



**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ST. JOSEPH
COUNCIL MEETING
AGENDA
6:30 p.m. - Wednesday, January 24, 2024
Council Chambers – 1669 Arthur Street, Richards Landing**

1. Call to Order

2. Moment of Silent Reflection

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

4. New Business and Discussion Items

5. Adoption of the previous minutes

- a. Regular Council Meeting – January 10, 2024

Recommendation: BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday, January 10, 2024, be adopted as circulated.

4-8

6. Accounts

Recommendation: BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Cheque Register dated January 24, 2024, in the amount of \$254,223.42 be approved as presented.

9-10

7. Staff and Committee Reports

- a. Staff and Volunteer Mileage Rates

Recommendation: BE IT RESOLVED THAT the report from the Treasurer regarding mileage reimbursement rates be received; and THAT Council approve an increase in the mileage reimbursement rate to \$____ per kilometre as of January 1, 2024, for staff, and to \$____ per kilometre as of April 1, 2024 for Dr. Trefry Centre volunteers.

11-13

- b. Request for Purchase - Building Permit Software Licence

Recommendation: BE IT RESOLVED THAT the report from the Deputy Clerk/Treasurer regarding the request to purchase a software program be received, and

That Council authorizes staff to enter into a licence agreement with _____ for a building permit software program.

14-15

- c. Water Plant - Exhaust Fan Quotes

Recommendation: BE IT RESOLVED THAT the report from the Clerk Administrator regarding the Water Treatment Plant Ventilation Fan Replacement be received; and

That Council _____.

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- d. RFP Results – Go North Marketing 17
Recommendation: BE IT RESOLVED THAT the report from the Community Projects Coordinator regarding the results of the RFQ 2023-14 for Marketing Management for the Go North Music Festival 2024 be received; and

That Council_____.

8. Correspondence

Item #	Description	Action	
Items to be received for information			
A	North Shore Health Network Auxiliary, Matthews Site – 2023 Share Shed Contributions	Receive	18
B	G. Richards - Impact of planned generation, distribution and storage of electricity on municipalities in the Algoma District		19-20 21-26
C	OPP – November & December 2023 Police Service Board Report	Receive	
Items with a request for support (resolutions)			
D	Former Public Health Employees Group - Regional Public Health Ontario Laboratories		27-29
E	Association of Ontario Road Supervisors – Municipal Equipment Operator Course		30-31

Recommendation: BE IT RESOLVED THAT correspondence items A through E be received for information; and

That the recommended actions be taken.

9. Closed Session

Recommendation: BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council proceed into Closed Session at ____ p.m. in accordance with Section 239 of the Municipal Act to discuss personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees and instruction to be applied to negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality.

- a. Bell Mobility Tower Update
- b. Fire Department Staff
- c. 2023 Performance Evaluation Summary – Department Heads

Recommendation: BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council does rise from Closed Session at ____ p.m.

10. By-Laws

- a. Confirmation 32
Recommendation: BE IT RESOLVED THAT leave be granted to introduce By-Law 2024-06 being a By-Law to confirm the proceedings of the Council meeting held on January 24, 2024; and
 THAT said by-law be passed in open council on January 24, 2024.

11. Adjournment

Recommendation: BE IT RESOLVED THAT this meeting of the Council of the Township of St. Joseph adjourn at _____ p.m. to meet again at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 7, 2024, or at the call of the chair.



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ST. JOSEPH
COUNCIL MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES
6:30 p.m. - Wednesday, January 10, 2024
Council Chambers – 1669 Arthur Street, Richards Landing

Present	
Council	Mayor Jody Wildman Councillor Steven Adams Councillor Bryon Hall Councillor Cameron Ross Councillor Greg Senecal
Staff	Amanda Richardson, Clerk Administrator
Members of the Public	Kailaan Walker

1. Call to Order

2. Moment of Silent Reflection

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

4. Adoption of the previous minutes

- a. Regular Council Meeting – December 20, 2023

Resolution #2024 - 01

Moved By: Steven Adams

Seconded By: Greg Senecal

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday, December 20, 2023, be adopted as circulated.

Carried.

5. Accounts

Resolution #2024 - 02

Moved By: Bryon Hall

Seconded By: Cameron Ross

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Cheque Register dated January 10, 2024, in the amount of \$117,220.14 be approved as presented.

Carried.

6. New Business and Discussion Items

- a. Councillor Ross requested an update from staff regarding Stribling Point Signage
- b. Mayor Wildman requested an update on the Bell tower installation at the administrative office.

7. Staff and Committee Reports

- a. Request for maintenance – 15th Side Road

Resolution #2024 - 03

Moved By: Greg Senecal

Seconded By: Steven Adams

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the proposal from the owners of 1369 15th Side Road to upgrade an additional 689 foot section of the unopened road allowance abutting their property

(PT Lot 16 CON D) to facilitate access to said property from Highway 548/D-Line be received for information, and

That Council tentatively approve the property owner undertake the proposed upgrades pending consultation/approval from the MTO and the Township’s solicitor.
Carried.

Kailaan Walker was present to answer Council’s questions regarding the proposal. A letter was received from a resident living in the area with concerns regarding property usage and heavy equipment traffic in the area.

b. 2024 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Resolution #2024 - 04

Moved By: Greg Senecal

Seconded By: Cameron Ross

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the report from the Community Projects Coordinator regarding a Volunteer and Staff Appreciation Dinner be received; and

THAT Council approves the rescheduling of the dinner to the spring.

Carried.

c. Funding Application Request: Trillium Foundation

Resolution #2024 - 05

Moved By: Cameron Ross

Seconded By: Greg Senecal

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the report from the Community Projects Coordinator regarding the Ontario Trillium Foundation – Community Building Fund Capital Stream be received; and

That Council authorizes staff to apply to The Ontario Trillium Foundation for the Tranter Rink Resurfacing and Lighting Project.

Carried.

8. Correspondence

Item #	Description	Action
Items to be received for information		
A	OPP – October 2023 Police Service Board Report	Receive
Items with a request for support (resolutions)		
B	Huron Shores Family Health Team – Clinical Coach Funding Support Letter	Support

C	Township of Asphodel Norwood – Rising Municipal Insurance Costs	Receive
D	Town of Aurora - Community Safety and Inciteful Speech	Receive
E	Downtown Stratford Business Improvement Area - More Business Support for CEBA loan Businesses	Receive
Items with a request for support (other) or decision required		
F	St. Joseph Island Lions Club – Sponsorship Request	Receive/Respond

Resolution #2024 - 06

Moved By: Bryon Hall

Seconded By: Steven Adams

BE IT RESOLVED THAT correspondence items A through F be received for information; and

That the recommended actions be taken.

Carried.

9. Closed Session

Resolution #2024 - 07

Moved By: Bryon Hall

Seconded By: Greg Senecal

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council proceed into Closed Session at 7:32 p.m. in accordance with Section 239 of the Municipal Act to discuss personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees.

- a. 2023 Performance Evaluation Summary - Management
- b. Fire Department Staff
- c. Building Permit follow up

Carried.

Resolution #2024 - 08

Moved By: Bryon Hall

Seconded By: Steven Adams

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council does rise from Closed Session at 7:55 p.m.

Carried.

Resolution #2024 - 09

Moved By: Bryon Hall

Seconded By: Cameron Ross

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the updates regarding fire department staff are received for information.

Carried.

10. By-Laws

- a. Tax Ratios

Resolution #2024 - 10

Moved By: Steven Adams

Seconded By: Cameron Ross

BE IT RESOLVED THAT leave be granted to introduce By-Law #2024-01 being a By-Law to establish tax ratios for the year 2024; and
THAT said by-law be passed in open council on January 10, 2024.
Carried.

b. Interim Tax Levy

Resolution #2024 - 11

Moved By: Bryon Hall

Seconded By: Greg Senecal

BE IT RESOLVED THAT leave be granted to introduce By-Law 2024-02 being a By-Law to provide for an interim tax levy for the year 2024; and
THAT said by-law be passed in open council on January 10, 2024.
Carried.

c. Borrowing

Resolution #2024 - 12

Moved By: Cameron Ross

Seconded By: Bryon Hall

BE IT RESOLVED THAT leave be granted to introduce By-Law 2024-03 being a By-Law authorizing the borrowing and pledging of securities for the municipality; and
THAT said by-law be passed in open council on January 10, 2024.
Carried.

d. Council Remuneration

Resolution #2024 - 13

Moved By: Greg Senecal

Seconded By: Cameron Ross

BE IT RESOLVED THAT leave be granted to introduce By-Law 2024-04 being a By-Law to provide remuneration for Members of Council, and to repeal By-law 2023-04; and
THAT said by-law be passed in open council on January 10, 2024.
Carried.

e. Confirmation

Resolution #2024 - 14

Moved By: Steven Adams

Seconded By: Cam

BE IT RESOLVED THAT leave be granted to introduce By-Law 2024-05 being a By-Law to confirm the proceedings of the Council meeting held on January 10, 2024; and
THAT said by-law be passed in open council on January 10, 2024.
Carried.

11. Adjournment

Resolution #2024 - 15

Moved By: Bryon Hall

Seconded By: Steven Adams

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this meeting of the Council of the Township of St. Joseph adjourn at 8:05 p.m. to meet again at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 24,2024, or at the call of the chair.

Carried.

Joseph Wildman, Mayor

Amanda Richardson, Clerk Administrator

TOWNSHIP OF ST. JOSEPH


Disbursements

24-Jan-24

RESOLUTION #

Chq #	Date	Vendor Name	Description	Chq Amount
PAP	12/31/2023	ATS	ADMIN ALARM MONITORING OCT - DEC 23	74.40
PAP	12/31/2023	RCAP LEASING INC.	ADMIN COPIER LEASE NOV - DEC 23	231.54
6358	1/11/2024	EAST ALGOMA ROAD SUPERINTENDENT ASSOC	ROADS - ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP	195.00
6359	1/11/2024	ISLAND TIMBER MART	ROADS - BUILDING MAINTENANCE	306.09
6360	1/11/2024	LIGHTNING EQUIPMENT SALES INC.	FIRE - EQUIPMENT PARTS	1,449.79
6361	1/11/2024	MINISTER OF FINANCE	POLICING - OPP BILLING	17,555.00
107556	1/11/2024	ABELL PEST CONTROL INC	RECREATION - OTH PEST CONTROL	132.86
107559	1/11/2024	FRASER ADAMS	FIRE - TRAINING SUPPLIES	116.00
107561	1/11/2024	ALGOMA AG CENTRE	ROADS - FUEL	300.48
107562	1/11/2024	ALGOMA OFFICE EQUIPMENT	SENIORS - COPIER LEASE	76.68
107563	1/11/2024	ALGOMA PUBLIC HEALTH	MUNICIPAL LEVY Q1 2024	15,281.50
107565	1/11/2024	THE BLACK BEAR CAFE	ADMIN - SUPPLIES	497.22
107567	1/11/2024	KIMBERLY CHEESEMAN	PSW PROGRAM - MILEAGE	1,374.05
107570	1/11/2024	MELISSA CRIPPS	SENIORS - DAY OUT MILEAGE	68.00
107571	1/11/2024	JENNY ENNS	PSW PROGRAM - MILEAGE	358.80
107573	1/11/2024	MARGO GIBSON	SENIORS - FITNESS MILEAGE	22.50
107574	1/11/2024	GREEN FOR LIFE ENVIRONMENTAL	LANDFILL - RECYCLING BIN EMPTY	3,861.84
107577	1/11/2024	GLEN IRWIN	CBO - MILEAGE	176.00
107578	1/11/2024	ISLAND CLIPPINGS	RECREATION - EVENT ADVERTISING	67.80
107579	1/11/2024	ISLAND MARKET - TOWNSHIP	ADMIN - SUPPLIES	41.27
107581	1/11/2024	KENTVALE MERCHANTS LTD.	VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS - SUPPLIES	872.40
107582	1/11/2024	ELIZABETH LANE	PSW PROGRAM - MILEAGE	456.00
107586	1/11/2024	MUNICIPAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT CORP	MUNICIPAL LEVY Q1 2024	9,223.32
107587	1/11/2024	ONTARIO GOOD ROADS ASSOCIATION	ROADS - ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP	817.70
107589	1/11/2024	DAVID PEARSE	BLEO - MILEAGE	23.00
107590	1/11/2024	PHOENIX EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT LOGIC	EMERGENCY MGMT - ANNUAL TRAINING	1,243.00
107591	1/11/2024	PUROLATOR COURIER LTD	FIRE - EQUIPMENT SHIPPING CHARGES	687.17
107593	1/11/2024	SHERRY RODGERS	PSW PROGRAM - MILEAGE	649.50
107594	1/11/2024	RUSH TRUCK CENTRES	VOID	-
107601	1/11/2024	SUPERIOR PROPANE	LANDFILL /ROADS/FIRE - PROPANE	1,486.41
107602	1/11/2024	TRACTION (UAP INC)	ROADS - EQUIPMENT PARTS	474.58
107603	1/11/2024	UNITED SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY INC	ADMIN - LICENCE FEES	830.55
VARIOUS	1/11/2024	VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS	2023 FIRE POINTS POOL	10,000.00
VARIOUS	1/11/2024	SENIORS TRANSPORTATION VOLUNTEERS	SNRS TRANSPORTATION DEC 2023	1,625.20
EFT	1/11/2024	COLLABRIA VISA	VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS - SUPPLIES	4,279.86
DD	1/12/2024	BI-WEEKLY PAYROLL	PAY PERIOD # 1	28,308.42
6362	1/18/2024	BELL CANADA	MARINA - INTERNET NOV 2023	52.71
6363	1/18/2024	BELL CANADA	VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS - PHONE	1,002.92
6364	1/18/2024	BRELYN ENTERPRISE	MARINA - ADVERTISING	508.50
VARIOUS	1/18/2024	SENIORS MOW VOLUNTEERS	SNRS MOW MILEAGE OCT-DEC 2023	4,085.88
6367	1/18/2024	MUNICIPAL FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOC	ADMIN - ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP	339.00
6368	1/18/2024	PRO NET SPORTS LTD	RECREATION - RINK NETTING	42.72
6369	1/18/2024	RUSH TRUCK CENTRES	FIRE - TRUCK MTCE (REPL CHQ FOR # 107594)	7,558.70

<u>Chq #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Chq Amount</u>
107608	1/18/2024	ALGOMA DISTRICT SERVICES ADMIN BOARD	MUNICIPAL LEVY JAN 2024	65,410.92
107609	1/18/2024	ALGOMA BUSINESS COMPUTERS	VARIOUS DEPTS - MICROSOFT LICENCES	629.03
107610	1/18/2024	ALGOMA OFFICE EQUIPMENT	SNRS - COPIES/LEASE	228.99
107611	1/18/2024	ASSOC OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ONTARIO	ADMIN - ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP	1,711.66
107617	1/18/2024	GREEN FOR LIFE ENVIRONMENTAL	LANDFILL - RECYCLING BIN EMPTY	3,876.53
107621	1/18/2024	ISLAND MARKET - TREFRY	SNRS - PROGRAM FOOD & SUPPLIES	178.50
107623	1/18/2024	KENTVALE MERCHANTS LTD.	VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS - SUPPLIES	330.98
107624	1/18/2024	LOCAL AUTHORITY SERVICES	ADMIN - OFFICE SUPPLIES	118.18
107626	1/18/2024	MASSEY WHOLESALE LIMITED	SNRS - PROGRAM FOOD & SUPPLIES	581.09
107628	1/18/2024	NORTHSHORE SENTINEL	PSW PROGRAM - ADVERTISING	147.23
107629	1/18/2024	ONT MUNICIPAL EMPL RETIREMENT SYSTEM	PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS DEC 2023	19,789.94
107635	1/18/2024	STREETSCAN CANADA ULC	ADMIN - ANNUAL SOFTWARE LICENCE	1,220.40
107637	1/18/2024	TECHNICAL STANDARDS & SAFETY AUTHORITY	MARINA - ANNUAL LICENCE FEE	533.50
PAP	1/18/2024	ALGOMA POWER INC	ROADS - STREETLIGHT POWER NOV 2023	1,291.42
PAP	1/18/2024	BELL CANADA	WATER/SEWER - INTERNET	80.23
PAP	1/18/2024	RECEIVER GENERAL	PAYROLL REMITTANCES DEC 2023	30,357.64
PAP	1/18/2024	WORKPLACE SAFETY AND INSURANCE BOARD	WSIB PREMIUMS DEC 2023	10,982.82
TOTAL				\$ 254,223.42

	Township of St. Joseph	
	Report To Council	
	FROM:	Erica Pollock, Treasurer
	DATE:	January 24, 2024
	SUBJECT:	Mileage Reimbursement Rates
RECOMMENDATION:	<p>BE IT RESOLVED THAT the report from the Treasurer regarding mileage reimbursement rates be received: and</p> <p>THAT Council approve an increase in the mileage reimbursement rate to \$____ per kilometre as of January 1, 2024 for staff, and to \$____ per kilometre as of April 1, 2024 for Dr. Trefry Centre volunteers.</p>	

Background

The mileage reimbursement rate for staff was last increased in February 2013. At that time, it was increased from \$0.40 per km to \$0.50 per km. The rate for Dr. Trefry Centre volunteers increased from \$0.40 per km to \$0.50 per km in February 2022.

Analysis

An analysis was done by comparing current rates to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) rates, reviewing changes in gas prices, and comparing to other Central Algoma municipalities.

- The CRA automobile allowance rates for 2024 are \$0.70 per km for the first 5,000 km driven and \$0.64 per km after that. The CRA rates in 2013, when the Township rates were last increased, were \$0.54 per km for the first \$5,000 km, and \$0.48 per km after that. The increase in those rates from 2013 to 2023 is 30%. Most staff drive less than 5,000 km in a year, the only staff that could exceed that would be the PSWs.
- Statistics Canada reports on gas prices for Canada as well as by major cities in each province. The average gas price in Canada in 2013 was \$1.271 per litre, and for Jan to Nov 2023 the average was \$1.583 per litre, an increase of 25%. For Ontario cities reported (Ottawa, Toronto, and Thunder Bay), the average price increased from \$1.289 to \$1.571, or 22%.
- A survey was done of other Central Algoma municipalities and their rates ranged from \$0.50 to \$0.70 per km. Four of the municipalities use the CRA rates as a basis, and two use a sliding scale based on current gas prices. The others have a set rate between \$0.50 and \$0.60 per km.

In the past, the rate for Trefry volunteers has been different from the staff rates. As noted above, in February 2022 they were brought into alignment with the staff rates. The proposed changes were discussed with the Seniors Advisory Committee at their meeting on January 16. They passed the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Treasurer report on change in milage rates be received, and that the Seniors Advisory Committee recommends a minimum increase of 0.60/km, or up to 0.65/km for volunteers.

It is recommended that any increase for staff be effective as of January 1, 2024, and that any increase for the Dr. Trefry Centre volunteers be effective as of April 1, 2024 to coincide with the Ontario Health fiscal year.

Financial Implications

Any change in the rate would be included in the 2024 budget. The budget implications of several alternative rates are outlined in the attached schedule.

Summary

Council may approve an increase to the mileage reimbursement rate, keep the rate at \$0.50 per km, or defer the decision to budget deliberations.




Erica Pollock, CPA, CA
Treasurer

Proposed Mileage Rate Adjustment for 2024

Account	2023 Budget	2023 Actual Mileage Paid	Estimated Annual Cost of Increase			
			to \$0.55 10%	to \$0.60 20%	to \$0.65 30%	to \$0.70 40%
Staff Mileage - funded by Tax Levy						
Council Travel & Mileage	450.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Admin Mileage	300.00	287.53	28.75	57.51	86.26	115.01
Animal Control Mileage	400.00	296.07	29.61	59.21	88.82	118.43
By-Law Enforcement Mileage	200.00	83.09	8.31	16.62	24.93	33.24
Marina Mileage	50.00	252.29	25.23	50.46	75.69	100.92
Total Mileage funded by Tax levy	1,400.00	918.98	91.90	183.80	275.69	367.59
						Tax Levy Impact
Other Mileage - not funded by Tax Levy						
Trefry Centre:						
Seniors Management Mileage	200.00	188.19	18.82	37.64	56.46	75.28
Diners Exercise Mileage	820.00	448.41	44.84	89.68	134.52	179.36
Day Out Mileage	4,260.00	4,341.79	434.18	868.36	1,302.54	1,736.72
Meals on Wheels Mileage Volunteers	15,000.00	13,959.82	1,395.98	2,791.96	4,187.95	5,583.93
Transportation Mileage Volunteers	21,000.00	28,786.94	2,878.69	5,757.39	8,636.08	11,514.78
Less: Transportation Client Revenue	(15,000.00)	(19,570.47)	(1,957.05)	(3,914.09)	(5,871.14)	(7,828.19)
Total Trefry Centre Mileage	26,280.00	28,154.68	2,815.47	5,630.94	8,446.40	11,261.87
						Funded by Ontario Health Funding
PSW Mileage (estimated annual cost)	0.00	30,839.53	3,083.95	6,167.91	9,251.86	12,335.81
CBO Mileage	1,500.00	1,181.52	118.15	236.30	354.46	472.61
						Funded by PSW Program Funding
						Funded by Building Permit Revenue
Total Other Mileage	27,780.00	60,175.73	4,060.53	8,121.05	12,181.58	16,242.10
Grand Total Mileage	29,180.00	61,094.71	4,152.42	8,304.85	12,457.27	16,609.69

Summary of CRA/Statistics Canada Data	2013	2021	2022	2023	2024	% incr from 2013
Canada Revenue Agency - per km, first 5,000 km	\$ 0.54	\$ 0.59	\$ 0.61	\$ 0.68	\$ 0.70	30%
Canada Revenue Agency - per km, after 5,000 km	\$ 0.48	\$ 0.53	\$ 0.55	\$ 0.62	\$ 0.64	33%
Average Gas Price per litre in Canada	\$ 1.271	\$ 1.329	\$ 1.707	\$ 1.583		25%

	Township of St. Joseph	
	Report To Council	
	FROM:	Michelle Pearse, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer
	DATE:	January 24, 2024
	SUBJECT:	Request for Purchase - Building Permit Software Licence
RECOMMENDATION:	<p>BE IT RESOLVED THAT the report from the Deputy Clerk/Treasurer regarding the request to purchase a software program be received, and</p> <p>That Council authorizes staff to enter into a licence agreement with _____ for a building permit software program.</p>	

Background

Issuing, tracking, and closing building permits is required to build, alter, or renovate buildings in the municipality. In addition, monthly reporting on permits issued is required by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) and annually to the Minister of Finance and council. MPAC recently began requesting that building permit statuses be updated within their system upon completion of projects. To bring efficiency to the current building permitting system for the Township the finance and administrative staff has researched two possible software solutions provided by United Systems Technology Inc. (USTI) and The Managed Municipality (TMM).

Current Process

Currently, the Township's process for entering, tracking, and reporting on building permits involves manually entering permit information into different spreadsheets and programs to make the data available for the required reporting and tracking. With this duplication of data entry, it leaves a greater risk for errors to be made and can make it difficult to accurately track the progress of permits. Additionally, staff must rely on hard copy only for property files, including building permits. A software program that could store both past (eventually) and present documents electronically and securely would lower the risk of missing files, reduce search time for staff during property owner inquiries and assist in creating a more refined system of entering, tracking and storage of building permits for the municipality.

Options

1. USTI
 - a. The current program that the municipality uses for processing taxes and utilities and for accounting is provided by (USTI). There is an additional module available for their software for building permits.
 - b. Primarily based out of the United States, they do offer Add-ons to be compatible for Ontario municipalities. Although reports can be run through their program, the format differs greatly from what is used by MPAC and Ontario municipalities resulting in the need for more staff time to be spent to manually re-enter the information into other programs to effectively use/report the data.
 - c. Custom reports, and training are available at additional fees.

2. TMM

- a. Based out of Sudbury, with software, services, and support designed specifically for municipalities of Canada.
- b. Building permits can be issued and tracked through to completion or cancellation.
- c. Reports can easily be run to mirror the format and exact content required for MPAC reporting with no additional data entry, thus significantly reducing the risk of errors created in entering information numerous times, and in turn, reduce labour costs.
- d. As the company is based out of Ontario, there are no additional software addons required to work for Ontario municipalities.
- e. There are no additional fees for custom reports, or training.
- f. There is also an app available for a smartphone or tablet that the building inspector could use to enter data as well. Annual fees may be reduced should additional modules be purchased in the future.

Cost Comparison

	USTI	TMM
Initial Purchase	\$495	\$3000
Initial Add-On for Ontario municipalities	\$245	N/A
Annual Maintenance	\$148.50	\$450

Financial Implications

For the years 2021 and 2022, there were cumulative excess revenues of approximately \$9,000 which covers the initial investment and annual maintenance fees will be budgeted for within the building department.


Summary

Staff recommends moving forward with the agreement in early 2024, so that the system can be set up and in use prior to the busy building season usually beginning in late spring.

Council may approve the request, defer their decision to budget discussions, or consider other options.



Michelle Pearse
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

	Township of St. Joseph	
	Report To Council	
	FROM:	Amanda Richardson, Clerk Administrator
	DATE:	January 24, 2024
	SUBJECT:	Water Plant Ventilation Fan Replacement
RECOMMENDATION:	BE IT RESOLVED THAT the report from the Clerk Administrator regarding the Water Treatment Plant Ventilation Fan Replacement be received; and That council _____ .	

Background:

During a health and safety inspection, The PUC noted the ventilation fan for the chemical storage room at the Water Treatment Plant was not functioning. Administrative staff requested a local contractor to investigate the cause of the failure and it was discovered that the motor for the fan was fully seized. Replacement was recommended, as the fan is likely original to the building in the early 1990s. Staff requested quotes from three local HVAC companies. Two quotes were received:

1. North Channel HVAC, \$3,657 plus HST
2. Northerm LTD., \$4,470 plus HST

Financial Implications:


This is a building repair and maintenance cost that is required for the building as well as Health and Safety requirements. The cost would be included in the 2024 budget.

Options:

Council may approve staff to award the work to one of the contractors that submitted a bid or defer their decision.



Amanda Richardson, Clerk Administrator

	Township of St. Joseph	
	Report To Council	
	FROM:	Sherie Gladu, Community Projects Coordinator
	DATE:	January 24, 2024
	SUBJECT:	RFQ 2023-14 Marketing Management Contract for Go North 2024
RECOMMENDATION:	BE IT RESOLVED THAT the report from the Community Projects Coordinator regarding the results of the RFQ 2023-14 for Marketing Management for the Go North Music Festival 2024 be received; and That Council _____	

Background:

Staff released a Marketing Management RFQ to a range of marketing agencies in December of 2023. The RFQ closed on January 11, 2024. Only one submission was received. The draft budget for Go North 2024 allowed for \$5,000.00 towards this contract. The quote came in at \$12,664.00 plus HST.

Staff reached out to the firm that submitted the quote to see if there was interest in providing a modified proposal that would meet the main objectives of the contract, but within the draft budget amount.

The contractor proposed using an additional \$1000, deducted from the Digital Marketing Budget towards the contract to allow for required elements – brining the total contract to \$6000 plus HST.

Financial Implications:

The budget for the 2024 Go North Music Festival projects a break-even or better revenue from the event with the \$6000 allocation to Marketing management. Any budget shortfalls may be funded from the Events Reserve, which has adequate funds for the entire 2024 budget.

Options:

Council may approve staff to contact the Marketing firm for a modified proposal, may suggest other options, or may defer or deny the request.



Sherie Gladu, Community Projects Coordinator


North Shore Health Network
Auxiliary

RECEIVED JAN 08 2024

Jan 5 / 24

Share Shed Volunteers

What an amazing contribution
you have made to the hospital Auxiliary
in its attempts to secure enough funds to
purchase needed equipment for our hospital.
Your efforts raised \$ 2170⁶⁵

in 2023

Our sincere thank you for your
dedication:

Barb Jackson
Treasurer

To: Jody Wildman, Mayor, St. Joseph Municipal Council
Via Email: j.wildman@sympatico.ca
To: Clerk
Via Email: clerkadmin@stjosephtownship.com
From: Gillan Richards
Via Email: gillan.richards@gmail.com
2024 01 18

Letter of Concern:

Impact of planned generation, distribution and storage of electricity on municipalities in the Algoma District

In 2009, in an attempt to “foster the growth of renewable energy projects, which use cleaner sources of energy, and to remove barriers to and promote opportunities for renewable energy projects and to promote a green economy,” the Ontario government enacted the *Green Energy and Green Economy Act* (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/09g12>).

The result, according to many analysts, was an escalation of electricity rates in the province which had the effect of discouraging manufacturing in Ontario, creating job losses and “energy poverty,” particularly for seniors and others on fixed income. Successive governments have essentially transferred these excess costs to the provincial debt, increasing the burden further on Ontario citizens.

The *Green Energy Act* removed the ability for municipalities to object to power projects. Approvals for wind and other power projects were given to the provincial government.

Environmental regulations designed to protect wildlife—including endangered species—were “relaxed” in favour of wind turbines.

On January 1, 2019 the *Green Energy Act* was repealed. Although municipalities can now approve such projects and set their own regulations/bylaws for noise limits, setbacks, etc., unresolved issues of concern remain:

Setback Issues

- No changes have been made to the minimum setbacks in Regulation 359-09
- Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) is not enforcing the requirements of existing Renewable Energy Approvals related to noise audits including the resolution of complaints about noise and well water contamination.

Municipal Support

- Industry is lobbying against mandated support which is considered an “obstacle” to clean energy development.

Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) Process Problems

- Requests for municipal support are made without full details of a project;
- Community engagement also does not require full project details;
- Minimal requirements for public meetings.

Use of Agricultural land:

- There is pressure to relax the prohibition on use of prime agricultural land for industrial power project.
- Protecting all land used for municipal and provincial agriculture must not be considered an obstacle to clean energy plans.

Extension of Contracts for Existing Power Projects

- Pre-2009 projects are not compliant even with the inadequate 550-metre setbacks required by Regulation 359-09;
- Project operators must demonstrate compliance with the requirements of existing Renewable Energy Approvals (REAs) before any extension or re-powering is granted.

Cost to Ontario citizens/ratepayers:

- Cost-benefit analyses or business case studies must demonstrate local benefits, the effectiveness of wind power and must include costs for back-up power due to intermittency of wind and solar.

Three wind installations are located in Algoma: Prince Wind which was established in Prince Township on private land prior to the *Green Energy Act* requirements; Bow Lake Wind and Goulais Wind which are located in unorganized municipalities on Crown Land and First Nations Territorial Land.

Bow Lake and Goulais projects met with heavy objection from citizens who launched appeals of the project approvals. These citizens could not afford legal expertise and expert witnesses available to wind industry proponents: their appeals were rejected by the Environmental Review Tribunals.

Ontario does not need a replay of the disastrous 2009 *Green Energy Act*. The reality of wind power in Ontario is that production does not synchronize with demand. Wind is prevalent in low-demand seasons of spring and fall. Storage is expensive and limited: the maximum is four hours of stored power. Wind power is a major factor in rising electricity costs. In short, adding more turbines will not dramatically reduce carbon emissions.

In 2024, driven to increase the supply of electricity to meet the needs/demands of increased population, to address climate change concerns (reduction/elimination of fossil fuels) and to focus on renewable energy, the Ontario government has launched yet another bid to increase green energy—without remedying existing problems.

Algoma's 22 Municipal Councils and the communities they represent need to be alert to the implications and impacts of IESO's Long-Term Request for Proposal (LTRFP) initiative on what they value and wish to protect. A review of the websites of each Algoma Municipal Council reveals in pictures and words what residents value. Their Bylaws, Policies and Strategic Plans must protect what they value.

Municipal Bylaws should:

- Support prohibition of wind turbines on prime agricultural land;
- Establish a setback from other land uses (residential); recommend 2,000 metres;
- Establish setbacks from property lines;
- Establish setbacks from any designated growth areas;
- Consider protection of wildlife and environment (e.g., fragile aquifers, landscapes, etc.).

Municipal support requests will begin in the fall of 2024. New bylaws must be in place before projects are announced.

As bylaws and Regulations must be relevant to Ontario's energy policies, Municipal Councils may opt to:

- Create new zoning bylaws;
- Create interim bylaws stating that no support will be considered until bylaws are approved;
- Consider an "Unwilling Host" resolution which states the priorities of the community will not support new industrial scale or grid-scale wind power projects.

Thank you for the work you do in representing the views of the communities of Algoma.

Sincerely



Gillan Richards

Past: Trustee, *Lake Superior Watershed Conservancy*; Communications Officer, *Algoma District Seniors' Health Advisory Committee (SHAC)*; Chair, *Tendercare Family Council*; Trustee, *Davey Home Board of Governors*; Secondary Co-ordinator, *Algoma District School Board*.

Current: Trustee, *Horseshoe Bay Local Roads Board* (Goulais River); Representative, *Save Ontario's Algoma Region (SOAR)*; Executive Board Member, *Wind Concerns Ontario (WCO)*; Member, *Algoma Highlands Conservancy*.

CC: Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (fonom.info@gmail.com)

The Hon. Todd Smith - Minister of Energy (MinisterEnergy@ontario.ca)

David Donovan, Chief of Staff, Ministry of Energy (david.donovan@ontario.ca)

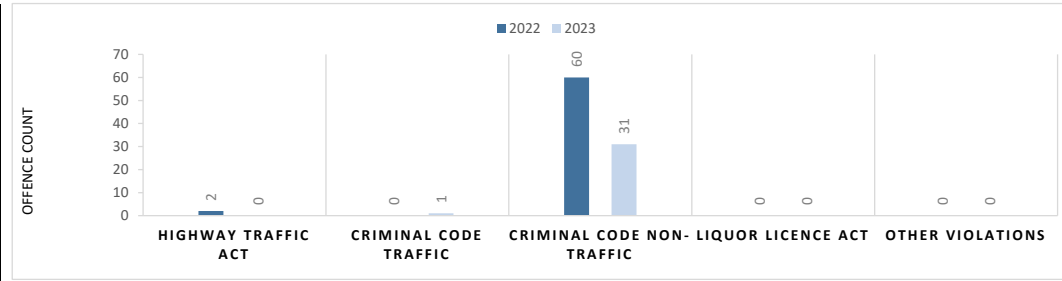
Michael Mantha MPP (mmantha-co@ola.org or mmantha-qp@ola.org)

Attachment: FONOM Communication Chart

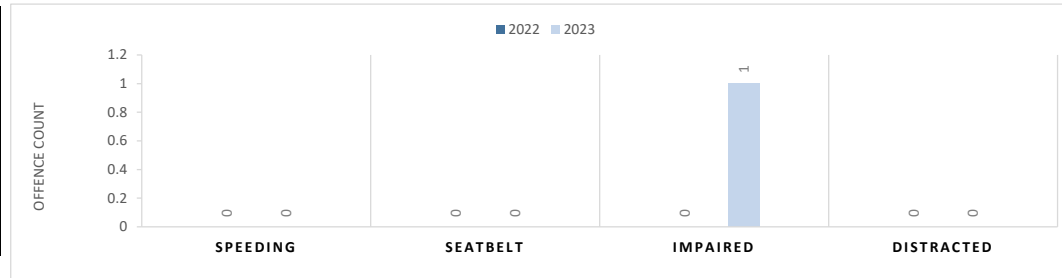
Starting Year	2023
Starting Month	November
Ending Month	November

Police Services Board Report for St Joseph
Integrated Court Offence Network
 November - 2023

Criminal Code and Provincial Statutes Charges Laid						
Offence Count	November - 2023			Year to Date - November		
	2022	2023	% Change	2022	2023	% Change
Highway Traffic Act	2	0	-100.0%	30	18	-40.0%
Criminal Code Traffic	0	1		25	37	48.0%
Criminal Code Non-Traffic	60	31	-48.3%	263	221	-16.0%
Liquor Licence Act	0	0		0	1	
Other Violations	0	0		1	2	100.0%
All violations	62	32		319	279	



Traffic Related Charges						
Offence Count	November - 2023			Year to Date - November		
	2022	2023	% Change	2022	2023	% Change
Speeding	0	0		10	3	-70.0%
Seatbelt	0	0		0	0	
Impaired	0	1		16	30	87.5%
Distracted	0	0		0	0	
All violations	0	1		26	33	



Integrated Court Offence Network data is updated on a monthly basis: Data could be as much as a month and a half behind

Data Utilized

Ministry of Attorney General, Integrated Court Offence Network
 Integrated Court Offence Network Business Intelligence Cube

Detachment:	4B10
Data Source Date:	16-Jan-24
Report Generated On:	16-Jan-24
Report Generated By	



Calls For Service (CFS) Billing Summary Report

St Joseph December - 2023

Billing Categories <i>(Billing categories below do not match traditional crime groupings)</i>		2023				2022			
		December	Year to Date	Time Standard	Year To Date Weighted Hours	December	Year to Date	Time Standard	Year To Date Weighted Hours
Violent Criminal Code	Sexual Assault	2	2	15.8	31.6	0	1	15.8	15.8
	Sexual Interference	0	0		0.0	0	1	15.8	15.8
	Assault-Level 1	0	2	15.8	31.6	0	0		0.0
	Criminal Harassment	0	0		0.0	0	1	15.8	15.8
	Utter Threats to Person	0	3	15.8	47.4	0	0		0.0
	Total	2	7	15.8	110.6	0	3	15.8	47.4
Property Crime Violations	Break & Enter	0	4	6.4	25.6	0	1	6.4	6.4
	Theft Over - Boat (Vessel)	0	0		0.0	0	1	6.4	6.4
	Theft of - Automobile	0	0		0.0	0	1	6.4	6.4
	Theft of - Motorcycles	0	0		0.0	0	1	6.4	6.4
	Fraud -Master code	0	1	6.4	6.4	0	0		0.0
	Fraud - False Pretence <= \$5,000	0	0		0.0	0	1	6.4	6.4
	Fraud -Money/property/security <= \$5,000	0	0		0.0	0	1	6.4	6.4
	Fraud - Other	0	4	6.4	25.6	0	5	6.4	32.0
	Mischief - master code	0	1	6.4	6.4	0	3	6.4	19.2
	Interfere with lawful use, enjoyment of property	0	1	6.4	6.4	0	0		0.0
	Property Damage	0	1	6.4	6.4	0	1	6.4	6.4
	Total	0	12	6.4	76.8	0	15	6.4	96.0
Other Criminal Code Violations (Excluding traffic)	Offensive Weapons-Other Offensive Weapons	2	2	7.5	15.0	0	0		0.0
	Bail Violations - Fail To Comply	0	2	7.5	15.0	0	0		0.0
	Trespass at Night	0	1	7.5	7.5	0	0		0.0
	Breach of Probation	0	1	7.5	7.5	0	0		0.0
	Total	2	6	7.5	45.0	0	0		0.0
Drugs	Trafficking Cocaine	0	1	68.0	68.0	0	0		0.0
	Total	0	1	68.0	68.0	0	0		0.0
Statutes & Acts	Landlord/Tenant	0	1	3.4	3.4	0	2	3.4	6.8
	Mental Health Act	1	2	3.4	6.8	0	0		0.0
	Mental Health Act - Voluntary Transport	1	1	3.4	3.4	0	0		0.0
	Mental Health Act - Placed on Form	0	1	3.4	3.4	0	0		0.0
	Mental Health Act - Apprehension	0	1	3.4	3.4	0	0		0.0



Calls For Service (CFS) Billing Summary Report

St Joseph December - 2023

Billing Categories <i>(Billing categories below do not match traditional crime groupings)</i>		2023				2022			
		December	Year to Date	Time Standard	Year To Date Weighted Hours	December	Year to Date	Time Standard	Year To Date Weighted Hours
Statutes & Acts	Trespass To Property Act	0	1	3.4	3.4	0	0		0.0
	Total	2	7	3.4	23.8	0	2	3.4	6.8
Operational	Animal Bite	0	0		0.0	0	1	3.8	3.8
	Animal Injured	0	1	3.8	3.8	0	2	3.8	7.6
	Animal - Other	0	0		0.0	0	1	3.8	3.8
	Domestic Disturbance	0	8	3.8	30.4	0	2	3.8	7.6
	Suspicious Person	0	3	3.8	11.4	0	0		0.0
	Missing Person 12 & older	0	1	3.8	3.8	0	0		0.0
	Missing Person Located Under 12	0	0		0.0	0	1	3.8	3.8
	Noise Complaint - Master code	0	0		0.0	1	2	3.8	7.6
	Found Property - Master code	0	1	3.8	3.8	0	0		0.0
	Lost Property -Master code	0	0		0.0	0	1	3.8	3.8
	Lost-Household Property	0	0		0.0	0	2	3.8	7.6
	Sudden Death - Suicide	0	0		0.0	0	1	3.8	3.8
	Sudden Death - Natural Causes	1	3	3.8	11.4	0	2	3.8	7.6
	Sudden Death - Others	0	1	3.8	3.8	0	0		0.0
	Suspicious Vehicle	0	1	3.8	3.8	0	1	3.8	3.8
	Trouble with Youth	0	1	3.8	3.8	0	1	3.8	3.8
	Unwanted Persons	0	2	3.8	7.6	0	1	3.8	3.8
	Neighbour Dispute	0	4	3.8	15.2	0	3	3.8	11.4
	Assist Fire Department	0	0		0.0	0	1	3.8	3.8
	Assist Public	0	4	3.8	15.2	0	5	3.8	19.0
	Family Dispute	0	2	3.8	7.6	0	4	3.8	15.2
	Total	1	32	3.8	121.6	1	31	3.8	117.8
	Operational2	False Alarm -Others	1	3	1.4	4.2	0	2	1.4
Keep the Peace		0	2	1.4	2.8	0	0		0.0
911 call / 911 hang up		0	2	1.4	2.8	0	5	1.4	7.0
911 call - Dropped Cell		1	3	1.4	4.2	0	1	1.4	1.4
Total		2	10	1.4	14.0	0	8	1.4	11.2
Traffic	MVC - Personal Injury (MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISION)	0	1	3.7	3.7	0	1	3.7	3.7



Calls For Service (CFS) Billing Summary Report

St Joseph December - 2023

Billing Categories <i>(Billing categories below do not match traditional crime groupings)</i>		2023				2022			
		December	Year to Date	Time Standard	Year To Date Weighted Hours	December	Year to Date	Time Standard	Year To Date Weighted Hours
Traffic	MVC - Prop. Dam. Non Reportable	0	2	3.7	7.4	0	5	3.7	18.5
	MVC - Prop. Dam. Reportable (MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISION)	2	5	3.7	18.5	2	16	3.7	59.2
	MVC - Prop. Dam. Failed to Remain (MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISION)	0	1	3.7	3.7	0	0		0.0
	MVC - Others (MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISION)	0	0		0.0	0	1	3.7	3.7
	Total	2	9	3.7	33.3	2	23	3.7	85.1
Total	11	84		493.1	3	82		364.3	

Note to Detachment Commanders:

- The content of each report is to be shared by the Detachment Commander only with the municipality for which it was generated. The municipality may treat this as a public document and distribute it as they wish.
- All data is sourced from the Niche RMS application. Included are 'reported' occurrences (actuals and unfounded occurrences) for 'billable' occurrences ONLY. Data is refreshed on a weekly basis.
- The Traffic category includes motor vehicle collision (MVC) occurrences entered into Niche (UCR code 8521). MVCs are NOT sourced from the eCRS application for this report.
- Only the primary violation is counted within an occurrence.
- Time standards displayed are for the 2023 billing period.

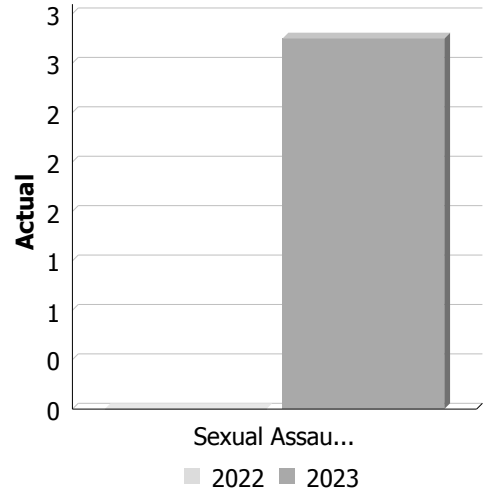
Note to Municipalities:

- Data contained within this report is dynamic in nature and numbers will change over time as the Ontario Provincial Police continues to investigate and solve crime.
- This report is NOT to be used for crime trend analysis as not all occurrences are included.
- Data groupings within this report do not match traditional crime groupings seen in other public reports such as the OPP Police Services Board reports or Statistics Canada reporting.

**Police Services Board Report for St Joseph
Records Management System
December - 2023**

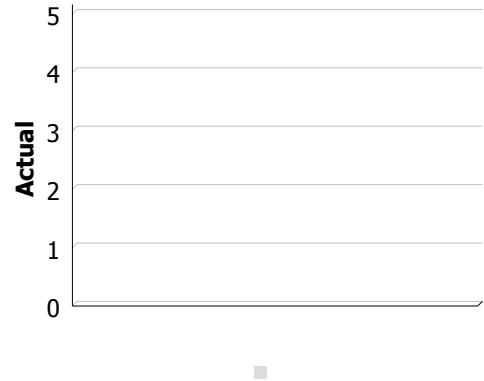
Violent Crime

Actual	December			Year to Date - December		
	2022	2023	% Change	2022	2023	% Change
Murder	0	0	--	0	0	--
Other Offences Causing Death	0	0	--	0	0	--
Attempted Murder	0	0	--	0	0	--
Sexual Assault	0	3	--	2	3	50.0%
Assault	0	0	--	0	2	--
Abduction	0	0	--	0	0	--
Robbery	0	0	--	0	0	--
Other Crimes Against a Person	0	0	--	1	3	200.0%
Total	0	3	--	3	8	166.7%



Property Crime

Actual	December			Year to Date - December		
	2022	2023	% Change	2022	2023	% Change
Arson	0	0	--	0	0	--
Break & Enter	0	0	--	1	4	300.0%
Theft Over	0	0	--	1	0	-100.0%
Theft Under	0	0	--	0	0	--
Have Stolen Goods	0	0	--	0	0	--
Fraud	0	0	--	7	4	-42.9%
Mischief	0	0	--	3	2	-33.3%
Total	0	0	--	12	10	-16.7%



Drug Crime

Actual	December			Year to Date - December		
	2022	2023	% Change	2022	2023	% Change
Possession	0	0	--	0	0	--
Trafficking	0	0	--	0	1	--
Importation and Production	0	0	--	0	0	--
Total	0	0	--	0	1	--



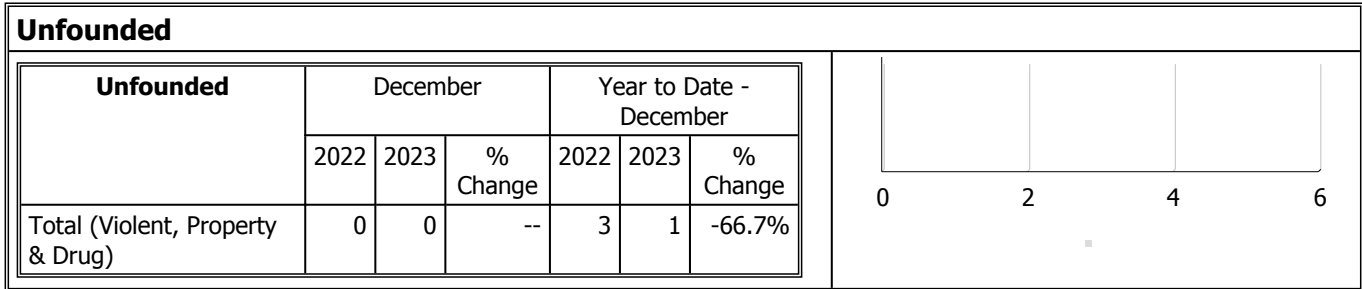
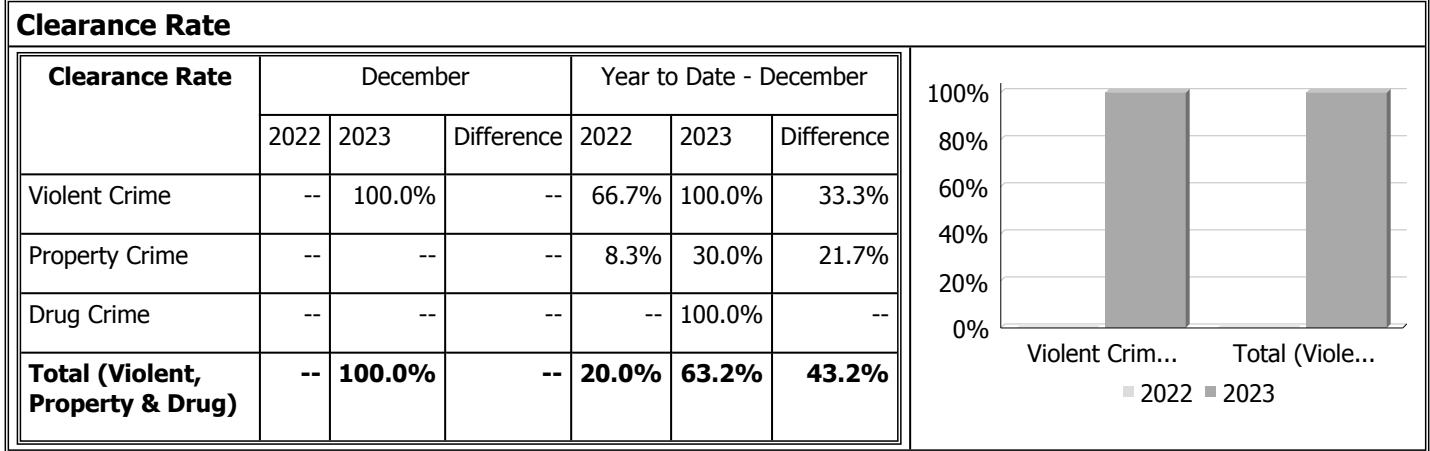
Detachment: 4B - EAST ALGOMA (Blind River)
Location code(s): 4B10 - EAST ALGOMA (Thessalon)
Area code(s): 4019 - St Joseph

Data source date:
2024/01/13

Report Generated by:
Bowles, Natalie

Report Generated on:
15-Jan-24 8:30:13 AM
PP-CSC-Operational Planning-4300
25 of 32

**Police Services Board Report for St Joseph
Records Management System
December - 2023**



Data contained within this report is dynamic in nature and numbers will change over time as the Ontario Provincial Police continue to investigate and solve crime.

Data Utilized

- Major Crimes
- Niche RMS All Offence Level Business Intelligence Cube

Detachment: 4B - EAST ALGOMA (Blind River)
Location code(s): 4B10 - EAST ALGOMA (Thessalon)
Area code(s): 4019 - St Joseph

Data source date:
2024/01/13

Report Generated by:
Bowles, Natalie

Report Generated on:
15-Jan-24 8:30:13 AM
PP-CSC-Operational Planning-4300
26 of 32

Letter of Concern regarding Regional Public Health Ontario Laboratories

December 18, 2023

We, the undersigned, are a group of retired senior managers who were long term employees of Public Health Ontario (PHO), with extensive knowledge of regional laboratory operations and the public health system. We are writing to express our concerns with PHO's laboratory modernization plan, discussed recently in the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario's *Value-for-Money Audit: Public Health Ontario* (report dated December 2023).

Our major concern rests with the recommendation to close 6 of the 10 regional, fully accredited laboratories based in Peterborough, Orillia, Hamilton, Kingston, Sault Ste. Marie and Timmins, which serve communities in 15 public health unit jurisdictions. This change will impact about 85 laboratory personnel and a number of Infection, Prevention and Control (IPAC) staff who are also housed in some of those sites. In addition to these closures, there is a concerning recommendation to gradually eliminate drinking water testing services for Ontarians who draw their water from private drinking water systems (e.g. wells). We believe the associated risks to public health were not properly analyzed during the investigative process and such measures, if approved by the Ontario government, could be detrimental.

The regional laboratory sites serve all of PHO's clients located outside the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). They act as a first contact when specific testing is required by public health units, hospital and community labs, long term care homes, clinicians and private citizens within their regions; and they provide access to over 270 diagnostic tests related to diseases of public health significance listed in O. Reg 135/18 under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*. The high number of specimens processed during the COVID pandemic at these locations is a testament to the ability of these labs to respond quickly to emerging pathogens, to manage outbreaks and to assist with surveillance.

The Auditor General's report has a financial focus, and in this respect, inefficiencies are outlined which we acknowledge need to be addressed. However, PHO's regional laboratory sites indicated for closure offer analyses requiring specialized training, such as the identification of parasites, ticks (important due to the increasing risk of Lyme disease), and pathogenic fungi. Having multiple sites competent in these specialty tests adds backup support into the system and enables the management of surge capacity, especially in outbreak situations. Two of these regional sites are also associated with postsecondary institutions, providing academic placements and research opportunities.

In addition to the diagnostic testing of medical samples, regional laboratory locations conduct the majority of testing for indicators of bacterial contamination in private drinking water systems, as well as public drinking water and beach water submitted by Ontario Parks and public health unit staff, supporting their Safe Water programs under Ontario public health standards. With water samples being time and temperature sensitive, any increase in the transportation time can have a negative impact on sample integrity. The current geographical configuration of PHO's laboratory network allows clients direct access to information and testing, and samples are transported from drop off depots in the communities quickly and efficiently. Loss of these regional labs could result in increased courier costs, increased turn-around times, and possible rejection of samples, due to integrity issues. In short, their closing will have a direct and dramatic impact on PHO's ability to achieve its mandate: the protection and promotion of public health.

PHO's laboratory sites test between 150,000 to 175,000 private drinking water samples each year at no cost to the submitter. With the recommendation to phase out PHO's drinking water service, private citizens who do not have access to municipally treated drinking water will have to submit their samples to a licensed private laboratory, which currently can cost more than \$150 per sample. Considering the current economic state in Ontario, some residents may consider the cost prohibitive and decide not to monitor their water source, thereby reducing sampling rates. As a result, people will be unaware of the quality of their drinking water, which can put them at a higher risk of contamination. Private drinking water sources, in particular, are susceptible to contamination at significantly higher rates than municipal systems. With the removal of this testing service at PHO, there will also no longer be a centralized database containing bacteriological test results that are available for PHO's researchers or public health unit staff, who use it to determine contamination rates in their regions.

The *Report of the Walkerton Inquiry* (2002) discusses the tragic impact of provincial budget cuts on water testing services in the 1990s in Walkerton, Ontario. In 1996, the Ministry of Environment regional laboratories were closed as a cost saving measure, and the testing that they performed on municipal drinking water systems was privatized. Justice Dennis O'Connor, who authored the Walkerton report, highlighted how this action "connected directly" to the Walkerton *E.coli* O157:H7 and *Campylobacter jejuni* outbreak in May 2000 (part 1, p. 406), which resulted in seven deaths and 2,300 illnesses. Recognizing the importance of the private drinking water testing service offered by Ontario's public health laboratory sites, Justice O'Connor suggested that the province maintain free, bacteriological water testing for private well owners.

Overall, we are concerned that, if the recommendation to close 6 of the 10 regional PHO locations and to phase out private water testing is approved, there will be serious negative impacts on public health. Rather than reduce health inequities across the province of Ontario, we feel the proposed changes will do the opposite. We caution the provincial government against acting on these recommendations without fully understanding the ramifications and the complex logistics required in specimen handling to deliver timely results. While the Auditor General's report has a financial focus, which is important, we caution that an up-to-date, independent impact assessment be carried out using a *public health* focus. Stakeholders, including members of the public, should be consulted, as well. As we have seen in the past, an effective public health network is needed, not only to ensure essential day-to-day testing, but also to respond to emerging public health emergencies, such as Walkerton, SARS, West Nile and COVID.

Key Resources

O'Connor, Dennis R. (2002). *Report of the Walkerton Inquiry*. 2 parts. Toronto: Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General. https://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/e_records/walkerton/index.html

Office of the Auditor General of Ontario. (2023). *Value-for-Money Audit: Public Health Ontario*. https://auditor.on.ca/en/content/annualreports/arreports/en23/AR_publichealth_en23.pdf

Signatories

Rena Retallick

Former Operations Director, Regional Public Health Laboratories

CONTACT: rena.retallick@gmail.com

Jean Cousineau

Former Technical Manager, Timmins Regional Public Health Laboratory

Elizabeth Pszczolko
Former Manager, Thunder Bay Regional Public Health Laboratory

John Jessop
Former Manager, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury and Timmins Regional Public Health Laboratories

Leslee Shuttleworth
Former Manager, Ottawa Public Health Laboratory

Robin Eddington
Former Manager, Orillia Public Health Laboratory

Cindy Froats
Former Manager, Kingston Public Health Laboratory

Pamela O'Brien
Former Manager, Peterborough Public Health Laboratory

Suzan Breton
Former Manager, Sault Ste. Marie Public Health Laboratory

Monica Murphy
Former Quality and Technical Manager, Public Health Laboratories
Former Manager, Windsor Public Health Laboratory

Debbie Sikora
Former Manager, Kingston Public Health Laboratory



January 8, 2024

Dear Head of Council, Deputy Head of Council and Councillors,

Your local Public Works department provides invaluable services within your community. Without the dedicated public works employees that you are fortunate to have, many basic functions in your community would not be able to happen. Without maintained roads, your emergency services (police, fire, and ambulance) would not be able to respond to calls, school buses could not run to get children to school, and your residents would not be able to leave to work, school, appointments, children's extra-curriculars and any other activity important to them. Additionally, as you work with the provincial government to tackle the housing crisis, your communities require more core infrastructure to handle the growth. For the health and safety of our communities it is important we keep our Public Works department staff complement full, and well trained.

Public Works departments across the province have already begun to feel the impacts of labour shortages, and as we will begin to see many retirements across the province, the shortage will become even more exasperated. From a recent survey that AORS completed with public works departments from across Ontario, we know that 91.5% of respondents will be hiring entry level positions in the next three to five years. However, we are already seeing the start of the labour shortage. From our survey, we found that 70% of respondents already reported getting less than five applications for entry level positions when posted, and the top three challenges municipalities are currently facing is a lack of applicants, applicants that do apply not meeting the required qualifications and municipalities having to compete with private sector positions.

Over the last year, AORS has been dedicating much of our advocacy to encouraging youth to consider careers in public works through career fairs, local government presentations to students, developing printed resources for guidance counsellors and much more. AORS has also been working closely with Fanshawe College Corporate Training Solutions to develop a Municipal Operator Course that would train potential municipal equipment operators to come to your municipality with the basic knowledge they need to begin maintaining your core infrastructure. This would be the first course of its kind that would attract potential students from across the Province of Ontario. To fund this endeavor, AORS has applied for a Skills Development Fund through the Province's Ministry of Labour, Training, Immigration and Skilled Trades. We are reaching out to you for your support in our application and your advocacy to the province on why having more – and qualified – applicants to our public works departments are so imperative.

We would ask that you consider passing the following motion:

WHEREAS, municipal public works departments from across the Province of Ontario provide invaluable services to our communities ensuring the health and safety of all residents;

AND WHEREAS, if it was not for our municipal public works employees from across the Province of Ontario maintaining our public roads systems, our communities would not be able to function as

emergency personnel could not respond to calls, school buses could not get our children to school, residents would not be able to get to work, school or appointments and many more basic functions would not be able to happen;

AND WHEREAS, municipal public works departments are already feeling the impacts of a labour shortage, which will only be exasperated over the next three to five years, which will cause levels of service municipalities are able to provide to ensure the health and safety of our residents to decrease;

AND WHEREAS, there is currently no provincial-wide course that properly trains potential municipal public works employees, specifically relating to municipal heavy equipment.

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, that (INSERT MUNICIPALITY NAME) supports the work of the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors to develop a Municipal Equipment Operator Course to address this issue;

AND THAT, (INSERT MUNICIPALITY NAME) calls on the Province of Ontario's Ministry of Labour, Training, Immigration and Skilled Trades to fully fund the Municipal Equipment Operator Course in 2024 through the Skills Development Fund;

AND THAT, a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Labour, Training, Immigration and Skilled Trades David Piccini, (INSERT MUNICIPALITY'S NAME)'s Member of Provincial Parliament (INSERT LOCAL MPP NAME) and the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors.

We appreciate your on-going support and should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact AORS for all things municipal public works!

Best regards,



John Maheu
AORS Executive Director



Dennis O'Neil
AORS Member Services Coordinator



Christie Little
AORS Training and Programming Coordinator



Kelly Elliott
AORS Marketing and Communications Specialist

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ST. JOSEPH

BY-LAW 2024-06

**A By-Law to Confirm the Proceedings of the Regular Council Meeting held on
January 24, 2024.**

WHEREAS the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c25, as amended, provides that a municipal Council shall exercise its powers by by-law, except where otherwise provided; and

WHEREAS in many cases, action which is taken or authorized by Council to be taken does not lend itself to an individual by-law;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Township of St. Joseph hereby enacts as follows:

1. That the actions of the Council of the Corporation of the Township of St. Joseph at its meeting on January 24, 2024, in respect to each motion, resolution, direction and other action passed and taken by Council, except where the prior approval of the Ontario Municipal Board is required, is hereby adopted, ratified, and confirmed.
2. That the Mayor and the proper officers of the Corporation are hereby authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to the said action or actions, to obtain approvals where required, and to execute any and all documents as may be necessary, and to affix the corporate seal to all such documents as required.

Passed in open Council on January 24, 2024.

Joseph Wildman
Mayor

Amanda Richardson
Clerk Administrator