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Date: May 29, 2020

To: Mayor and Council

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RE: Notification Process for Development and/or Redevelopment of
Communication & Broadcasting Facilities

Report No.: PS 2020-035

AIM

To provide the Mayor and Council will an overview of the notification process currently outlined in the Standard Operating Procedure for telecommunication tower installation requests.

BACKGROUND

At the September 9, 2019 Regular meeting of Council a delegation raised concerns over the installation of a telecommunication tower (cell tower) west of the residential area at the intersection of Mc Cain Side Road and County Road 50. This tower had been proposed and reviewed under the Industry Canada guidelines. These guidelines required that where a municipality has a review process in place the proponent must follow the necessary local process and obtain a letter of concurrence that the process has been completed. The process requires circulation to PAC. Once this is complete a final report is brought to Council and a recommendation made as to whether the required letter of concurrence will be issued. Council supported the recommendation for issuance of the letter in 2015 however construction did not proceed. In 2019 the proponent requested an updated letter of concurrence as Industry Canada only considered the letters valid for 3 years. A report was presented at the March 25, 2019 Regular meeting of Council outlining this renewal request and a new letter was issued.

DISCUSSION

The Town's telecommunication tower policy (Appendix A) was circulated to Council shortly after the September 9, 2019 meeting however a follow-up report was not brought forward. The main issue I believe is the notification process that is followed in the policy. The policy

requires the proponent to circulate, with the assistance of the Town, all landowners within 120 m of the proposed tower location. The policy outlines what is to be included by the proponent in the circulation for the proposed tower. The location in question is approximately 200 m from the nearest residential property owner in the area and as such these property owners would not have received notification. Based on the concerns of the delegation cell towers can have potential health impact on individuals living within a much wider area than that of the 120 m notification distance.

The purpose of the policy is:

To establish standard procedures which will enable the Municipality:

- To effectively participate in the review and public consultation process for the consideration of telecommunication and broadcasting facilities;
- &
- To formulate municipal comments based on acceptable goals and standards.

with the main goal:

To facilitate cooperation between the proponent and the Town of Kingsville in effort to allow for the siting of facilities which balance the demand for service and the impact on the community.

The circulation distance, based on the goals of the policy, were established mainly on land use compatibility and do not address potential health impacts. The Town policy could be updated to provide for a wider circulation however regardless of this the final approval of the location is determined by Industry Canada's assessment. Operation of the tower is also based on Industry Canada established standards. The letter of concurrence is simply official communication to Industry Canada that the proponent has followed the policy established by the local municipality.

Locating towers away from populated areas, while perhaps ideal and a good precaution, does not provide the necessary coverage of service that the majority of the population is looking for. Telecommunication service needs to be where the people are and unfortunately so do the towers based on current technology. Council has hear about the lack of quality internet service in Kingsville and quality telecommunication service is equally in demand. Tower locations have been based on a lack of coverage in a given area and is part of the information provided at the time of application.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

To become a leader in sustainable infrastructure renewal and development.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

An increase in the required circulation distance would add some minor expense to the application process for proposed telecommunication towers however, the fee remains adequate to cover this cost.

CONSULTATIONS

Management Staff

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

Receive the report on the communication/notification process for proposed telecommunication tower installations;

Direct Administration to increase the circulation distance in the current policy on telecommunication towers from 120 m to 300 m to provide information to a wider segment of the public.

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