

## **Township of Southgate**

### **Administration Office**

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## **Staff Report CAO2021-046**

**Title of Report:** Downtown Dundalk Revitalization Initial Survey Feedback Report

**Council Date:** June 2, 2021

### **Council Recommendation:**

**Be it resolved that** Council receive staff report CAO2021-046 as information; and

**That** Council assess the initial Downtown Dundalk Revitalization Project survey feedback received to date from the first 8 responses received and that staff will continue to receive response until the 10<sup>th</sup> of June, 2021; and

**That** Council direct staff to hold a second Downtown Dundalk Revitalization Project Virtual Public Consultation/Discussion meeting on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 with the business and downtown property owners to look for the next steps in submitting an application or not for the Canada Healthy Community Initiatives grant funding; and

**That** staff report back to Council at the June 16, 2021 meeting for a final decision on how we proceed with submitting an application for the Canada Healthy Community Initiatives grant funding.

### **Background:**

#### **Canada Healthy Community Initiatives Grant**

The Mayor and staff hosted a public consultation meeting with the Dundalk Downtown businesses and property owners on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to discuss the revitalization for building accessibility as well as the future streetscape look and design of Proton Street North between Main and Holland Streets, our Community Action Plan goals received and our Community Improvement Plan program.

### **Staff Comments:**

Staff recommend that we assess the initial survey feedback received and schedule another virtual public meeting with Downtown Dundalk businesses and property owners on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 7:00 pm to report on the most current survey feedback received by the Township of Southgate.

Unless the trending of the feedback data changes, some feedback is conflicting or antagonistic information because of the support for the accessibility work and not wanting to reduce street parking or to go with one-way traffic flow on Proton Street. Staff will need to look at a bundled solution to address accessibility and parking issues with a robust parking plan and policies, if this project is to proceed.

## **Financial Impact or Long-Term Implications**

### **Canada Healthy Community Initiatives Grant**

The available funding in the program is \$31 million investment by the Federal Government and support projects. The minimum funding for a project is \$5,000.00 and maximum amount is \$250,000.00 for each application approved. Grant Match staff completed the research for this applicable funding program opportunity, and they feel it is a good fit for our Downtown Dundalk project.

At the present time we have reserves to support this project with \$30,000 for Downtown Improvements and EcDev signage of \$24,568.26, with some required to support the RED Fund project. Additional funding if the project application were approved could be from the Township's Tax Stabilization reserve (\$997,091.88) and possibly the Modernization Funds (\$498,919.37).

There is no financial cost impact to the municipality in making an application for this grant in the 2021 budget as financial requirement to tender and upgrade or construct would be in 2022.

Southgate's agreement with Grant Match charges for their services is a fee of 10% of the approved funding.

### **Communications & Community Action Plan Impact:**

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

#### **Goal 2 – Revitalizing Downtown Dundalk**

**Action 2:** The residents and businesses of Southgate envision our largest town once again becoming a source of community pride and a hotbed of community activity, with a much-improved appearance and a broader range of business opportunity.

**Strategic Initiatives 2-E (2019-2023):** The Township will increase its support for, and promotion of, community events, festivals, parades, library activities, and other events that attract people to the downtown area.

### **Concluding Comments:**

1. That Council receive this staff report as information.
2. That staff to hold another Downtown Dundalk Revitalization Project Virtual Public Consultation/Discussion meeting on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 with the business and downtown property owners to look for the next steps in submitting an application or not for the Canada Healthy Community Initiatives grant funding; and
3. That staff report back to Council at the June 16, 2021 meeting for a final decision on how we proceed with submitting an application for the Canada Healthy Community Initiatives grant funding.

Respectfully Submitted,

**CAO approval:** Original Signed By

Dave Milliner – CAO

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Attachments:

- Attachment #1 – Downtown Dundalk Revitalization Project & CIP Initial Survey Feedback Report