

**The Corporation of the Municipality of Brockton - Council Meeting
Council Meeting**

Agenda Number: 7.3.
Number: 24-04-
Title: Resolution - Request to Reconsider Minister's Directive under Conservation Authorities Act for Planning and Development Fees
Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2024

Moved By: Gregory J. McLean
Seconded By: _____

Whereas the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry issued a new directive effective January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 under the authority of subsection 21.3 (1) of the Conservation Authorities Act, extending the Minister's Direction issued on December 28, 2022, which mandated that conservation authorities should not alter fees related to planning, development, and permitting for the calendar year 2023. This extended Direction, effective from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024, is now similarly applicable to the fees for the same programs and services as specified for the year 2023;

And Whereas this Directive presents a significant challenge to the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority as their 2024 Budget was previously approved by the Board of Directors which incorporated a portion of the recommended increases from their 2023 fee review in order to move towards achieving cost recovery through their Environmental Planning and Regulation fees;

And Whereas the Provincial directives that restrict Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority's ability to generate revenue, along with the continued decrease in direct funding from the Province to Conservation Authorities, pose substantial challenges and have serious implications for their operational and financial stability;

And Whereas, as a result of this unexpected extension of the 2023 fee structure into 2024, the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority's financial planning and operational capabilities are significantly impacted with the potential that the 2024 budget may need to be revised;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby support the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority and request that the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry reconsider their Directive in order to allow Conservation Authorities to alter fees for planning, development, and permitting within the 2024 calendar year;

And Further that a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority.

Carried **Tied, Defeated** **Defeated** **Tabled**

Mayor - Chris Peabody