



# Minutes

## Rural Access to Broadband Internet Technology (RABIT) Task Force

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**Meeting Date:** April 6, 2022  
**Meeting Time:** 10:00 a.m.  
**Location:** Microsoft Teams Meeting  
**Prepared by:** Kyra Dunlop, Acting Executive Assistant Committees of Council

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### A. Call to Order

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#### ▪ Task Force Member Attendance

Mayor Soever called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. with Councillor Sampson. Councillor Bill Abbotts sent his regrets.

Town staff present were Director of Operations Shawn Carey and Locate Technician Dean Easterbrook.

#### ▪ Approval of the Agenda

Moved: Councillor Sampson                      Seconded: Mayor Soever

THAT the Agenda of April 6, 2022 be approved as circulated, including any additions to the agenda.

Yay (2): Councillor Sampson, Mayor Soever

Absent (1): Councillor Abbotts

**The motion is Carried (2 to 0, 1 absent)**

#### **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 (February 17, 2022)

Minutes reviewed and deemed sufficient.

## **B. Staff Reports and Deputations**

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### **B.1 Deputations, if any**

Note

### **B.2 Staff reports, if any**

None

## **C. Matters for Discussion**

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### **C.1. Accelerated High Speed Internet Program Request for Proposal Update**

Mayor Soever advised that Town staff were in contact with the Ministry of Infrastructure and expected a response in April 2022 regarding the successful AHSIP bidder on Block 51.

### **C.2 Ontario One Call Locates**

Director of Operations Shawn Carey introduced Locate Technician Dean Easterbrook. Dean ensures the Town is compliant with Ontario One Calls. Dean provided an overview of a webinar he had attended regarding One Calls and how Bill 93 would impact the Town. Dean noted that there were two key take-aways from the webinar:

1. Companies who delay their locates will be penalized. This was meant to ensure companies were properly staffed to complete work.
2. Dedicated locaters could be used in the Town on big projects and could have 10 days to complete locates rather than 5 days.

The Task Force members discussed the option of charging companies for locate services if the Town had to conduct a locate in their area.

The Task Force discussed how to provide comments to the Ministry of Infrastructure on Bill 93. Dean noted he would circulate the contact information provided through the webinar to the members. Councillor Sampson noted that the Task Force should connect with Bob Bailey, Minister for Provincial Parliament Sarnia-Lambton as it was his private members bill that created One Call.

CAO Everitt joined the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

### **C.3 Action Item Tracking**

- Installation guidelines for conduit in The Blue Mountains Road Allowance ("Variation Agreement")
  - Engineering Standards update that contemplates appropriate conduit installation in full reconstruction projects and capital projects will be brought forward to Council for consideration in early 2022.
- Conduit Installation in Developments
- R2B2 and The Town of The Blue Mountains
  - No project funding has been identified through the budget at this time.
- Infrastructure Ontario Broadband Guidelines Update

## **D. Correspondence**

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### **D.1. Remarks to the Standing Committee on General Government on Bill 93**

Mayor Soever provided an overview of the correspondence materials and noted that Bill 93 was vague and did not address municipal concerns.

### **D.2 Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure Re: Introduction of Getting Ontario Connected Act, 2022**

Mayor Soever provided an overview of the correspondence. Councillor Sampson noted that it was likely the province was in a holding pattern until the successful block bidder satisfied their conditions and could then contact the Town. Councillor Sampson noted that the Town had offered numerous times through the province to connect with the bidder.

### **D.3 Letter to Hon. Minister Surma Re: AHSIP, March 10, 2022**

Mayor Soever provided an overview of the correspondence. CAO Everitt noted that he had been advised that the advertising process was still underway and that there had been no award for Block 51 yet. The Task Force noted that they should follow up with Minister Surma.

### **D.3. Letter to Rogers Communication Canada Inc. Re Qualified AHSIP Participants**

Mayor Soever provided an overview of the correspondence.

## **E. New and Unfinished Business**

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### **F.1 Additions to the Agenda**

### **F.2 Items Identified for Discussion at Next Meeting**

- **Action Item Tracking**
- **Accelerated High Speed Internet Program (AHSIP) Update**
- **Engineering Standards – Shawn Carey**
- **County Road Conduit Update – Shawn Everitt**

### **Recommended**

Moved: Councillor Sampson

Seconded: Mayor Soever

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 conform with the Official Plan under Section 8.9.4(3).

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

Yay (2): Councillor Sampson, Mayor Soever

Absent (1): Councillor Abbotts

**The motion is Carried (2 to 0, 1 absent)**

**F. Upcoming Meeting Dates**

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June 13, 2022

Town Hall, Council Chambers (virtually)

**G. Adjournment**

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Meeting was adjourned at 10:49 a.m.