

To: Warden and Members of County Council

From: Director of Public Works

Emergency Repairs – Sanitary Sewer Stoney Creek Erosion Protection, Tillsonburg

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Oxford County Council receive Report No. PW 2021-19 entitled “Emergency Repairs - Sanitary Sewer Stoney Creek Erosion Protection, Tillsonburg” for information.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- The purpose of this report is to provide County Council with information regarding the erosion protection emergency repairs required for the Stoney Creek Sanitary Sewer in Tillsonburg.
- A section of a County sanitary sewer along Stoney Creek in Tillsonburg has become partially exposed due to embankment undermining caused by Creek meandering, and, if not addressed, is at risk of a potential sewage leak in this open watercourse.
- The County has retained the Town of Tillsonburg Engineering Department to immediately undertake appropriate corrective protection of the sanitary sewer pipe and stabilization of the Creek bank.
- In accordance with the County’s Purchasing Policy, the Director of Public Works, in collaboration with the Chief Administrative Officer, has authorized the emergency capital works which were unplanned and not budgeted as part of the 2021 Business Plan and Budget.

Implementation Points

To implement the necessary emergency repairs, Public Works staff will have oversight as project owner while the Town of Tillsonburg Engineering Department will provide engineering project management of the repairs and a third party contractor.

A short term bypass of sanitary sewer is required to undertake the corrective emergency repairs and will be instituted as part of the works.

Oxford County Public Works Compliance Coordinator will continue to liaise with Tillsonburg staff and submit the design and receive the necessary permits from the Long Point Region Conservation Authority (LPRCA).

Preparation for the emergency repairs has been initiated and the necessary works may take up to 3 months to complete.

Financial Impact

The overall budget required for the emergency work is \$180,000.

The Tillsonburg Wastewater Reserve has a budgeted 2021 closing balance of approximately \$17.8 million, which is sufficient to fund this emergency work.

A long term management solution will be determined for this sewer based on additional field survey information, potential watercourse rechanneling, and/or potential sewer relocation. The costs associated with the long term management solution will be included in the 2022 budget.







Communications

County staff have been communicating regularly and openly with Town of Tillsonburg staff with respect to the scope of work and the planned schedule and communication will continue throughout the execution of the emergency work.

As project manager and system operator, the Town will be the lead on all partner and stakeholder communications. As such, the Town is currently developing a notice for local residents in the affected area. County staff will liaise regularly with the Town so that the County's communication team can share key updates on its social media channels and website.

County staff will provide the necessary information to the LPRCA and will provide updates to County Council on emergency authorized purchases through the quarterly Financial Update and 2021 Business Plan Review.

Strategic Plan (2020-2022)

					
WORKS WELL TOGETHER	WELL CONNECTED	SHAPES THE FUTURE	INFORMS & ENGAGES	PERFORMS & DELIVERS	POSITIVE IMPACT
1.ii.				5.ii.	

DISCUSSION

Background

During a field site inspection on February 19, 2021, Town of Tillsonburg staff discovered that a section of a County sanitary sewer running along Stoney Creek in Tillsonburg had become partially exposed and was being undermined by the Creek flow, thereby causing a potential risk of a sewage leak into this open watercourse.

Stoney Creek runs through the Town of Tillsonburg's Participate Park and is the home of the Kinsmen Participark Trans Canada Trail. A map showing the location of the area needing repair is included as Attachment 1. It should be noted that, due to the location of the Trail, it will not be impacted by the emergency repairs.

County staff were later notified by the Town and began working with the Town to determine the next best steps. Due to the severity of the situation and the risk of a potential sewage leak in an open watercourse, County staff requested cost estimates from the Town's Engineering Department for the protection of the pipe and stabilization of the Creek bank.

Comments

The overall budget required for the emergency works is \$180,000 which involves site de-grubbing, engineering design, sanitary sewer by-pass pumping, Creek embankment, sanitary sewer stabilization, and installation of an armour stone retaining wall within Stoney Creek (to mitigate any further Creek meandering which has exposed the sanitary sewer). There is no existing budget for this work.

Due to the potential failure of the sanitary sewer and the associated impacts to the local watercourse, a request for an emergency purchase was made to and approved by the Director of Public Works, in collaboration with the Chief Administrative Officer, in accordance with Section 10.1 of the Purchasing Policy. It has been requested that the Town of Tillsonburg Engineering Department undertake the necessary design and construction on behalf of the County.

Once the immediate repairs are completed, a long term management solution will be determined for this sewer based on additional field survey information, potential watercourse rechannelling, and/or potential sewer relocation. The costs associated with this long term management solution will be included in the 2022 budget.

Staff are currently liaising with LPRCA to attain the necessary environmental permits to undertake the emergency works. Once these permits are received, it is anticipated that the work may take up to 3 months to complete.

Conclusions

To address potentially damaging Stoney Creek erosion and environmental spill concerns along a portion of the Stoney Creek Sanitary Sewer in Tillsonburg, County staff have retained the Town of Tillsonburg to undertake the capital works necessary to mitigate all potential risks to the integrity and stability of the existing sewer while protecting the Creek embankment from further meandering erosion through the installation of an armour stone retaining wall.

SIGNATURES

Report Author:

Original signed by

Don Ford, BA, CMM III, C.Tech.
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Departmental Approval:

Original signed by

David Simpson, P.Eng., PMP
Director of Public Works

Approved for submission:

Original signed by

Michael Duben, B.A., LL.B.
Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT

Attachment 1: Tillsonburg Sanitary Sewer Emergency Repair Location Map