



Report to Council

To: Mayor and Council Members
From: Chris Challenger, Economic Development Officer
Date: August 29th, 2022
Subject: Rogers Lease Agreement – Jack Lake South

Recommendation

That Council provide approval as outlined below:

1. That Council pass a by-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute a telecommunications site agreement with Rogers Communications Ltd. (Rogers) for the purpose of leasing a portion of Municipal lands (Part Lot 6, Concession 15 Burleigh [Northern Division], Parts 1-3 45R3070) for the construction and operation of a telecommunications tower.
2. And further that staff be directed to engage Canadian Radio Communications Information and Notification Service (CRINS) for the required consultation process

Background

In 2021, the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) and Roger's Communications entered into an agreement (the cell gap project) to provide cell coverage to underserved communities throughout Eastern Ontario. The cell gap project aims to provide 99% cell coverage to all of Eastern Ontario. This is a \$300M project, and is a 50/50 cost share between the Provincial/Federal Governments, and Rogers.

Rogers has approached the Township requesting to lease a portion of Municipal Lands on the West Side of Jack Lake in order to construct a new cell tower. The lands do not have a Municipal Address, but are located at the North East corner of the intersection of Jack Lake Road and Fire Route 51. The Township already leases land to Rogers for the cell tower at the North Kawartha Community Centre.

Analysis

The lease agreement contains confidentiality provisions, which prohibit the public disclosure of the terms of the agreement.

Staff have been negotiating with Rogers authorized agent (Spectra Point) and are of the opinion that the current proposal represents a good deal for the Municipality. The

proposed lease agreement will create a long term non-tax revenue stream for the Township.

Should Council wish to execute an agreement with Rogers, then staff will work with CRINS to start the consultation process mandated by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC).

Financial Implications

The proposed agreement sets a lease rate structure between Rogers and the Township.

Strategic Plan:

1.0 – Infrastructure – Investments in Municipal Infrastructure

Strategic Economic Development Plan

3.0 – Infrastructure – Internet and Cell Service

Attachment:

Appendix A - CRINS Consultation Guidelines

In Consultation with:

Connie Parent, Clerk
Jesse Lambe, Fire Chief
Jeff Waldon, Roads Supervisor

and no consultation with negatively affected property owners/taxpayers