



MUNICIPALITY OF THAMES CENTRE

REPORT NO. PW-TS-001-24

TO: Mayor and Members of Council
FROM: Director of Public Works
MEETING DATE: January 15, 2024
SUBJECT: **Dorchester Road Urbanization - Engineering**

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. PW-TS-001-24 Dorchester Road Urbanization – Engineering be received for information;

AND THAT Spriet Associates London Ltd. be engaged to complete the engineering and design work related to the 2024 capital approved Dorchester Rd Urbanization project for a total cost of \$147,552 including rebated HST.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to update Council and seek approval for authorizing staff to proceed with Spriet Associates London Ltd. (Spriet) to include the engineering required to upgrade Dorchester Road from its current rural cross section to an urban cross section design at the same time they complete the Municipal Drain design that they have already been awarded.

BACKGROUND:

In October 2023, staff provided Council with **Report No. PW-DR-015-23 – Cromarty and Otis – Request for Drainage Works**, which was a request by two developments on Dorchester Road (south of Byron Avenue) who require a drainage system to help safely convey the storm water from their sites to a suitable outlet. Through **Council Resolution #317-2023**, Spriet was appointed as the Engineer to investigate and complete this Report. The end product of this Report will be a Municipal Drain that will collect/capture flows from upstream lands, conveying this water along Dorchester Road, ultimately outletting into the Big Swamp Drain.

The Dorchester Road Urbanization project (capital DC Project: Dorchester Road) was included in the approved 2024 Transportation Capital Budget which comprised the engineering and design work needed to upgrade Dorchester Road from a rural to an urban cross section from Byron Avenue to the Boardwalk on the Mill Pond subdivision. This

design will include a watermain replacement, curbs & gutters, lane markings, temporary pedestrian/cycle path, catch basins, and sidewalks.

Realizing the potential savings for cost sharing the engineering of the **Cromarty and Otis – Request for Drainage Works** and the Dorchester Road Urbanization project, Spriet was approached and asked to submit a scope and estimate for the Dorchester Road Urbanization project.

Spriet has extensive experience working with the Municipality of Thames Centre as they are normally appointed the Engineer to investigate and complete the majority of the Drainage Report requests brought forward to Council. In addition, their firm has experience with road reconstruction projects, similar to this, which requires coordination with County staff, municipal staff, and developers.

COMMENTS:

Cost sharing and integrating the engineering/design will provide financial savings by eliminating duplication in survey, hydrogeological investigations, layouts, coordination between storm, road and watermain design. It also reduces time-wasting revisions and coordination which normally result from having multiple consultants.

Spriet is highly specialized in combining rural and urban elements similar to the scope of this project. Staff are confident in the success of this project given Spriet's record on similar road reconstruction projects throughout Middlesex, Elgin, and Lambton Counties.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There is a total of \$150,000 in the approved 2024 capital budget for the Dorchester Road (Byron Avenue to Boardwalk Way). Middlesex County will share a portion of the financial costs of this project as well. In addition, given that the project was not included in the 2021 Development Charges Background Study, consultation with Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. will be required to determine the portion of the project that would be considered recoverable from development charges. It's anticipated that the majority of the project will be determined DC eligible, which would be funded in accordance with the resulting calculation of DC recoverable costs.

At our request, Spriet prepared an estimate of the fees and disbursements associated with undertaking the design work along Dorchester Road. This estimate was prepared on the basis of their experience in similar projects, understanding of the Municipality's specific requirements for this assignment, previous work completed, and their extensive experience and knowledge of the stormwater in this area. Their total fee estimate is \$147,552 including rebated HST.

In alignment with Thames Centre Procurement of Goods and Services Policy and By-law No. 46-2021, the required goods and services will be additional to similar goods and services being supplied under an existing contract and staff shall submit any negotiated acquisition to Council for approval in circumstances where the value of the acquisition exceeds \$100,000.

STRATEGIC PLAN LINK

Pillar: Smart Planning

Goal: Make smart planning decisions to grow the community, while maintaining a "hometown feel."

CONSULTATION:

C. Traini, Middlesex County Deputy CAO/County Engineer
E. Schinbein, Director of Financial Services/Treasurer
T. Pitt, Drainage Superintendent
M. Devos, Spriet Associates Ltd.

REFERENCES:

None.

ATTACHMENTS:

None.

Prepared by: J. Craven, Director of Public Works

Reviewed by: E. Schinbein, Director of Financial Services / Treasurer

Reviewed by: D. Barrick, Chief Administrative Officer