

## **Township of Southgate**

### **Administration Office**

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## **Staff Report CAO2022-060**

**Title of Report:** Eh!tel Networks Inc. - Southgate Temporary Tower  
Agreement Approval Report

**Department:** Administration

**Council Date:** September 7, 2022

### **Council Recommendation:**

**Be it resolved that Council** receive staff report CAO2022-060 as information; and  
**That** Council consider approval of the Eh!tel Networks Inc. Temporary Tower  
Agreement by Municipal By-law 2022-134, at the September 7th, 2022 meeting.

### **Background:**

Southgate Council has approved similar agreements over the years with Eh!tel Networks Inc. to support the growth of broadband communications in Dundalk. The Dundalk tower is being decommissioned at this time to be located in the Hopeville area.

### **Staff Comments:**

The intent of this agreement is to allow Eh!tel to provide service in area around Hopeville with a temporary tower being installed in municipal property, until the Fibre services constructed, connected and powered up. The agreement explains the project is for 1 year and maybe extended by agreement. This temporary tower will support the access to broadband communications services in area of the Hopeville municipal office to support some customers that will be stranded by a loss of area service.

Staff recommend approval of the agreement and by By-law as Eh!tel have been expanding their service consistently across the Township from the Holstein area through Dromore, Hopeville and to Dundalk with fibre over the next few years.

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

There is no financial cost to the municipality as a result of this report. Eh!Tel will compensate the Township of Southgate at a rate of \$100.00 per month to cover Hydro costs.

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

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

## **Goal 1**

### **Attracting New and Supporting Existing Businesses and Farms**

#### **Action 1:**

The residents and businesses of Southgate envision a growing and diverse local economy, which respects our agricultural background while also attracting new businesses and new employment opportunities in keeping with the renewed growth of our population.

#### **Strategic Initiatives:**

**1-A** - By 2023, together with existing businesses and other partners, the Township will have identified the types of new business opportunities that are likely to have emerged when Dundalk's 10-15 year growth has taken place and the Dundalk population approaches 4500 people. This business opportunity projection should project the likely demographic make-up of that future population and its likely work, travel, and shopping patterns. It should also identify possible municipal incentives that could facilitate the emergence of these future business opportunities.

The incentive referred to in CAP 1-A, is a critical issue for rural communities to support future growth across the Township for businesses and farming operations. Rural areas need access to higher speed fibre communications capacity. As future technology expand capabilities to do more, increased broadband will be an essential data highway to allow an increase of working from home (virtual office), less requirements for travel to workplace and capacity to support autonomous shared vehicle transportation as a climate change strategy and to support connected agriculture.

#### **Concluding Comments:**

1. That Council receive this staff report as information.
2. That Council approve the Eh!tel Networks Inc. and Southgate Temporary Tower Agreement as presented, dated September 7, 2022, which is included with the By-law 2022-134 for consideration at this Council meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

**CAO approval:** Original Signed By

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**PW approval:** Original Signed By

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