



The Municipal Corporation of the
Town of Fort Erie

Council-in-Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 10, 2022

Council Chambers via Video Teleconference

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Video Teleconference.

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website (www.forterie.ca) or Cogeco "YourTV"

1. Call to Order

Mayor Redekop called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Redekop acknowledged the land on which we gather is the
traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee, Mississaugas of the New
Credit, and Anishinaabe people, many of whom continue to reside in this
area.

2. Roll Call

Present (In Council Chambers): His Worship Mayor Redekop,
Councillors Dubanow and McDermott

Present (Via Zoom Teleconference): Councillors Lubberts, Noyes, and
Zanko

Absent: Councillor Butler

Staff (Via Zoom Teleconference): K. Dolch, J. Janzen, T. Kuchyt,
E. Melanson, C. Schofield, K. Walsh and D. Vanderveen

This meeting was held in compliance with the electronic participation
provisions of Council Rules of Procedure By-law No. 36-2016, as
amended.

3. Announcements/Addenda

Mayor Redekop made the following announcement:

COVID-19 Pandemic and Temporary Closure of Fort Erie Urgent Care Centre

For months during this COVID-19 pandemic, we've been urging everyone to follow public health guidelines and to get vaccinated in order to protect yourself and those around you, most particularly those upon whom we rely on when we become ill.

We often fail to recognize the extreme jeopardy which our nurses, doctors, emergency responders, and health and hospital workers have been in as they have had to treat those with COVID-19. They're not immune from catching the virus, and in fact, many have become infected in recent weeks with the Omicron strain of the virus running through our society. We owe them a great debt of gratitude and should be doing everything that we can to protect them.

On January 4, 2022, Niagara Health announced the temporary closure of the Urgent Care Centre in Fort Erie at Douglas Memorial, due to the proliferation of new COVID-19 cases in the Region and the devastation caused by the virus among hospital nurses and support staff. While we were given the courtesy of a heads up before the announcement, Fort Erie was not consulted on the dire situation at Niagara Health, or the decision to temporarily close our Urgent Care Centre.

Members of Council and the Town administration have made it clear that we do not accept the decision to close, even on a temporary basis, such an important service to our community. Nor do we accept the lack of consultation. I've had continuous communications with the president of Niagara Health regarding the reopening of the Urgent Care Centre and the outrage, dismay, and distrust of Niagara Health, by our residents. I have also had regular communication with our MPP Wayne Gates, Regional Councillor Tom Insinna, and other members of Regional Council.

The Town administration has been working diligently to ensure that Fort Erie residents are aware of the options available to them to get urgent and emergency healthcare and the transportation necessary to access that care at this time. We will update the community as the situation develops.

We have been advised that Niagara Health undertook a number of steps before concluding that it was necessary to temporarily close our Urgent Care Centre in order to keep its system afloat. It has deferred surgeries requiring in-patient admission, postponed all cataract surgeries, cancelled follow-up patient visits after surgeries, redeployed nurses and clinical staff from other departments to man emergency departments, recruited retired physicians, nurses, and paramedics when possible, and hired new staff.

The decision to close the Urgent Care Centre in Fort Erie, as opposed to Port Colborne, rests on three main factors of which we were advised by Niagara Health: the much larger number of experienced nurses in Fort Erie who can be redeployed to Emergency Departments in Niagara, the typically lower number of Urgent Care Centre visits in Fort Erie, and the inadequate space in staffing in Welland to accommodate Urgent Care patients from Port Colborne. None of this provides any comfort to Fort Erie residents who need health care.

For 25 years, hospital services have been reduced and eliminated from our growing community. The residents of Fort Erie are not second-class citizens. We will insist on the hospital and healthcare services in our community that we need and that we deserve. We will continue, as a Council, to fight for those services until they are restored. This is an all hands-on deck crisis, and we look to every resident of Fort Erie to work with us.

I received late this afternoon, an indication from the president of Niagara Health that although the Urgent Care Centre has been closed, there are still some ambulatory services that remain available at our hospital. Those include the COPD Clinic, the Memory Clinic, and the Methadone Clinic, which continue to operate as well as outpatient diagnostic imaging from Monday to Friday 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday to Sunday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Our challenge as a Council, and we accept the challenge, is to make sure that this Urgent Care Centre is reopened as quickly as possible, and we will continue to ensure that Niagara Health is accountable with respect to the data. Unfortunately, the data today is worse than it was on Friday in terms of nurses who are sick, off duty, and the number of beds that are being occupied in the emergency departments and in the hospital, but we will continue on and ensure that every effort is made to make sure that the people who need transportation to Urgent Care in Port Colborne have that available.

I want to thank the members of Council who have been very diligent with respect to this and the Town administration in particular, the CAO, Tom Kuchyt for stepping up when we need it, and Janine Tessmer, who has been providing communications to ensure that the public is updated. She's also been working with Niagara Health's and the Region's communications departments.

4. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

None.

5. Notice of Upcoming Public Meetings

(a) 2022 Budget Meeting Schedule

Re: Council-in-Budget Committee Meetings: #3 - Wednesday, February 2, 2022 - Library, Assessment Analysis and General Levy Operating; #4 - Wednesday, February 9, 2022 (if required). All budget meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. Via Video Teleconference. Budget By-laws: Monday, January 17, 2022 - Water and Wastewater Budget and Rates; Monday, February 28, 2022 - General Levy Budget and General Capital Budget.

6. Public Meetings

None.

7. Planning and Development Services

Chaired by Councillor Dubanow

7.1 Presentations and Delegations

None.

7.2 Reports

PDS-19-1-2021 Supplemental Information Report Regarding Proposed Zoning By-law Amendment for 0-13365 Pettit Road - D.C. McCloskey Engineering Ltd. - Mark McCloskey (Agent) - KRS Holdings Inc. - Gary Singh (Owner)

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Recommendation No.1
Moved by: Mayor Redekop

That: Council receives for information purposes Report No. PDS-19-1-2021 regarding revisions to the Application and additional information for the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment for 0-13365 Pettit Road.

Mayor Redekop called a point of order that Council should have the Traffic Study before proceeding.

Councillor Lubberts called a point of order that he had the floor and wished to continue to ask questions. The Chair decided against the point of order. Councillor Lubberts challenged the Chair, which was put to a vote of Council. The challenge was defeated.

That: Council receives for information purposes Report No. PDS-19-1-2021 regarding revisions to the Application and additional information for the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment for 0-13365 Pettit Road. **(Carried)**

PDS-19-2021 Proposed Zoning By-law Amendment - 0 - 13365 Pettit Road - D.C. McCloskey Engineering Ltd. - Mark McCloskey (Agent) - KRS Holdings Inc. - Gary Singh (Owner)
(Postponed from March 8, 2021, April 12, 2021, June 14, 2021, and the September 13, 2021, Council-in-Committee Meetings - Previously Moved by Councillor Zanko as Recommendation No. 4)

That: Council receives for information purposes Report No. PDS-19-2021 regarding a proposed amendment to the Town's Comprehensive Zoning By-law No. 129-90 for 0-13365 Pettit Road.

Recommendation No. 2
Moved by: Mayor Redekop

That: Report No. PDS-19-2021 be postponed until the March 21, 2022 Council-in-Committee Meeting to receive a supplemental report in order for Council to receive the Terms of Reference for the Environmental Impact Study, Traffic Impact

Study, Feasibility Study, and Planning Rationale Report.
(Carried)

PDS-106-2021 Land Use Controls and Legal Review of Short-Term Rentals ***(Postponed from December 13, 2021, Council Meeting - Previously Moved by Councillor Dubanow and Seconded by Councillor McDermott as Resolution No. 2)***

That: Council receives for information purposes Report No. PDS-106-2021 regarding a land use control and legal review of Short-Term Rentals, and further

That: Council consider the financial implications of hiring a planning consultant to facilitate and process the Official Plan and Zoning By-law amendment changes needed to impose land use controls on Short-Term Rentals during the 2022 Operating Budget deliberations.

Recommendation No. 3
Moved by: Mayor Redekop

That: Report No. PDS-106-2021 be postponed to the January 17, 2022 Council Meeting. **(Carried)**

PDS-01-2022 Proposed Combined Official Plan & Zoning By-law Amendment - 321 Garrison Road - Rob Russell Planning Consultants - Rob Russell (Agent) - 1784550 Ontario Inc. - Peter Wangler (Owner) - 2186870 Ontario Inc. - Rakib Hassan (Applicant)

Recommendation No. 4
Moved by: Councillor McDermott

That: Council approves the amendment to the Town's Official Plan as detailed in Appendix "5" of Report No. PDS-01-2022 for the lands known as 321 Garrison Road, and further

That: Council approves the amendment to the Town's Zoning By-law No. 129-90 as detailed in Appendix "6" of Report No. PDS-01-2022 for the lands known as 321 Garrison Road, and further

That: Council directs staff to prepare the necessary by-laws.
(Carried)

7.3 New Business/Enquiries

(a) Councillor McDermott

Councillor McDermott referred to complaints about Niagara This Week delivery throwing the newspapers in blue plastic bags in driveways, which is against the by-law. He asked if there have been any steps taken to correct the matter.

Ms. Dolch responded that there have been previous complaints in the winter months, and can follow up again. She advised that Mr. Kuchyt has more information as this has been dealt with previously.

Mr. Kuchyt responded that a few complaints were received recently, and staff reached out to the newspaper company reminding them of the by-law which clearly states that they can be fined \$175 per offence. Also, a couple of years ago they were to install boxes including in Crescent Park, where residents can go to pick up their newspaper, and were reminded of that as well. Due to COVID-19 and staffing issues, they advised they would get back to the Town next week to try to resolve this issue. Mr. Kuchyt advised that he would keep Council posted.

Councillor McDermott advised that it is not just a rural issue. It's in the urban areas as well, and with numerous complaints, he wants to make sure they live up to their obligations.

Councillor Dubanow commented that in his urban neighbourhood in Fort Erie, the newspapers are regularly thrown out onto the driveways and a number of residents have had damage caused to snow blowers. It is not just a rural issue. It is something that is also occurring in the urban areas.

Councillor Noyes advised that the by-law refers to the rural areas and boxes, and that the urban areas are to be put on the front porch, in the mailbox, or inside the screen door, but that has not happened. This came up in the Accessibility Committee back in 2005. There is a safety

issue for those with low vision or no vision as they were tripping over these newspapers that didn't quite make it to the driveway and were in the path of the sidewalk. Awhile ago, a member of the accessibility group was having problems with the newspapers and tripping over them. It is not just an inconvenience for snow blowers, but also a public safety issue, including for those with low vision. Councillor Noyes enquired if the contact name and number can be given to members of the public who have problems with the newspapers.

Mr. Kuchyt responded that the number can be shared.

7.4 Business Status Report

No changes.

8. Corporate and Community Services

Chaired by Councillor McDermott

8.1 Presentations and Delegations

None.

8.2 Reports

None.

8.3 New Business/Enquiries

- (a) Mayor Redekop advised that he had an opportunity to discuss with the CAO the temporary closure of the Urgent Care Centre, and the long history in Fort Erie of our experience of reduced, eliminated, and altered, health and hospital services.

Mayor Redekop enquired whether we can obtain what the CAO's comments might be with respect to obtaining legal advice relative to what rights the Council may have on behalf of the municipality with respect to ensuring at least a continuation of hospital services. This was looked into 13-14 years ago, but the law may have slightly changed and

our lawyer might be able to advise Council in terms of other options available.

Mr. Kuchyt advised that he is definitely in favour and will take care of it. He will speak with the Town Solicitor to see what legal rights Council has. He noted that over the years we have slowly lost our health services and now the Urgent Care Centre is no longer there. We are told it's only for a short period of time, but that we need to know what legal action we can take regardless. He advised he will get a response to Council as soon as possible.

Mayor Redekop stated that this is very important, and thanked Mr. Kuchyt. The municipality has over the years, done a number of things over the years to ensure that our residents have access to primary care and as many services as possible. Council has funded a variety of initiatives to ensure that primary care is available. Some specialty clinics are available, and we have the diagnostics. There might be some opportunities to expand those. He advised that he looks forward to receiving comments from the Town Solicitor and this Council being able to consider some other alternatives as to how we actually, not only stop this ship, but turn this ship around.

Councillor McDermott advised that health care has taken up a great deal of his life. Even back in the days of Mayor Martin, and we knew how tough it was then. They are of the ilk that you can move 20,000 people up and down the highway, but it's not 20,000 anymore. We're getting closer to 40,000 as we move through the years. Those signs are relatively old. The big problem is that all people here expect to have is some reliable, constant, health care that they can rely on. He asked how do you do that when you're working with a group of people who have very little concern for what we think? We've been through this before with the closure of our hospital. We put in a lot of time with the Ministers and the Premier. They all know how we feel yet they continue to ignore it.

Councillor McDermott continued that the thing that bothers us the most is that they think they can just walk in and close things without even talking with us about it, and then we're supposed to have faith and trust in the Niagara Health System, and he does not think that the Board has

any Fort Erie voices there. It's hard for people to understand that no matter how our efforts have gone over the last number of years to try and save some semblance of health care, we are in a crisis like a pandemic and we're shutting down our big ace in the whole which is our Urgent Care Centre. There's a pandemic here and no matter how they say that "We've looked at everything", he does not think that they have.

Councillor McDermott added that we have our military, but have no wars, and there's really no peacekeeping going on. There has to be people that we can use, and he does not think that has been done. He stated that he doesn't think that there has been a real effort at getting the province to do something. If this is something that has been ongoing, it was a big surprise last Wednesday. It has not been out in the newspapers or on television. It's just starting to get out there now. This is a problem that has grown exponentially and we don't even know that it is a problem. He stated further that he doesn't think with all fairness to the people of our community, that we've been treated with any amount of respect, and Council hasn't been treated with any respect at all by not having conversations with us.

Councillor McDermott advised that he appreciated Mayor Redekop's efforts over the last week or so, and that we are under attack again. We can't take it sitting down, and he is sure that Council's going to support every effort to make it that this place stays open.

Councillor Noyes advised that she agreed with everything that has been said, but what hasn't been said is our UCC has saved lives. She has been approached by a number of people in the last few weeks, and on Facebook, about how someone who had a heart attack or was in dire straits, how they were saved by the UCC, and that they wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for the UCC.

Councillor Noyes stated that what bothers her is that we've been in these unprecedented times like this crisis for over 2 years. She would've thought that there would be a Plan B if they were anticipating the labour shortage. She understands that things are beyond our control, and in some cases beyond the Niagara Health's control, but there

was no opportunity for us as a community and the doctors who serve us, to come up with a Plan B. She advised that that's unfortunate, because she thinks if we worked together, we may have been able to mitigate some of the problems that have arisen. The other thing too is that the day they closed the UCC is the day we had the snowstorm, so if you needed to get out of Fort Erie, it would've been, in parts of Fort Erie, actually impossible and terribly unsafe to try to drive to Niagara Falls, Port Colborne, or St. Catharines.

Mayor Redekop commented that ironically, as Councillor Noyes said, the day that the Urgent Care Centre was temporarily closed, we had a snowstorm. He communicated with President Lynn Guerriero about that. She did respond, and, he thanked our CAO for initiating the discussion with the Region about the potential for funding to assist those who need transportation to get from Fort Erie to Port Colborne. Garrison Road, in a snowstorm, is every bit as treacherous as the Queen Elizabeth Highway. The Regional CAO also indicated that on Friday, during the pandemic update that that's something the Region is looking at. Mayor Redekop advised that he fully expects they will fund that. Also, a couple of Regional Councillors who are outside of Fort Erie did offer support to Fort Erie, in terms of funding, if that was necessary. It is heartwarming to know that there are others in Niagara who recognize that this is not fair to the residents of the Town of Fort Erie.

Mayor Redekop stated that it is a pandemic. He does not envy Lynn Guerriero for the role that she has to play, nor the decisions she has to make. The reality is that the Niagara Health System was born out of debt. At least one of the major hospitals had large debt when the amalgamations were ordered in 1998. They've had to deal with that over the years. It's not been a satisfactory road for the Town of Fort Erie to have to go down because we've been victims of that birth of the Niagara Health System. The provincial government could be putting more money into hospital care. The federal government, which 2 decades ago, was contributing something in the neighborhood of maybe 25 years ago, 35% of the cost or more of health care. It's now down to 23%. He continued that he thinks originally at one point, the Provinces and the

Federal Government were on a 50/50 cost sharing. That hasn't happened. The reality is that, as he has said before, if we want a health care system that meets our needs, we have to be prepared to pay for it. On occasions, resiliency is necessary. You have to have that extra capacity to deal with things of this nature. We are.

Mayor Redekop continued that now we are being told that pandemics of this nature will be a recurring thing. Going back 15 years ago with SARS, there have been a number of health emergencies. If in fact this is what the future will look like, how can we not commit to resiliency? How can our provincial and federal governments not commit to the type of resiliency that we are going to need in our health care system, not just for older people, but also for young families and all people in between, and all of those people who have special health care issues?

Mayor Redekop advised that he wanted to thank Council for being so supportive with respect to this and the others he mentioned earlier. This is a serious matter. When it affects the lives of 33,000 people, it's an issue that needs to be resolved and dealt with.

Councillor Lubberts referred to the conversations that the Mayor had with the President of health care, and advised that he had an opportunity to speak with the Mayor over the last few days, and requested that we get some kind of confirmation from Regional Health that this is definitely a temporary closure. He asked if the Mayor has received that confirmation. I am wondering if the Mayor has got that confirmation. He's been hearing that this is supposed to be just 2 or 3 weeks. He asked the Mayor to get a definite date and what conditions have to be in place for that reopening to happen. He would like to see in writing from Niagara Health, so that we know that we're definitely going to reopen, and when it is going to reopen.

Mayor Redekop advised that he wanted to thank Councillor Lubberts for providing that suggestion when they spoke last week, and that he immediately sent an email to Lynn Guerriero asking for some articulation of what conditions would be for reopening of the Urgent Care Centre. She sent an email to him today addressing that and providing some additional information. He did not receive it until just

about 5:00 p.m. He will pass it on to all members of Council so that they can see what's been indicated, and also the sad news about how this situation has deteriorated a bit since last week. On Friday during the Regional Health Pandemic Update, Ms. Guerriero did confirm on camera that this is a temporary closure and that Niagara Health is working on the parameters and the conditions for reopening. It really boils down to safe staffing levels at the Emergency Departments and the Urgent Care Centre. When that has been established, and we have some indication as the days go forward because she's working on the specifics, we'll share that not only with Council, but with the community. Once those conditions have been met, then the nurses and the doctors will be redeployed back to Fort Erie. That is one of our objectives, to ensure that we've got a date. While this thing is not only not stabilizing, but getting worse, it is hard for anyone to give a specific date. The conditions and parameters those can be provided. That's what we will get from Niagara Health, and that will be made available to Council and the community as soon as we have it.

Councillor Lubberts added that the Mayor mentioned earlier that in some of the conversations and communications that he's had, Niagara Health has said that the Urgent Care Centre in Fort Erie was utilized less than the Urgent Care Centre in Port Colborne. He advised that if we are going to get a legal opinion as to our rights for health care, we should ask Niagara Health to provide us with the data that shows our Urgent Care Centre is not being utilized as much as other Urgent Care Centres. He stated that he finds it hard to believe when we have a larger population than Port Colborne and, unless we're much healthier than they are, but he doesn't think that is the case, and would like to see that data.

Mayor Redekop advised that that was one of the 3 main factors, and he can certainly request that data. He expects that it's public information, and the numbers are their numbers. The other major factor was that there were more experienced, trained, nurses in the Fort Erie Urgent Care than in Port Colborne, and also that Welland couldn't handle an overflow of Urgent Care patients from Port Colborne at this stage, because it's also understaffed and

it doesn't have much space either. He will obtain that information and circulate it to members of Council.

Councillor Dubanow advised that he appreciated all of the comments from members of Council and the Mayor regarding the Urgent Care Centre. He had the opportunity to send some emails back and forth with the President, Lynn Guerriero, and she was very upfront and quick to respond. He appreciated that. We certainly do have some work ahead of us, but he's been very appreciative of the rapport that we've had so far.

A Response to Enquiry will be provided at a future meeting.

- (b) Councillor Dubanow advised that he wished to remind everyone that today is January 10th and children were to return to school. He has a daughter Penelope who is 7 and a son William, 9, who would normally be in school today, but for the third year, they are not. Councillor Dubanow read a quote:

"Our children are the rock on which our future will be built, our greatest asset as a nation, they will be the leaders of our country, the creators of our national wealth, those who care for and protect our people. There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which they treat it's children."

- Nelson Mandela -

Councillor Dubanow commented that with all the evidence and science that we have obtained of the necessity of having our children in school, as a parent of 2 young children, he is incredibly frustrated that this province is one of the few locations in the entire world that have saw fit to lock children out of school again. He advised that he knows that there is nothing that Council can do, and he knows that Council is supportive of this issue. As a parent and as someone whose kids might be watching tonight, he's doing everything that he can as a parent to advocate for them to get back into school.

Mayor Redekop advised that he has a lot of sympathy for Councillor Dubanow and his comments. It boils down to

steps having been taken that we're now almost 2 years into this pandemic, and this isn't something new. You can't always anticipate every twist and turn in this type of thing and maybe we couldn't anticipate that there would be a 4th wave that would be as virulent as it is, but the reality is that we've known that there are certain things that could be done. There's been a lot of medical debate about children being in school. It's hard, not only on the children, it's hard on the parents that are trying to manage jobs and supervise their children. For teachers who also have children, it's very difficult. Things like vaccinations, proper masks, air filtration, and ventilation are all the things that the government is aware of that are needed, and for whatever reason, hasn't taken strident enough steps in that direction. Let's hope that they are starting to pay better attention to this issue, and let's hope that this pandemic starts to wane, and that we don't run into a 5th wave unprepared, because we know what we need to do to prepare.

8.4 Business Status Report

No changes.

9. Infrastructure Services

Chaired by Councillor Lubberts

9.1 Presentations and Delegations

Recommendation No. 5
Moved by: Mayor Redekop

That: The delegation be given 20 minutes to present. **(Carried)**

- (a) Carolyn Ryall, Director Transportation Services, and Beth Brens, Associate Director Reporting & Analysis, Niagara Region

Re: Vision Zero Inter-Municipal Agreement

Ms. Ryall provided a PowerPoint presentation and the following commentary:

- Community Safety Zones (CSZs) is part of the Vision Zero Program.
- Speeding is the primary crash factor and distracted driving is the leading road safety problem. Speeding contributes to 1/3 of fatal crashes and serves as an aggravating factor in most crashes.
- Region has used CSZs as one of the tools in the Vision Zero Road Safety Kit to assist with the issue of speeding in school zones.
- Region did an assessment across the Regional road network, identifying all of the schools and based on a number of criteria, there was a prioritization of which community zones to launch as part of the initial program.
- CSZs have been implemented at 13 locations in the Niagara Region since September 2019 and under Bill 26 - An Act to Promote Public Safety.
- The launch of CSZs has been done in partnership with all 12 municipalities, Niagara Regional Police, each of the various school boards, and other stakeholders such as Active Transportation, bus coordination groups.
- Region has been concentrating on schools with the launch of the CSZs with the intent that this will be expanded to other highly vulnerable areas where there's a lot of active transportation, like parks and retirement homes.
- Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) was launched by the Province in December 2019.
- 4 ASE units will be rotated among the 13 approved Community Safety Zones.
- ASE works in partnership and collaboration with the Niagara Regional Police who have been assisting with the CSZs and the speeding enforcement within those areas.
- Benefits: increase safety, reduce speed, positive change to driver behavior, free up Police resources, and increase driver awareness.
- Revenues collected under any Municipal ASE program are to be used to support local public safety and educational initiatives.
- Red Light Camera (RLCs) were introduced in the Province in 2000 and are proven to reduce right angle collisions by 25% and are an effective means to reduce red light infractions.
- 10 RLCs will be implemented across Niagara Region.

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- Region is working closely with municipal partners and is working on a strategy to increase active transportation and other modes of travel on the roadway.
- Region hired a third-party consultant to assess all of the intersections across all of the Region. The criteria is the severity of collisions, speeding and other instances, and is finalizing the top 10 RLC locations.
- If the program is approved, a report will be coming back to Council in Q1 of 2022 identifying the top 10 under the over 400 locations assessed to date.
- Vision Zero initiatives: expanding automated enforcement (ASE & RLC), intersection improvements, geometrics / roads, signage and pavement markings, mid-block crossings, street lighting, complete street, traffic calming, and public outreach / education programs.
- Vision Zero is seeking unanimous support from all 12 local Municipal Councils (LAMS) for the changes to the Niagara Region Courts Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA).
- The IMA did not contemplate Vision Zero back in 2000. The revisions are now recognizing the Vision Zero Road Safety Initiative.
- Changes: Region will lead implementation, oversight, and ensure legislative compliance of the Vision Zero Initiative as a traffic safety initiative in the Region, allow for funds, net of court program costs, and any revenue above to be split 50/50 among the Region and the local municipalities targeting road safety initiatives.
- Risks: implementation assumed by Region that will include public outreach, education platform, public scrutiny with the launch of the program, stakeholders' engagement
- Opportunities: Region is a current member of the ASE Steering Committee and is able to learn from the other partners to show how the programs are operating, proposing a 3-year window in the IMA on how to expand the program.

Ms. Brens provided the following commentary:

- Costs: total operating costs are estimated \$4 million in the first full year of operations which will be fully funded if there is revenue from approximately 32,500 tickets –

\$5,000 associated with 10 red light cameras and \$27,500 with the 4 ASE cameras.

- The ticket revenue will allow for enough funds to cover operation and implementing costs for the first 1-2 years.
- 32,500 tickets could result in an estimated total gross revenue of \$5.4 million.
- The estimated revenue received in the first year would be \$5.1 million.
- The \$5.1 million would be further reduced to \$4 million after victim fee surcharges are considered as this is a mandatory payment to the Provincial Courts.
- The \$4 million is then further reduced to \$2.3 million after the \$1.7 million in estimated court program costs.
- The Region is anticipating \$750,000 in cost to get this ready.
- The Region will be paid back expenditures from future years of revenue.
- Risks: revenue from tickets, court trial time capacity and expenditures incurred.
- Opportunities: improving road safety, driver behavior, if more revenue is collected then 50% will go to the Region and 50% to the land.

In closing, Ms. Ryall advised that the next steps are: local municipal Council approvals for amending the IMA (December 2021 – January 2022), Regional Council update on finalized amending IMA (February 2022), Regional Council update on vendor agreements (February / March 2022), go live Q2 2022.

9.2 Reports

IS-01-2022 Vision Zero Road Safety Program

Recommendation No. 6
Moved by: Mayor Redekop

That: Council authorizes and approves the entry into an Amending Agreement to the Niagara Region Courts Inter-Municipal Agreement – Amendment 2 with the Niagara Region for the Vision Zero Road Safety Program, and further

That: Council authorizes and directs that a by-law authorizing same be submitted to Council.

Recommendation No. 7
Moved by: Councillor Noyes

That: Appendix “1” to Report No. IS-01-2022 be amended by adding the word “Estimated” to the title of the Appendix.

Councillor Noyes asked if the Regional presenters would like to comment. Mayor Redekop called a point of order that the Region has already made their presentation and are done. Council is now dealing with the Report that is on the floor.

That: Appendix “1” to Report No. IS-01-2022 be amended by adding the word “Estimated” to the title of the Appendix.
(Carried)

Recommendation No. 8
Moved by: Councillor Noyes

That: Report No. IS-01-2022 be postponed to the February 14, 2022 Council-in-Committee in order to receive information regarding benefits seen by other municipalities utilizing the Vision Zero strategy.
(Carried)

IS-02-2022 Award of Engineering Services for the East
Central Fort Erie Trenchless Rehabilitation
Pre-Design Study - Contract No. ISE-
21PECFETR

Recommendation No. 9
Moved by: Councillor McDermott

That: Council accepts and approves the proposal from GM BluePlan Engineering Limited for Engineering Services, East Central Fort Erie Trenchless Rehabilitation Pre-Design Study Contract No. ISE-21P-ECFETR, to the upset limit of \$260,848.07 (including 13% HST), and further

That: Council accepts \$117,500.00 in funding from the 2021 Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Program grant(s) from the Niagara Region, and further

That: Council substitutes Sewer Rate Stabilization Reserve funding with the CSO Control grant funds to operating project ECFETR in the amount of \$117,500.00.
(Carried)

9.3 New Business/Enquiries

(a) Councillor Dubanow

Councillor Dubanow advised that he wanted to express his appreciation to George Stojanovic and the rest of the snow removal crew with respect to the snowfall on Thursday last week. They did a great job clearing the snow out, and when he had a few residents contact him with concern about something, it was dealt with very, very quickly. He thanked Mr. Walsh for all of the work his team did, and TO keep up the good work.

(b) Councillor McDermott

Councillor McDermott enquired with Mr. Walsh about plowing issues, as over the past number of years, 2 or 3 Infrastructure Services staff have been appointed as By-law Officers for the purposes of snow plowing issues. The only problem that he is having is with the snow on Jarvis Street. We still have to get people organized to get off the roads during those nights. From Jarvis Street down to about 208, there were cars all over the place and it made it very difficult to do a real good job on it. He asked if we're going to do that again this year.

Mr. Walsh responded that this is done annually, and he's not sure if it was done this year because we have new By-law staff, and By-law staff normally go around early in the winter and hand out warnings. Through the pandemic, and with new staff, he's not sure if that was done this year. He received Councillor McDermott's email the other day and has passed it on to those with the opportunity to enforce parking.

(c) Councillor Zanko

Councillor Zanko enquired about snowmobiles on the Friendship Trail. With the first major snowfall, she has received plenty of complaints regarding snowmobiles on the Trail. Last year this was discussed, and Mr. Kuchyt was working with the Staff Sergeant at the Niagara Regional Police Services to have extra patrolling done. There was also discussion about bollards to block some access points.

Mr. Kuchyt responded that boulders or bollards were not an option because it's a safety issue. If somebody was to hit one, they could get severely hurt, plus we would have a loss at our hands. He will look back at his notes.

A Response to Enquiry will be provided at a future meeting.

9.4 Business Status Report

No changes.

10. Scheduling of Meetings

- Land Committee Meeting, Thursday January 13, 2022, 9:00 a.m., via Zoom
- EOC Meeting, Thursday January 13, 2022, 10:00 a.m., via Zoom

11. Adjournment

Recommendation No. 8
Moved by: Councillor Dubanow

That: Council-in-Committee adjourns at 9:06 p.m. **(Carried)**

Mayor

Clerk