



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Committee of the Whole - September 21, 2020



Please note that all Committee decisions are subject to Council approval. The next Council meeting is scheduled for September 28, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. If you have any questions regarding agenda items or decisions made at Committee or Council meetings, please email council@ramara.ca.

SERVICE DELIVERY REVIEW FINAL REPORT

Alicia Sinclair, Olivia Lahaie and Chris Loretto from StrategyCorp presented their final report on the Township's Service Delivery Review that is financed from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Modernization Program. StrategyCorp found that the Township of Ramara is ready to update the delivery of its services by modernizing its internal operations and resident-facing services as well as fostering a culture of collaboration and continuous improvement. StrategyCorp identified 29 opportunities for improvement that focused on Information Technology (IT) and Information Management (IM), Fire and Rescue Services and Recreation and Library. StrategyCorp identified the following:

- IT/IM Enhancements that include 16 IT and IM recommendations and seven 'quick wins' that Ramara staff can implement quickly to optimize current digital tools and information management practices.
- Fire and Rescue Efficiencies that include the continuing of Ice and Water Rescue, reducing HazMat Response Level, introducing burn permits and hiring a Fire Prevention Officer.
- Defining Library and Recreation services that include getting direction from Council on whether Ramara wants to invest in Library and Recreation services and increase their level of service or reduce the level of service by contracting library services to a neighbouring municipality.

Please note that an IT plan and a Library and Recreation Services plan will be brought forth to Council in 2020.

Next Council meeting is on September 28 at 9:30 a.m.

OFFICIAL PLAN UPDATE AND STRATEGIC DIRECTION

CAO, John Pinsent gave an update on the new approach for the Official Plan and an introduction of a 2021-2031 Strategic Direction. Over 25 years ago, Rama and Mara amalgamated and an Official Plan for both Rama and Mara was created in order to comply with legislative policies. In 2003, Ramara created their first consolidated Official Plan that was in conformity with the County of Simcoe's Official Plan, but lacked a Strategic vision. Now, the Township wants to bring the Official Plan into the future and create a strategic vision that synchronizes both our strategic direction, for sustainability and growth, with planning requirements. The Township wants to finish working on the new visionary OP from now until the end of 2020 then bring the new OP to the public in early 2021. The goal would be to have a final Official Plan and Strategic plan for fall of 2021.

INDUSTRIAL PARK UPDATE

CAO, John Pinsent reported that due to a previous agreement no longer in place, there is industrial park land for sale in Ramara. There is 13.4964 hectares of vacant land available at 3379 County Road 47. For more information, please contact Deb McCabe at dmccabe@ramara.ca for planning and zoning information or Cathy Wainman at cwainman@ramara.ca for sale information.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO APPEALS TRIBUNAL

Committee approved to advertise for members of the Appeals Tribunal. Please note that after Council passes a resolution on this matter at the September 28th Council meeting, staff will advertise for members to be a part of the Appeals Tribunal Committee.

[Click here for full Council Agenda and Minutes](#)

UPDATE FROM THE SIMCOE MUSKOKA HEALTH UNIT

Committee received the news release from the Simcoe Muskoka Health Unit regarding the worrisome rise in COVID-19 cases. On Saturday, September 19th, 2020, Premier Ford announced new gathering limits for unmonitored social gatherings and organized public events across Ontario. The new gathering limits are 10 people for indoor events or gatherings and 25 people for outdoor events or gatherings. For more information, visit the [Government of Ontario website](#).

FERN RESORT SPEED LIMIT SIGNAGE

Committee approved for the speed limit of Fern Resort Road from #4432 to be reduced from 60km/hr to 40 km/hr and that the speed limit of Prospect Street be reduced from 50 km/hr to 40km/hr. Committee also approved additional No Exit signage be installed west of Fern Resort Road.

MID YEAR FINANCIAL REVIEW

Director of Finance, Zach Drinkwalter, presented to Council the Mid Year Financial Review. This review showed that the Township is in a strong financial position going into 2021 budget where the Township was able to invest reserves of \$5 million in short-term investments which has brought the total reserve fund balance to \$11,040,000.

[Click here for County Council Highlights](#)

ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committee approved to amend the Procedural By-law 2018-08 to allow for Electronic Meeting Participation as required by those necessary. This would give individuals who are making a deputation to Council or want to participate electronically to be able to do so through our Zoom platform. As well, residents will be able to continue to watch Council and Committee meetings live through the [Township's YouTube channel](#). The process of installing Video Conferencing technology has commenced and will be completed in the next 8-10 weeks.

INDEMNIFICATION BYLAW

Committee approved a draft bylaw to be presented to Council for adoption with recommendations made by the Township's Legal Counsel, John Ewart. An indemnification bylaw protects Council members, board members, staff and others for legal costs which would not be reimbursed through the Township's insurance coverage.

REGULATION OF WATER SUPPLY

Committee approved the regulation of water supply in the Township of Ramara and that the proposed Water Use Bylaw be presented to Council for adoption. The proposed Bylaw would prohibit the removal of a water meter, except as authorized by the Township, and the property owner would be responsible for any loss or damage including freezing. Increased fees will still apply if a property owner fails to provide the Township access to read a meter where the remote readout is unable to obtain a reading.

BAYSHORE VILLAGE SEWAGE WORKS

Staff provided an update on the Bayshore Village Sewage Works (Effluent Spray Irrigation) and Committee requested an update from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks regarding when the government will do the 10-year review of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan. Committee also requested a meeting with Minister Yurek and MPP Jill Dunlop prior to review. Staff advised that when the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan 10 year review is initiated, the Ontario government will invite stakeholders, Indigenous communities, municipalities and the public to participate in the review to see if updates are needed.

RAMARA REOPENS

The Township Administration Building is open for appointment only other than Finance Services that is open for walk-in services. **Book an Appointment** with staff and know **what to expect** when coming to the Administration Office at www.ramara.ca/ramarareopens/. In order to follow public health recommendations, our services and protocols have changed, and we ask residents to wear a mask, fill out our health assessment, and be patient.



Remember to follow us (@Ramaratwp) on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for up-to date information.

Media Contact:

Ashley Watson

Business and Communications Coordinator

awatson@ramara.ca | 705-484-5374 ext.332