

The Corporation of the City of Kawartha Lakes
Council Report

Report Number RD2020-006

Meeting Date: July 28, 2020
Title: Limited Service Agreement Update – Grove Road
Description: Update on entering into an agreement and service level
Ward Number: 3
Author and Title: Bryan Robinson, Director of Public Works

Recommendation(s):

That Report RD2020-006, Limited Service Agreement Update – Grove Road be received;

That Staff be directed to continue to work with the road representative(s) to attempt to enter into a limited service agreement; and

That should an agreement not be reached by the end of September 30, 2020, that the City cease service on the unassumed road.

**Department
Head:**

Financial/Legal/HR/Other: _____

**Chief Administrative
Officer:**

Background:

Within the townships of the prior County of Victoria, the individuals at those townships managed unassumed and private roads differently. The City of Kawartha Lakes inherited varying levels of service for road infrastructure within its boundary.

The current administration is trying to document and establish consistency related to service levels. Documentation is essential to outline exactly what services are to be provided. This is key for both residents and staff to ensure services are provided in a fair and consistent manner.

At the Council Meeting of July 16, 2019 Council adopted the following resolution:

CC2019-18.14.2.4

Memo - Level of Service for Gillis Street, Killarney Bay Road and Grove Road
Doug Elmslie, Deputy Mayor

CR2019-457

Moved By Deputy Mayor Elmslie

Seconded By Councillor Yeo

That the memorandum dated July 16, 2019 from Deputy Mayor Elmslie regarding Level of Service for Gillis Street, Killarney Bay Road, and Grove Road be received;

That Gillis Street, Killarney Bay Road and Grove Road continue to receive the level of service they have traditionally received until an agreement with the City can be enacted; and

That if an agreement is not reached by Spring 2020, the matter be referred back to Council for further direction or resolution.

Carried.

This report addresses that direction.

Grove Road is an unassumed road within the geographic township of Fenelon (Appendices 1 and 2). As part of the Limited Service Agreement process, City Staff undertake an annual review of the roads serviced to ensure they are being maintained to the minimum requirements of the agreement.

The original agreement for Grove Road was executed in 2003. During the renewal review, deficiencies were identified on Grove Road in 2009 and as a result Staff were unable to execute a renewal agreement. The minimum requirements are established to ensure municipal service vehicles can safely

access the road. The road representatives were notified that additional works were required to bring the road into compliance with the agreement before a new agreement could be executed. Staff have been actively working with the association since that time for the association to undertake the necessary improvements.

Rationale:

In an effort to enter into an agreement as directed by Council, Staff met with the Grove Road representatives on October 9, 2019 to outline the needs and illustrate the urgency of the required improvements. The association committed to undertaking the necessary steps to improve the road access.

An inspection was performed on June 30, 2020 to review the improvements undertaken. Although there has been some action taken, the road is significantly deficient from the required minimum criteria. Most significantly, the road is significantly deficient in width due to encroachments from boathouses and staircases which project at points into the travelled roadway (which itself is only approximately 1.5 vehicles in width in places). The width is such that it does not allow approaching traffic to pass. This has necessitated the use of specialized snow clearing equipment, as traditional snow plows are too wide to fit down the road. Snow removal is hindered as there is nowhere to push or place the snow. Obstacles such as trees, stumps, rock gardens, and large stones hinder maintenance activity. It was also noted that hydro poles are located at the edge of the road with wires hanging low and in the trees. There are no culverts crossing the road or driveways resulting in water running across the road.

Staff will review the inspection report with the road association and request that additional improvements be undertaken to ensure the road meets the criteria needed for an agreement.

Other Alternatives Considered:

Council has a few options available. Staff do caution that any decision other than that recommended above could be considered precedent setting.

Alternative 1:

Noting that the road is unassumed, Council could choose to follow the Seasonal Level of Service Council Policy and direct staff to follow services per the policy. This would mean elimination of winter control and continuation of the seasonal grading and gravel application as administered by Staff under the policy. No agreement would be necessary but the improvements would still be needed to meet the policy requirements. Staff are supportive of this alternative although it represents a lowering of the service level. Specifically, winter service would no longer be provided under this alternative.

Alternative 2:

Council could opt to direct staff to continue to provide limited seasonal and winter maintenance to the unassumed road without an agreement. This alternative is strongly discouraged as it could create a precedent for other unassumed roads.

Alternative 3:

Being an unassumed road, the City owns the road allowance. The City could opt to invest in obtaining necessary road widening needed and undertake improvements on the road to bring it to standard for full assumption. This option is not feasible due to the limited ability to obtain the necessary widening and the significant costs related to the road improvements.

Financial/Operation Impacts:

The City is currently providing limited winter service and seasonal grading to Grove Road. The road is part of the secondary road winter maintenance route which was recently brought in house. The resources allocated to this road could be redeployed to other municipal services if Council chose to do so which would improve cycle times for assumed roads.

Relationship of Recommendation(s) To The 2020-2023 Strategic Plan:

This report aligns with the Strategic Plan's key initiative:

- Goal 4 – Good Government

Providing effective, efficient and timely service to our residents is essential. Council should note that this report aligns with Good Government which focuses on appropriate allocation of municipal resources and appropriate management of our assets. Although this road is not a municipally assumed asset, any allocation of resource to this asset means that we are utilizing resources that could be redeployed to other assumed assets.

Consultations:

City Solicitor

Attachments:

Appendix 1 – Grove Road Map



Appendix 1
RD2020-006 Grove R

Appendix 2 – Grove Road Aerial



Appendix 2
RD2020-006 Grove R

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Department Head: Bryan Robinson

Department File: Limited Service Agreement – Grove Road