



The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

Technology & Client Services

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Shaun Fuerth, Director Technology & Client Services
Date to Council: June 28, 2022
Report Number: TCS-2022-05
Subject: Farm 911 Emily Project

Recommendations

It is recommended:

That Technology & Client Services Report TCS-2022-05, regarding the Farm 911 Emily Project, **be received**;

And that the Application for Farm 911 Emily Project Access Point **be approved** for use;

And further that the Town's Fees & Charges By-law 2021-096 **be amended** to include a fee for "Emily Project Access Point (EPAP) - Civic Addressing Sign" of \$40.00 in Public Works section under Schedule 'E';

And furthermore that Farm 911- Emily Project Access Point (EPAP) Policy/Procedures, as attached to this report, **be approved**.

Background

Council will recall that at the Regular Council Meeting held on February 2, 2022, Ms. Josette Eugeni attended as a delegation and made a presentation regarding "Farm 911: The Emily Project". Ms. Eugeni inquired as to whether this program could be adopted and promoted in the Town of Tecumseh.

At that meeting, Council passed the following resolution:

Motion: RCM -30/22

Moved by Councillor Bill Altenhof
Seconded by Councillor Andrew Dowie

That the request for 911 signage for vacant rural properties and a process for assigning civic addresses **be referred** to Administration for review and recommendation.

The Emily Project (Project) was launched after a farm accident in Hastings, Ontario, in which a young girl named Emily Trudeau did not survive. The emergency services vehicles responding to the call had difficulty locating the farm field where the accident took place as there was no civic address assigned to the field entrance. The group's mission statement is to bring ideas, resources and community partners together to improve emergency services in our rural communities. The Project encourages owners of agricultural or vacant rural land to have civic addresses assigned to their access points to assist with emergency services locating the property.

Administration consulted with representatives from the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and other Municipalities that were early adopters of the Project. This information regarding process, fees and challenges assisted in forming a recommendation to Council.

There are over 75 municipalities and counties in Ontario currently participating in the Project.

Comments

Multiple options were reviewed by Administration with respect to creating a system and process to assign the civic address signs for vacant agricultural or properties.

One option considered was a program whereby the Town would be responsible for a blanket implementation to supply and install all signs, but the associated cost of approximately \$35,000 and the demand on staff time resulted with this option being deemed not feasible. Attachment 1 depicts all vacant lands (approximately 250 properties) in the Town of Tecumseh that currently do not have Municipal 911 addressing signs.

The Emily Project has the goal of addressing existing farm accesses at entrances to vacant rural properties to assist responders to easily identify vacant farm locations that do not currently have a civic address sign at the roadside. Staff reviewed whether the current Entrance Permit program would be applicable to the Emily Project Access Point (EPAP) accesses. The cost of the full Entrance Permit, and any upgrades required to bring the access points up to standard, would likely be a deterrent for many, and since EPAP is not intended to provide entrance approval, it is the recommendation of Administration that the EPAP program be processed independently of the Entrance

Permit program. This recommendation recognizes that providing an EPAP address does not provide the landowners with an approved entrance, but rather a civic address point for location purposes.

To create separation from the Entrance Permit program, it is recommended that an amendment be made to the Fees and Charges By-Law to include a line item for civic address signs. This would be used for the proposed EPAP program as well as for other applications such as entrances within other jurisdictions (MTO, County of Essex and private roads) requiring addressing, replacement signs, or in instances where previously approved entrances were not given a civic address. The proposed fee is \$40.00 to account for an average sign fee of \$19.00 and a sign post fee of \$21.00. The EPAP application will be made available to landowners on the Town's website (Attachment 2). Included with this application are the policy and procedures relative to issuance of an EPAP sign. Currently, staff from Technology & Client Services (Geographic Information System), Public Works & Engineering Services (PWES) and Development Services work together to identify new properties requiring addressing, assigning of the address and coordination for purchase and installation. As indicated in Attachment 2, applications will be directed to PWES.

The Town will promote this program with the rural community and advise on how to apply and acquire an EPAP sign through the Town's website and social media channels.

The current civic address signs for properties with a building, issued by the Town, are reflective green with white lettering. It is proposed these EPAP signs will be reflective yellow with black lettering to differentiate between properties with buildings and vacant rural properties.

It should be noted that the Federal Government through the Canadian-Radio Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) is working to implement Next Generation 911 (NG911) to assist in dispatching emergency services to exact incident locations using the coordinates obtained from the caller's mobile phone. The timeline for implementation of this initiative is spring 2024. Although this will assist with dispatching emergency services, it is still necessary to have appropriate signage at the various farm locations.

Consultations

Public Works & Engineering Services
Community Safety

Financial Implications

It is estimated that there are 250 parcels that could potentially be signed through this initiative. The average sign cost with number stickers and post is approximately \$40.00. An application fee would be collected in the amount of \$40.00 per sign resulting in no external cost to the Town. This fee will be reflected in the Town's Fees and Charges By-law 2021-96.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steward the Town's "continuous improvement" approach to municipal service delivery to residents and businesses.
<input 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:

Shaun Fuerth, BCS
Director Technology & Client Services

Reviewed by:

Kirby McArdle, P.Eng.
Manager Public Works & Transportation

Reviewed by:

Wade Bondy
Director Community Safety & Fire Chief

Reviewed by:

Phil Bartnik, P.Eng.
Director Public Works & Engineering Services

Recommended by:

Margaret Misek-Evans, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment Number	Attachment Name
1	Attachment 1 – Rural Addressing Farm 911 – 2022 Project
2	Attachment 2 – Town of Tecumseh EPAP Application (June 2022)