



Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023

From: Niall Lobley, Acting CAO/Director Community & Environmental Services

Subject: Alternative supply of water to Pottawatomi Village

Report CAO2023-11

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Recommendation

That Council direct staff to engage with staff at the City of Owen Sound to explore feasibility of assuming the responsibility, administration and management of the City water supplies that exist in the Veterans subdivision of Brooke, with the installation of a bulk water meter, and,

That staff work with City staff in developing an agreement that the Township may extend this service, at the Townships cost, to Atkins Drive, and,

That if it is possible, that such a service includes fire suppression along the length of the new water infrastructure corridor and,

That staff will negotiate a proposed connection fee from the City of Owen Sound for establishing 25 new connections to the City water system, and,

That only those residents connected to the Pottawatomi Municipal Supply will be connected to an alternative supply at this time, and,

That staff be directed to organize and host a community meeting with residents on Atkins Street to answer questions in respect to water supplies, and,

That staff be directed to engage GSS Engineering as part of the East Linton Master Servicing project to undertake a design process and costing exercise for a supply and,

That staff bring back a report as part of budget 2024 on potential costs, funding avenues and timelines for a new service to be established



Background

Twenty-five properties in Potawatomi Village/Atkins Street, in Georgian Bluffs receive municipal water from a municipally managed well on Atkins. The system was constructed in 1987 and provides a municipally managed public water system paid for by residents.

The system is expensive to run, and these costs are borne by a small resident base, leading to high-water rates. In addition, the water supply is less than ideal; while the water service provides adequate quantities of clean and safe water, residents on Atkins have long shared concerns in respect to water pressure, occasional discolorations, and taste.

In 2018, and earlier, residents on Atkins had been involved in discussion on the East Linton Master Servicing work and believed that a solution was imminent.

In the longer term, the Township has been developing plans to extend the East Linton Water System south of Indian Creek, through the Brooke settlement area and to Atkins Street. This would replace the current municipal well in the future. Work continues on this system through a Class Environmental Impact Assessment process and an update on this work will be provided to Council this evening.

While the eventual goal is to assume the Atkins Street residences on the East Linton Water system, this larger body of work will take time from a funding of the capital needs and planning perspectives.

Residents on Atkins have expressed ongoing concern to Council with water supply and the timeliness of a solution.

Analysis

Staff have sought an alternative, interim arrangement to provide water to residents on Atkins that would provide a near-term solution to resident concerns with respect to their current supply yet maintain the long-term ability to connect to the East Linton System as, if and when this work is undertaken. Staff believe that this solution will remain in place for at least several years, while work is undertaken on extending the East Linton system.

Working with GSS Engineering, staff believe that the most cost-effective means of delivering water to the residents on Atkins in the shortest amount of time, would be to seek agreement with Owen Sound to establish a connection to City water in the Veterans Subdivision (VLA) area of Brooke, where Township residents already receive City water. In addition, staff believe that it is likely that fire suppression can be associated with the system bring hydrants to Sommers and Atkins to support fire fighting if and when needed.



In order to do so, the Township would need to:

- Install a bulk water meter at the Township/City boundary.
- Review and potentially upgrade linear water assets in the VLA
- Invest in and add new water mains along Sommers Street between 16th Street and Grey Road 17B. It is assumed that Sommers would likely be reconstructed and resurfaced at this time.
- Invest and add new water mains along Grey Road 17B between Sommers and Youngs Drive
- Invest in and add a new water main along Youngs Drive
- Review, and potentially upgrade mains along Atkins Street and connect the new main.

Approval for all this work would be contingent on an agreement and connection fee with the City of Owen Sound, and approval of Grey County for installing a main along their road.

Ultimately the Township would assume approximately 50 connections in the VLA from the City of Owen Sound and any new connections onto the system, which would, until such time as the East Linton system would be extended, would be limited to the 25 connections on the Potawatomi system.

At this time, no new connections where municipal services are not provided at this time, would be enabled onto this system.

The Township would assume a similar relationship with Owen Sound as it has with South Bruce for Oxenden; we would pay the City directly for all water passing the bulk meter point at double the City rates. The Township would be responsible for the operation of the water system on the Township side of the bulk water meter, all capital infrastructure on the Township side, and all billing for water use.

In addition, the Township would need to pay a connection fee for services to the City of Owen Sound and would be responsible if any capital infrastructure upgrades were required on the City side of the service to enable these new connections.

Options Considered

Two routes for possible City water servicing have been considered. On the basis of this review, the VLA/Sommer extension to Atkins Street is considered to likely be the most straightforward and cost efficient route, and the one that would ultimately better align with the emerging East Linton Master Servicing Plan. It could likely be the option that could be deployed the quickest.



The second option would see a main link established to City services on Alpha Street, and a main established along Grey Road 17B through Nicols Gully. This connection is reliant on road infrastructure upgrades at both the City and County level and includes a bridge crossing. The nature of this construction is more complex with multiple parties involved. It is highly likely that this will take longer to deliver and may well be more expensive.

The third option would be to undertake no work at this time, leaving an alternative supply to Youngs Drive as part of a much wider body of work to implement the East Linton Servicing Master Plan. Staff believe that this work will not be ready to be initiated for several years and so this would not deliver a timely response to water needs in Potawatomi Village.

Financial Impact

At this time, staff have undertaken a high-level discussion with engineering staff around the costs, but no detailed design or engineering has occurred. As such the financial impact is not fully considered at this time. However, based on these discussions staff believe that it is likely that the alternative supply could be achieved between \$2M and \$2.5M inclusive of engineering and construction. This estimate also includes provision for costs not yet known, such as connection fees and for upgrades to existing infrastructure if required.

Staff have started to review the availability of any grants or external funds that might be available to support this type of infrastructure project. In addition, it is typical that residents that receive a new water service would contribute to some extent. The amount of funds that could be raised through these means are not yet fully understood.

Strategic Priorities

N/A

Conclusion

Staff have identified a potential alternative source for water to Potawatomi Village (Atkins Street) that we address long standing concerns of residents in respect to the current municipal supply from a well. The solution would be an interim until the expansion of the East Linton Water System occurs and would form a connection to the City of Owen Sound supply via Brooke. Staff are providing an update to Council on this work, and seeking approval to start the discussion with City staff on this work toward developing a budget proposal.

Respectfully Submitted: Niall Loble, Acting CAO/Director Community & Environmental Services.