

# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Committee of the Whole - January 18, 2021



Please note that all Committee of the Whole decisions are subject to Council approval. The next Council meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. If you have any questions regarding agenda items or decisions made at Committee or Council meetings, please email [council@ramara.ca](mailto:council@ramara.ca).

## PLANNING SERVICES - TENDER AWARD

Committee defeated the recommended motion and a new report will be brought forward to the February 1st, 2021 Committee of the Whole.

## COMMERCIAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

Zach Drinkwalter, Director of Finance, reported that he received six applications for Commercial Property Tax relief. In the report, Zach noted that these applicants may be eligible for Federal and/or Provincial funding and recommended deferring the Township's Commercial Property Tax Relief program until other funding has been exhausted. Committee approved to defer the Commercial Tax Relief funding program until more funding through the County, Province and Federal governments have been exhausted. For access to funding relief from the province, visit [here](#) and information on federal funding, click [here](#).

**Next Council Meeting is on January 25 at 7:00 pm**

## WAIVING DEVELOPMENT CHARGES FOR SPECIFIC PROPERTIES

Currently, the Township **only** charges development charges for the Municipal, County and School board portions on non-residential properties that are located in the Ramara Economic Development District. For the rest of the Township, County and School board development charges are charged on non-residential and residential properties. Please note that the Township has only waived development charges in the Industrial Park until 2024. This waiver has also been granted by the County. School Board Development Charges still apply.

## 2021 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Ashley Watson, Business and Communications Coordinator, presented Committee with a list of priorities that staff hope to accomplish for 2021. These priorities include the following:

- Human Resources Strategy
- IM/IT Plan
- Capital Plan
- Asset Management Plan
- Communications Plan
- Strategic Plan/Official Plan
- Internet Plans
- Customer Service Strategy
- Water Metre Technology
- Review of Bylaws
- Fire Master Plans
- Management of STRs
- Waterfront Strategy & Parking Plan
- Community Services/Infrastructure Plan
- Transportation Plan
- Ward Boundary Review
- Infrastructure Plan
- Economic Development Plan

Ashley Watson will bring forward a detailed action plan for the priorities as well as an engagement plan for the Strategic Plan. Committee approved to accept these priorities with their additions.

# COMMUNICATIONS PLAN 2021-2022

Ashley Watson, Business and Communications Coordinator, brought forward a Communication plan for the next two years that would focus the following three areas:

1. Providing Citizen Focused Communication to improve the quality of external communications.
2. Increase Community Engagement to support and encourage an engaged community that is aware of, and participates in, local government and recognizes its role in driving future planning for programs and initiatives.
3. Improve Internal Communications to improve the quality of internal communications so that employees understand the strategic vision and have the information needed to be successful in their role.

Committee approved to implement the Communications plan with a focus on building media relationships in order to increase awareness of Council initiatives, decisions and events.

[Click here for County Council Highlights](#)

## SUPPORT ONE YEAR EXTENSION FOR AMP

Committee approved to support the Ministry of Finance Officers' Association of Ontario (MFOA) letter to the Ministry of Infrastructure requesting a one-year extension of deadlines for municipalities in completing their Asset Management Plan in order to focus on immediate needs of the pandemic.

## PROPOSED CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Committee discussed Oro Medonte's recent passing of their Code of Conduct for Members of the Public bylaw that addresses concerns over harassing comments they have received from their residents. Committee approved to amend the Township of Ramara's Health and Safety Policy #17 - Respect in the Workplace (Harassment and Violence) in order to add some of the definitions, standard responses and features similar to what is found in the Oro Medonte's Code of Conduct policy. This policy will be brought forward to a future Committee of the Whole meeting.

## RAMARA SOCCER CLUB

Committee approved that the Township will renew the Township's contract with the Ramara Soccer Club for an additional four-year term. This agreement includes the following:

- Hire a contractor to fertilize grounds that would be a shared cost between the Club and the Township.
- Continue to waive fees for leagues that have players under 18 years

## WATERFRONT STRATEGY UPDATE

Jon Popple, Manager of Community Standards, updated Council with the progress of the Waterfront Strategy that provides an update on location, finance, technology, infrastructure and bylaws. Jon will be presenting the Waterfront Plan at the February 1st Committee of the Whole meeting as well as future public meetings in order to get feedback from both Council and the public. Once adopted these recommendations, bylaws and parking plans would be implemented immediately in order to be fully operational for April 2021.

# MUNICIPAL ROAD ALLOWANCE DAMAGE DEPOSIT

Committee approved that a \$1,000 road allowance damage deposit be established and added to the Fees and Charges Bylaw. The Damage deposit is a financial commitment from property owner to the Township as a guarantee against damage to the curb, sidewalk, road, boulevard, and other Township services located in a municipal road allowance. This would also include clean up of any adjacent road. The deposit would be paid prior to the approval for any work that is required within the road allowance and returned once the work is done and area is inspected.

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

## SNOWMANATHON

Our Ramara Recreation department is having their 11th annual 'Snow Creations' building contest. From December to March 1st 2021, residents of Ramara can send their creations to the recreation department at [recreation@ramara.ca](mailto:recreation@ramara.ca) and the winner will be judged for prizes & acknowledged at a future Council meeting. Good Luck to Everyone and Happy Building!



## WARD BOUNDARY REVIEW

Did you know that the Township of Ramara is completing a Ward Boundary Review? Ramara's current ward boundaries have not been reviewed in 25 years, so the review will ensure that Ramara's ward boundaries continue to provide a system of effective and equitable representation for all residents in accordance with the guiding principles of *effective representation* as set out by the Supreme Court of Canada.

There will be two rounds of public consultation. The first will run from **January 11 to February 1st, 2021** and will give members of the community the opportunity to learn more about Ramara's ward boundaries and to provide their comments and feedback. This will include a public survey and two virtual public meetings scheduled for **January 20th at 9:30 a.m.** and **January 27th at 6:30 p.m.**

This is your chance to provide **YOUR SAY**, so please take the time to participate in the process as **YOUR OPINION MATTERS!**

For access to the survey and to register for one of the public meetings, please visit our **Ward Boundary Review Page** on our community engagement site **Reach Out Ramara**. For more information about the Ward Boundary Review please visit the **Township Website**.



Follow us on @Ramaratwp on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter first access to news and information.



### CONTACT US - MEDIA

Phone - 705-484-5374 ext. 322  
Email - [awatson@ramara.ca](mailto:awatson@ramara.ca)



Visit the Township website at [www.ramara.ca](http://www.ramara.ca) for up to date information on changes to services and programs.



### HAVE A COMPLAINT?

Submit it online using our 'Report a Concern' form at [www.ramara.ca](http://www.ramara.ca)