



TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HURON

REPORT

Item No.

REPORT TO: Reeve Vincent and Members of Council
PREPARED BY: Kathy Adams, Clerk
DATE: 04/07/2017
SUBJECT: Proposed Natural Gas Extension – Blyth to Walton
ATTACHMENTS: 1. Natural Gas Extension – List of Properties 2. Proposed Natural Gas Line Map

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Council of the Township of North Huron hereby authorize the Clerk to work with the Municipalities of Morris-Turnberry, Huron East and Central Huron to prepare the necessary materials required for the application for funding under the Ontario's Natural Gas Grant Program to extend Natural Gas from Blyth to Walton.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2014 the CAO's from the Municipalities of North Huron, Morris-Turnberry, Huron East and Central Huron met with Union Gas regarding an extension of the Natural Gas Line from Blyth to Walton. The four Municipalities, the County of Huron and Lisa Thompson, MPP Huron-Bruce, also made a presentation to the Minister of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs on February 24, 2015 at the OGRA/ROMA Conference and requested that the Province give consideration to regulatory changes to allow expansion of Natural Gas to the Rural Areas of Ontario as well as implementation of the Investment Program for Natural Gas to provide funding to the rural areas of Ontario.

The 2017 Ontario budget launched the new Ontario's Natural Gas Grant Program. The guidelines for the program were released in late May.

The types of projects eligible are:

1. Expansion of projects - \$70 million to support projects that are primarily about converting residential customers to natural gas. Only projects to service unserved communities are eligible.
2. Economic Development Projects - \$30 million to supports projects that are primarily about converting businesses – farms, manufacturing, mining, forestry, etc) to Natural Gas or expanding to service to businesses.
 - Rural Ontario with a population base of 100,000 or less
 - Registered farming businesses
 - First Nations
 - Unincorporated areas.

DISCUSSION

Union Gas has been approaching municipalities in Huron County to extend natural gas, including, Auburn which Council supported at their June 5, 2017 Council Meeting.

Nancy Michie, Administrator Clerk –Treasurer of Morris-Turnberry contacted Union Gas and asked if the Walton project was being considered and was advised by Union Gas that they will work with Morris-Turnberry as the administrator on behalf of the four Municipalities to prepare an

application for the Walton project. Morris-Turnberry has agreed to administer the application on behalf of the four Municipalities.

The application must be submitted by July 31, 2017. Union Gas required information to prepare the application including a map of the area to be serviced and number of properties in the various categories. These documents were submitted prior to Union Gas' deadline of June 10, 2017. Copies of these documents are attached for Council's information.

Given that the majority of customers serviced by this project will be in the Municipality of Morris-Turnberry, Union Gas only requires a resolution and agreement to contribute from Morris-Turnberry.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The Municipality of Morris-Turnberry will be the contributing municipality.

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

None for consideration at this time.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN

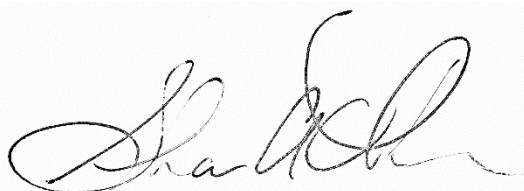
Goal 1 – Our community is attractive and welcoming to new businesses and residents.

Goal 2 – Our administration is fiscally responsible and strives for operational excellence.

Goal 5 – Our natural environment is valued and protected.



Kathy Adams, Clerk



Sharon Chambers, CAO