

## **Subject:** Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement with Niagara Region

### **Recommendation:**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive Report #2021-0056 Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement with the Niagara Region, for information;**

**AND THAT Council APPROVE the Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement with the Regional Municipality of Niagara;**

**AND THAT Council AUTHORIZE the renewal of the Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement with the Regional Municipality of Niagara through the Town of Pelham's Director of Public Works on an annual basis.**

**AND THAT the Town Clerk be directed to prepare the necessary by-law in accordance with this agreement.**

### **Background:**

The Town of Pelham owns and operates two (2) traffic signals, five (5) signalized pedestrian crossings, and two (2) flashing beacons at school zone crossings in the municipal road network. Historically, and currently, the Town contracts the Region of Niagara to undertake traffic signal design, construction and maintenance services on behalf of the Town. This is the situation for all other municipalities within the Region that have traffic signals under their jurisdiction. The Town is recommending to enter into an agreement with the Region to continue the provision of these services.

### **Analysis:**

Recently, Regional Council directed Regional staff to update the Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreements with the various local municipalities who have traffic signals under their jurisdiction. To ensure uniformity in the design and operation of traffic signals throughout the Region, which is a paramount aspect of road user expectation and by extension road user safety, all local municipalities contract the Region to undertake the design, construction and maintenance of their traffic signal

assets.

Managing the entire traffic signal network as one entity gives the general travelling public, pedestrians, commercial vehicles and visitors to the Niagara Region a seamless travelling experience as they move throughout the Niagara Region from municipality to municipality. This is achieved through the standardization of specialized equipment and levels of service provided by Niagara Region to maintain a cohesive and consistent network throughout the Region.

Niagara Region Traffic Staff comprised of certified electricians and technicians are trained specifically to deal with the specialized nature of traffic signal equipment and systems.

Financial benefits to all municipalities are also achieved as each individual municipality elects to forgo a competitive process of their own and instead elects to enter into an agreement that leverages a combined spend with other municipalities and the Region through utilizing Niagara Region Staff to procure and complete this work.

Traffic signals are an integral part of the transportation network within the Town and the timely design, construction and maintenance services provided by the Region are critical to ensuring the highest level of mobility and safety for all road users in the Town. Accordingly, the Region provided Town staff with an updated version of the Agreement (See Appendix A) for review and signature. Following an internal review of the Agreement by staff from Public Works, Engineering, Legal and the Clerks Department, staff is now recommending that the agreement be signed to ensure the continued service of the design, construction and maintenance of traffic signal assets in the Town.

### **Financial Considerations:**

Currently, the Town budgets approximately \$55,000 annually in the Capital Budget for traffic signal maintenance services. Council approved this capital expenditure in the 2021 Capital Roads Budget under project RD 10-21.

### **Alternatives Reviewed:**

There were no alternatives reviewed in the preparation of this report as the maintenance and operation of the Traffic Signal Systems owned by the Town is required to be performed by qualified staff in accordance with the *Highway Traffic Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. H.8, as amended. The Town of Pelham does not have staff

with the qualifications to undertake this specialized work.

### **Strategic Plan Relationship: Risk Management**

Entering into a maintenance agreement with the Regional Municipality of Niagara will ensure that continued on-going maintenance and needed infrastructure investment is with respect to the Town's Traffic Signals is maintained.

Proper and regular inspection and maintenance is required on the Town's Traffic Signals in order to ensure efficient operation and provide safety to the residents of the Town of Pelham.

### **Consultation:**

Consultation was undertaken with the Town of Pelham's Solicitor, Jennifer Stirton, in the preparation of this report.

### **Other Pertinent Reports/Attachments:**

Appendix A – Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement Niagara Region

### **Prepared and Recommended by:**

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Director of Public Works

### **Prepared and Submitted by:**

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