



The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

Financial Services

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Tom Kitsos, Director Financial Services & Chief Financial Officer

Date to Council: February 11, 2020

Report Number: FS-2020-04

Subject: Essex Powerlines' Mandated Paperless Billing Initiative

Recommendations

It is recommended:

That Essex Powerlines' Mandated Paperless Billing Initiative for Essex Powerlines Corporation (EPLC) electricity customers **be supported** by Council;

And that proceeds from EPLC's campaign for paperless billing be donated by EPLC to a registered non-profit organization to **be chosen** by Council.

Background

At the Regular Council Meeting of December 10, 2019, the Town of Tecumseh, through Council Report CAO-2019-12 and motion RCM-390/19, joined the County of Essex, the Government of Canada and 444 Canadian municipalities that have declared climate emergencies.

The following is an excerpt of that motion:

“And that in response to this emergency, the need to reduce overall emissions from the Town of Tecumseh as well as continue to prepare for Windsor-Essex County's climate future are deemed to be high priorities when considering budget direction and in all decisions of Council;

And further that the Town Administration be directed to identify priority action items, implementation measures and cost requirements for those programs and services it is responsible for, to accelerate and urgently work towards the reduction of emissions and preparing for our climate future.”

In a letter to Town Administration, dated December 6, 2019 (see Attachment 1), EPLC has invited the Town of Tecumseh to join EPLC in their Digital Transformation Strategy and Water Billing Savings initiative to reduce the carbon impact of paper billing by committing to digital billing for both electric and water customers across the municipality.

EPLC currently has 22% of its customer base on paperless billing and through this mandated paperless initiative, hopes to increase that figure to 75% by January 1, 2021. EPLC estimates that its current paper bill printing produces more than 14,000 kg of CO₂e (carbon dioxide equivalent) per year.

In addition to the environmental benefits of paperless billing, significant cost savings are expected. Through this initiative, EPLC commits to donate a portion of the proceeds to a registered non-profit organization specific to Tecumseh, of Council's choosing.

Comments

EPLC's mandated paperless billing initiative is in response to the many environmental state of emergency declarations calling for action on climate change and is consistent with recent Council motions and strategic priorities.

In addition to the Town's Climate Change Emergency Declaration, the Town has resolved to participate in the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) and undertake a Corporate Climate Action Plan (CCAP) through Council Report PRS-2019-14 and Council motion SCM-27/19.

As part of the PCP initiative, the Town has committed to contribute towards a Countywide Community Energy Plan (CEP), to be undertaken in 2020/2021 by the County of Essex and ERCA in cooperation with the seven lower-tier municipalities and local energy distribution companies.

Council has also identified Smart Growth as a strategic priority for 2019-2022. One of the strategies adopted within this priority is to Develop Tecumseh as a Sustainable Community, which encompasses waste reduction and energy conservation initiatives and actions to address climate change.

The Town also actively measures and seeks ways to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through its Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan (ECDM). Tecumseh's municipal GHG emissions, as measured through the Town's ECDM and reported to Council through Council Report PRS-2019-11, averaged 1,179,000 kg per year during 2016-2018.

The Town's ECDM includes energy consumption reduction and GHG emission reduction targets. Though this initiative will not impact Town-produced emissions and therefore will not be reflected in our energy consumption and GHG emission reporting, it will support the ECDM vision to be an environmentally sustainable community and to demonstrate leadership with respect to energy conservation in our community.

This initiative is considered mandatory for all customers; however, EPLC has committed to take careful consideration towards customers who may not be ready for paperless billing.

Consultations

Chief Administrative Officer

Financial Implications

EPLC performs the water and wastewater billing function for the Town. Cost savings achieved by EPLC will benefit the Town through cost reduction/containment of this billable service to the Town.

Additionally, the Town should benefit through its ownership stake in EPLC through its equity share of EPLC net income and increases to dividend income.

Link to Strategic Priorities

Applicable	2019-22 Strategic Priorities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Make the Town of Tecumseh an even better place to live, work and invest through a shared vision for our residents and newcomers.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ensure that Tecumseh's current and future growth is built upon the principles of sustainability and strategic decision-making.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Integrate the principles of health and wellness into all of Tecumseh's plans and priorities.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Steward the Town's "continuous improvement" approach to municipal service delivery to residents and businesses.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Demonstrate the Town's leadership role in the community by promoting good governance and community engagement, by bringing together organizations serving the Town and the region to pursue common goals.

Communications

Not applicable

Website

Social Media

News Release

Local Newspaper

This report has been reviewed by Senior Administration as indicated below and recommended for submission by the Chief Administrative Officer.

Prepared by:

Tom Kitsos, CPA, CMA, BComm
Director Financial Services & Chief Financial Officer

Recommended by:

Paul Anthony, RRFA
Director Parks & Recreation Services and Acting
Chief Administrative Officer

**Attachment
Number**

**Attachment
Name**

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EPLC Digital Transformation Strategy and Water Billing Savings
letter