

3

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PARAMEDIC RESPONSE STATION PARTNERSHIP WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF KING (SCHOMBERG)

The Community and Health Services Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report dated March 1, 2010, from the Commissioner of Community and Health Services.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that this report be received for information.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the progress to date on the development of a new Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Paramedic Response Station in the community of Schomberg being built in partnership with the Township of King.

3. BACKGROUND

King Township proposed a partnership opportunity with the Region

In April 2009 the Township of King wrote to the Region to request consideration of the transfer of a portion of the Regionally-owned Schomberg Sewage Lagoon Lands to facilitate the development of a new municipal arena/curling rink to be funded through the federal/provincial stimulus program. The letter suggested that an EMS Paramedic Response Station, known to be planned for the Schomberg area, could be accommodated as part of the Recreational Facility.

An examination of ambulance response times in the northwest area of King Township revealed that response times were not at the desired targets in many instances because of the distances to that quadrant from existing Paramedic Response Station in King City and Nobleton. This result led to the inclusion of a new Paramedic Response Station for north King Township being approved in the EMS 10-year Capital Business Plan and Budget.

The York Region EMS capital strategy plan is to improve existing or build new Paramedic Response Stations in partnership with other Regional or municipal services to respond to population growth and call demand. The site for the proposed Recreational Facility/EMS Paramedic Response Station is directly across Dillane Drive from King Township's Schomberg fire station.

Regional Council approves partnership

On June 25, 2009 Council approved a report from the Commissioners of Corporate Services and Environmental Services through the adoption of Clause No. 24 of Report No. 6 of the Transportation and Works Committee that authorized an agreement to be negotiated with the Township of King for the transfer of that part of the sewage lagoon lands surplus to the Region's needs to the Township for incorporation into the Recreational Facility development. Council endorsed the principle that in exchange for the surplus lands, the Region should receive benefits, including the construction of an EMS Paramedic Response Station at the Recreational Facility, the value of which would be offset against the appraised value of the surplus lands.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

Project design work is underway

The Township had already completed a significant portion of design work on the project, such as preparing a draft site plan illustrating their proposal including an EMS Paramedic Response Station, engaging a project manager to oversee the entire development and engaging a qualified design/builder to complete the Project within the federal/provincial schedule. Criteria for the EMS Paramedic Response Station were provided to the Township to inform the Request for Proposals to engage the design/builder.

Staff from Property Services Branch have been attending meetings regularly with the design/builder and Township officials as the design of the combined facility is established. Construction is scheduled to begin in the spring 2010. The ground breaking ceremony was targeted for March 5, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.

A memorandum of understanding has been executed that captures the terms of the agreement

On November 19, 2009, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Region and the Township was executed which delineated the business arrangement between the parties with respect to the transfer of the surplus lands to the Township.

Key commitments contained in the MOU are:

- The Region agreed to transfer the surplus lands to the Township.
- The Township agreed to contract for the design and construction of the EMS Paramedic Response Station as part of their Recreational Facility.
- The Region and the Township agreed to enter into a long-term lease for the EMS portion of the Recreational Facility.

- The EMS Paramedic Response Station is to be constructed at a mutually agreed site, have a minimum size of 2,200 square feet with two ambulance bays, and be designed and built to specifications provided by the Region.

An Agreement of Purchase and Sale has been finalized

On December 4, 2009, the Region and the Township executed an Agreement of Purchase and Sale to transfer the surplus lands to the Township.

The Agreement provided for the following compensation to the Region:

- A no cost minimum 50-year lease upon terms satisfactory to the Region.
- Payment by the Township of operating costs associated with the EMS Paramedic Response Station including utilities for the term of the lease.
- Performance by the Township of exterior maintenance for EMS such as snow removal, landscaping, garbage removal.
- Assumption by the Township of the capital costs related to site works for the EMS Paramedic Response Station such as parking spaces and landscaping.

The surplus lands have been transferred to the Township

On December 14, 2009, the transfer of the surplus lands to the Township was completed.

Next Steps

Staff from Community and Health Services Department, Property Services Branch and Legal Services Branch will work closely with Township representatives to:

- Work with the Township's chosen design/builder to ensure the station meets the needs of EMS.
- Agree on an equitable cost sharing formula for project management and design/construction costs.
- Negotiate a lease for the Region's occupation of the lands and a cost-sharing agreement with the Township that reflects the terms of the MOU and the Agreement of Purchase and Sale.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The approved 2010 Capital Business Plan and Budget includes \$1.1 million for this project financed through the issuance of a 10-year debenture to be repaid 50% through development charges and 50% through tax levy.

The EMS portion of the contract with the Township's design/builder contractor will be approximately \$0.5 million. The projected costs are within the approved project budget.

In order to provide 24-hour, seven-day-per-week coverage at this new station, 11 additional full-time equivalent paramedic positions would be required. The 2011 EMS operating budget submission will include requests for the necessary staff to commence operation from the new facility and a capital budget request for the required ambulance and equipment. The lead time necessary to recruit staff and take delivery of the necessary vehicle and equipment would see the station operational by mid-2011.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

This project will enable improved paramedic response for the northwest quadrant of King Township and supports the Region's policy of partnering with local municipalities where practicable to provide emergency services to the community.

7. CONCLUSION

Participation with the Township in developing a new EMS Paramedic Response Station contributes to the implementation of the EMS Capital Strategy to improve emergency response in partnership with other municipal services. The project provides an opportunity for capital and operating budget efficiencies to reduce the cost of essential services for both levels of government.

For more information on this report, please contact Norm Barrette, General Manager, Emergency Medical Services, at Ext. 4709.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.