

Report to Council

Report Title: Durham Street Sidewalk Tender

Prepared By: Gregory Furtney, Director of Operations

Department: Public Works

Date: September 10, 2019

Report Number: PW2019-37 **File Number:** C11PW, F18DU, F11SP

Attachments: None.

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number PW2019-37 – Durham Street Sidewalk Tender, prepared by Gregory Furtney, Director of Operations and further approves Option 3 with a By-Law coming forward authorizing and awarding the project to Owen King Limited for \$216,713.52 to be funded by:_____.

Report:

Background:

The Community Improvement Committee (CIC), established in 2014, is a group of stakeholders/representatives from Walkerton Service Clubs, Local Business Owners, the BIA, the Brockton Economic Development Committee, and Municipal Staff. The Committee (CIC) spearheads the improvement of Walkerton's downtown through the implementation of the "Clean Water Living" brand. To date, they have implemented public art, street banners, signage, street furniture, and have built a public pavilion to show case the Walkerton logo, colour scheme, and messaging. Committee projects are funded by the Municipality of Brockton as well as through collaborative projects with Service Groups, the Economic Development Office, the "Spruce the Bruce" program, etc.

In March of 2018, staff reported to Brockton Council that they had been successful in obtaining \$46,015.23 from the "Ontario's Main Street Revitalization Initiative" through the Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO). The funds need to be spent by March 31, 2020. After researching a number of opportunities and ideas, including feedback through the "Building A Better Brockton, Sustainable Strategic Plan, 2012" and the Brockton Economic Development Committee, staff and Council agreed to proceed with sidewalk improvements at each of the 12 corners along Durham Street. The cobblestone bricks were to be removed and those areas were to be concreted, which will greatly improve accessibility for residents and reduce potential liability for the Municipality.

In March of 2019, the Brockton Community Improvement Committee was successful in obtaining an additional \$10,000 through the “Spruce the Bruce” Initiative. This money must be spent by October 31, 2019.

With the monies funded by the two grants plus some additional funds from the 2019 Capital Budget, \$60,000 was allocated in the 2019 Capital Budget to remove the cobblestone corners at 12 intersection corners along Durham Street and to replace it with coloured concrete with an inlaid branded stone with the Walkerton Logo. This is not only a beautification project, however, it is also necessary for public safety and accessibility. The intersection corners need to be smoothed out and tactile plates installed for Accessibility. The original proposal was that the Public Works Department was going to do the work which would significantly reduce the costs.

After some significant discussion, it was decided that the Municipality should enlist the expertise of B.M. Ross and Associates Limited to help us move the project ahead in a planned and appropriate manner for the least disruption to downtown businesses. In addition, it would have been a challenge for the Public Works department due to the complexity of the project, which includes the following components:

- light standard repairs
- underground electrical box connections
- curb cutting
- tactile plate installation
- coloured concrete placement,
- furniture removal and replacement, etc.
- vehicle and pedestrian traffic

Staffing commitments to other Public Works Capital Projects and the competition for materials in the current marketplace also made it a challenge to complete this project in-house. Staff from B.M. Ross and Associates took on the project and prepared the project design scope as well as the tender documents for posting. The tender was posted on the Brockton website, the “Tender and Bids” webpage owned and operated by B.M. Ross, and circulated to a number of local contractors.

The tender closed on Thursday August 22, 2019. There was only one tender submitted to the project. Owen King Limited was the only bidder. Its bid was \$216,713.52, a difference of \$156,713.52 from the original monies included in the 2019 budget.

Analysis:

The Municipality has three (3) options to consider.

Option 1: Close out the project and notify the two funding agencies that the project will not be going forward. The disadvantages of not moving forward with the project are that the corners will continue to pose accessibility challenges for residents, the potential risks of tripping hazards would remain, both funding options would likely no longer be available, the CIC may become frustrated and the main economic development benefits to support our downtown businesses would not be realized.

Option 2: Postpone the project until 2020 and resubmit the tender documents in the spring. In this scenario, the Municipality could potentially lose the funding from the two funding agencies and would be responsible

for the entire cost. However, the inlay Walkerton logoed stones have already been designed, made, purchased, and picked up as we expected the project to proceed. Staff could reach out to AMO and the “Spruce the Bruce” agency and explain that the project is on hold but will be reinitiated in 2020 and request an extension, or request that the Spruce the Bruce grant money that was already approved be spent on the purchase of the Walkerton logoed stones. The Walkerton logoed stones were \$5,421.40. Should AMO not grant the Municipality an extension on the funding, the \$46,015.23 would need to be quickly reallocated to another project that supported local business although this was determined to be the most beneficial project that supported the majority of business.

Option 3: Proceed with the project as is and award the contract to Owen King Limited for \$216,713.52. In this scenario, Brockton would be able to use the funding allocated from AMO and “Spruce the Bruce”. The \$156,713.52 short fall could be funded through a combination of, or one of the following:

- 1. Long-term debt
- 2. Municipal reserve funds – Accessibility, Westario Reserve funds, Council, and/or Roads
- 3. Or allocate some of the one-time provincial funding to this project to allow it to proceed and receive.

Staff recommends that Council opt for Option 3 with input on the funding source, and award the contract to Owen King Limited for \$216,713.52. The project will be completed this year, on time, and the risk/liability and communication with the local businesses will be shared. It would also accomplish the goals related to increased economic development in the downtown core and improved accessibility and safety for residents described above.

Sustainability Checklist:

What aspect of the Brockton Sustainable Strategic Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?

- | | |
|---|-----|
| • Do the recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision? | Yes |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Cultural Vibrancy? | Yes |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Prosperity? | N/A |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to Environmental Integrity? | N/A |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to the Social Equity? | Yes |

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective? Yes

The original project estimate was \$60,000 with Brockton staff doing most of the project work. This included funding from the Association of Municipalities Ontario (\$46,015.23), “Spruce the Bruce” (\$10,000), and a top up from the Municipality of Brockton.

The single tender amount submitted by Owen King Limited was for \$216,713.52, a difference of \$156,713.52.

Reviewed By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trish Serratore', with a stylized, looping flourish at the end.

Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gregory Furtney', with a stylized, looping flourish at the end.

Gregory Furtney, Director of Operations

Reviewed By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sonya Watson', with a stylized, looping flourish at the end.

Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer