Report noted above, the monthly rates using three municipalities within close geographical proximity were identified with their comparison Stormwater Utility Rates as follows:

- Middlesex Centre \$15.37 / Month
- Thames Centre \$ 5.10 / Month

- St. Thomas \$11.02 / Month

COMMENTS:

The Request for Proposal was posted publicly on the Bids & Tenders website on August 11, 2021. The RFP closed on September 2, 2021 with one submission received.

Municipal staff reviewed the submission and deemed the proposal acceptable. The recommendation is to award the proposal to the only bidder, Watson and Associates Ltd.

CONSULTATION:

The proposals were reviewed by:

- Manager of Public Works
- Director of Finance/Treasurer
- GIS / Asset Analyst

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The project will be funded from the 2021 approved capital budget of \$150,000.00 for a Stormwater Utility Rate Study. The total price including the non-refundable HST is \$152,387.28.

The additional \$2,387.28 over the approved budget will be funded from Public Works Capital Reserve.

ATTACHMENTS:

None.