

Township of Southgate

Administration Office

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Staff Report CAO2021-041

Title of Report: AMO Southgate Delegation Request

Department: Administration

Council Date: May 19, 2021

Council Recommendation:

Be it resolved that Council receive Staff Report CAO2021-041 as information; and **That** Council direct staff to take the lead on the request for a delegation with the Ministry of Infrastructure at the 2021 AMO Virtual Conference to discuss the issues of unjustified/inconsistent service fees, unnecessary delays and access control to the area fibre capacity connections by the rural broadband service providers.

Background:

Staff received a notice on April 23, 2021 from AMO that the deadline for requesting delegation status at the 2021 AMO Virtual Conference (August 15 to 18, 2021) is June 4, 2021.

Staff Comments:

Southgate staff recommends as a request for a Ministry of Infrastructure delegation at the 2021 AMO Conference, we should consider that Southgate lead and partner with other interested Grey County municipalities. The issue would be to discuss High Speed Communications expansion delays and charges being experienced by our local internet service providers to access regional fibre feeder connections. At the end of the day these costs are passed onto customers and is the reason we see such high rates for service in our rural communities.

Staff will work with other municipal partners as well, like SWIFT and local service providers to develop the delegation brief issues for discussion and goals to be achieved for each meeting.

Financial Impact or Long Term Implications

There is no financial impact as a result of this report as costs for attending the AMO conference have been included in the 2021 budget.

Communications & Community Action Plan Impact:

This report has been written and presented to Council to communicate accurate information to the public.

Concluding Comments

1. That Council receive staff report CAO2021-041 as information.
2. That Council direct staff to proceed with a delegation with the Ministry of Infrastructure to discuss the costs levied to connect to regional fibre connections.

Respectfully Submitted,

CAO approval: Original Signed By

Dave Milliner – CAO

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