



Date: August 14, 2023

To: Mayor and Council

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RE: Expense Update - 2023 Winter Ice Storm

INFORMATION REPORT

BACKGROUND

During emergencies, the Exceptions to the Competitive Process under *By-law 53-2022 to Regulate the Procurement of Goods and Services* allows the procurement of deliverables by the quickest and most cost-effective means possible. Nevertheless, the employee who authorizes the purchase must submit a report to the Council at the earliest opportunity to explain why they had to bypass the provisions of the Procurement By-law to secure the good or service.

DISCUSSION

On Thursday, February 23, 2023, Kingsville and its surrounding region experienced a severe winter ice storm that caused power outages, downed trees, and significant property damage. The Town's Community Control Group, led by the Mayor and Acting CAO (Director Wyma), convened to develop support strategies for the community. Some of the decisions made during the storm resulted in unplanned expenses, but they were necessary given the damage and impact on Kingsville residents. A summary of events is as follows:

- To help those who lost power, a warming station and internet hub were made available at Kingsville Arena;
- Town staff and equipment were deployed to clean branches in the Municipal Right-of-Way and in Municipal Parks;
- From February 24 to March 6, residents were encouraged to bring their branches to the roadside for Town staff and hired contractors to dispose of them.
- Tree Service Contractors were hired to remove damaged trees on public property and in Town-owned cemeteries and Parks;
- Town staff restored landscaping in the right-of-way, parks, and other properties.

Due to the high demand for service across Essex County and the limited number of capable contractors, a non-competitive process was used to hire some contractors for

the clean-up. The Town took this step to ensure that the clean-up work was completed quickly and efficiently, without compromising on safety or quality. Overall, staff's response to the winter ice storm was commendable, and it demonstrated their commitment to the well-being of Kingsville residents.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The extra cost of the contracted clean up and overtime hours of our internal staff to provide a consolidated and expedited effort to complete the work was approximately \$97,757. The dollar amount does not include the staff hours diverted during regular shifts or the subsequent overtime required to catch up on everyday business.

At this point, Financial Services is optimistic that the Town will be able to fund these unforeseen expenses within the existing 2023 operating budget. If necessary, Financial Services will recommend funding these expenses from the "Budget Stabilization Reserve" when we approach year-end.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

The storm caused quite a bit of damage to trees in the area, but according to the representatives from the Essex Region Conservation Authority, they don't think that the tree coverage was significantly decreased. Even so, the Tree Planting Program in Kingsville has a goal of improving natural vegetation and the tree canopy in the municipality.

CONSULTATIONS

Financial and IT Services

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