



Minutes

Rural Access to Broadband Internet Technology (RABIT) Task Force

Meeting Date: June 28, 2022
Meeting Time: 2:30 p.m.
Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting
Prepared by Kyra Dunlop, Deputy Clerk

A. Call to Order

- **Task Force Member Attendance**

Mayor Soever called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m. with Councillor Sampson and Councillor Bill Abbotts.

Town staff present were Director of Operations Shawn Carey and Chief Administrative Officer Shawn Everitt.

- **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved: Councillor Sampson Seconded: Councillor Abbotts

THAT the Agenda of June 28, 2022 be approved as circulated, including any additions to the agenda.

Yay (2): Councillor Sampson, Councillor Abbotts, Mayor Soever

The motion is Carried (3 to 0)

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and general nature thereof

NOTE: In accordance with the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* and the Town Procedural By-law 2021-76, Rural Access to Broadband Internet Technology (RABIT) Task Force members must file a written statement of the interest and its general nature with the Clerk for inclusion on the Registry.

None

- **Review of Minutes (April 6, 2022)**

Minutes reviewed and deemed sufficient.

B. Staff Reports and Deputations

B.1 Deputations, if any

Note

B.2 Staff reports, if any

None

C. Matters for Discussion

C.1. Accelerated High Speed Internet Program (AHSIP) Update

Mayor Soever provided an overview of correspondence sent between himself and the Ministry of Infrastructure, and staff correspondence to the Ministry of Infrastructure. Mayor Soever noted that a copy of those correspondences would be circulated through the Minutes of the meeting for review. Councillor Sampson noted that a follow-up correspondence to the newly sworn in provincial cabinet ministers could be beneficial.

C.2 Engineering Standards Update – Director of Operations Shawn Carey

Director of Operations Shawn Carey advised that the Engineering Standards would be finalized by September 5, 2022 and that staff would be connecting with the development community for their input as well.

C.3 County Road Conduit Update – Chief Administrative Officer Shawn Everitt

Mayor Soever noted that he had heard that Grey County was only putting conduit in at intersections. Director Carey advised he would follow-up with the County and report back to Task Force members.

Chief Administrative Officer Shawn Everitt joined the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

C.4. Action Item Tracking

- Installation guidelines for conduit in The Blue Mountains Road Allowance (“Variation Agreement”)
 - Engineering Standards update would be brought forward on September 5, 2022
 - Staff were drafting a Variation Agreement but needed to consider the rates being charged or if the Town was stepping away from that area
- Conduit Installation in Developments
 - Shawn Carey to report back to Task Force Members on updates regarding Lora Bay Phase 5 conduit installations and conduit installations in new developments.
- R2B2 and The Town of The Blue Mountains
 - No updates
- Infrastructure Ontario Broadband Guidelines Update
 - Director Carey advised that there were some changes to the Ontario One Call program and that Town staff were reviewing the potential of having their own certified dedicated locater employed through the Town.
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- Optimum Tower Locations Request for Proposal Update
 - Request for Proposal has been drafted and staff were in the process of finalizing it to bring forward.

C.5 Follow-up Direction from Council

Note: The following recommendation was considered by Council on April 12, 2022:

THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains receives the April 6, 2022 Rural Access to Broadband Internet Technology RABIT Task Force recommendation as follows:

THAT the Rural Access to Broadband Internet Technology RABIT Task Force requests that Council consider passing a motion requesting that Grey County provide an update on how the Grey Road 2 and Grey Road 13 projects confirm with the Official Plan under Section 8.9.4(3), as follows:

“When reconstructing County roads or the CP Rail Trail, the County will consider installing fibre or conduit for future fibre to connect with the overall fibre network. Local municipalities are also encouraged to install fibre or conduit when reconstructing roads. The County in consultation with local municipalities, telecommunication providers, and SWIFT will develop a fibre/conduit specification for the installation of fibre and conduit. An ownership model will also be developed in consultation with SWIFT.”

AND THAT the above recommendation be considered at the April 11, 2022 Council meeting due to its time sensitive nature, CARRIED.

Note: The following recommendation was considered at the April 25, 2022 Council meeting:

THAT Council of Town of The Blue Mountains receives the February 17, 2022 Rural Access to Broadband Internet Technology Task Force recommendation as follows:

THAT the Rural Access to Broadband Internet Technology RABIT Task Force requests that Council renew the CIRA Internet Performance Test with Grant Street with funds allocated from the RABIT Task Force budget, CARRIED

AND THAT Council of Town of The Blue Mountains renews the CIRA Internet Performance Test with Grant Street with funds allocated from the RABIT Task Force, CARRIED.

Mayor Soever provided an overview of the motions passed at Council. CAO Everitt noted that Grey County had reached out to Bruce Street Technologies on road improvements being made at Grey Road 2 about installation of conduit and that there was hope that the County would take the same approach to Grey Road 13. CAO Everitt advised that the funding to continue the CIRA Internet Performance Test had been completed and that staff would work on the CIRA Testing with Grant Street.

CAO Everitt left the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

D. Correspondence

D.1 Amit Gupta Re: Swiss Meadows Access to Broadband

Mayor Soever provided an overview of the correspondence.

Director Carey advised that staff were looking into the connectivity issues in the Swiss Meadows area. Director Carey noted that because there was so much rock in that area connectivity could be tricky. Staff were working with Bruce Street Technology and noted that at some point the conduit could be redone as the Town would have plans to re-do the water lines in Swiss Meadows. Councillor Abbotts asked if aerial conduit could be used. Director Carey noted that aerial conduit was tricky in rural areas as the poles were either too short or too far apart to accommodate the conduit.

Moved: Councillor Sampson

Seconded: Councillor Abbotts

THAT the Rural Access to Broadband Internet Technology RABIT Task Force receives Item D.1. Amit Gupta Re: Swiss Meadows Access to Broadband and Item D.2 Gino Rulli Re: Swiss Meadows Internet for information and directs staff to provide followup correspondence to Mr. Gupta and Mr. Rulli.

Yay: Councillor Sampson, Councillor Abbotts, Mayor Soever

The motion is Carried (3 to 0)

D.2 Gino Rulli Re: Swiss Meadows Internet

Mayor Soever provided an overview of the correspondence.

E. New and Unfinished Business

F.1 Additions to the Agenda

F.2 Items Identified for Discussion at Next Meeting

- **Accelerated High Speed Internet Program (AHSIP) Update**
 - Task Force Members discussed cancellation of the scheduled August 8, 2022 RABIT Task Force meeting and to meet at the call of the Chair for the purposes of receiving an AHSIP Update, if made available before the end of the 2018-2022 Term of Council.

F. Upcoming Meeting Dates

At the Call of the Chair
Town Hall, Council Chambers (virtually)

G. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 3:07 p.m.