

Report to Council

Report Title: EH!Tel Networks Inc. Lease Agreement and Telecommunications Access Agreement

Prepared By: Gregg Furtney, Director of Operations

Department: Operations

Date: April 13, 2021

Report Number: PW2021-10 **File Number:** C11PW, L04

Attachments: POP Lease EH!Tel Networks Inc.
EH!Tel Telecommunications Access Agreement -Brockton

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number PW2021-10 - EH!Tel Networks Inc. Lease Agreement and Telecommunications Access Agreement, prepared by Gregg Furtney, Director of Operations, and in doing so approves By-Laws coming forward entering into a Lease Agreement and Telecommunications Access Agreement with EH!Tel Network Inc.

Report:

Background:

In November of 2020, the Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT) organization announced it had awarded funding to expand broadband service to 5,200 households and businesses across Bruce County, including Arran-Elderslie, Brockton, Northern Bruce Peninsula, South Bruce, the Township of Huron-Kinloss, and the Town of South Bruce Peninsula.

SWIFT signed an agreement with EH!Tel Networks Inc. to support a hybrid project which will use a combination of both fibre and wireless technologies to expand broadband access within the municipalities of Arran Elderslie, Brockton, and South Bruce. SWIFT awarded \$4.7 million to deploy fibre cabling along 66 kilometers of underserved roadway and upgrade service on existing wireless towers to provide high-speed connectivity to more than 1,054 residents. Within the Municipality of Brockton, EH!Tel Networks will service Vesta, Ellengowan, Pinkerton, Eden Grove, Cargill, Cargill Siding, Dunkeld, Chepstow, Otter Creek, Pearl Lake, Maple Hill, and Malcom. The hope is that the upgraded and additional broadband services will be expected to be available by the end of 2021.

As part of this project, the Municipality of Brockton has been asked to enter into a Telecommunications Access Agreement with EH!Tel Network Inc. In addition to the Telecommunication's Access Agreement, EH!Tel Networks requires some property, a ten (10) year lease, to put up a HUB structure at our Municipal Brant Public Works Workshop (603 Bruce Road 19, R.R.#1 Elmwood).

Analysis:

With regards to the EH!Tel Network Inc. Lease Agreement, Staff have met with the Project Team leaders and have approved a specific location at the Municipal Brant Public Works Workshop at 603 Bruce Road 19, R.R.#1 Elmwood (Solway). This location is just off of Concession 6 E (north side of the property near the Salt/ Sand Dome) and provides EH!Tel Networks Inc. with access to electricity. EH!Tel Networks Inc. would have their own access point to the property and would not need anything from the Municipality. This location will not interfere with Municipal Operations. EH!Tel Networks is offering a lease payment of \$500 per annum for a ten (10) year term with a “right of renewal” for an additional ten (10) years if agreed upon, in writing, with the same terms and conditions. They are proposing a 10X10 structure with a slightly larger concrete pad to accommodate an outside propane backup generator. Staff have given them directions on the new driveway access to the site. Municipal Staff are satisfied with this agreement and the location of the structure and driveway access point.

With regards to the EH!Tel Telecommunications Access Agreement, this agreement allows EH!Tel Network Inc. the ability to work within the “Right of Way” (ROW) to install the necessary infrastructure to support the project and its goals.

Staff are recommending that a separate Bylaw be passed, by Brockton Municipal Council, for each of the two (2) agreements.

Sustainability Checklist:

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

- | | |
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| • 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? | Yes |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to Environmental Integrity? | Yes |
| • 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?
N/A

There are no financial impacts associated with this report or the two (2) agreements.

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:



Gregg Furtney, Director of Operations

Reviewed By:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer