

Board Meeting Highlights

March 26, 2021

Special Board of Directors' Hearing Meeting

The Board conducted a hearing under Section 28.0.1, Subsection 7 of the Conservation Authorities Act, which deals with applications for which a Minister's Zoning Order has been granted. The application by 2639025 Ontario Inc. was for permission to build the Oro Station Automotive Innovation Park at the property municipally known as 255 and 401 Line 7 N, Township of Oro-Medonte. Chair Emmerson noted that staff prepared and distributed Staff Report No. 12-21-BOD in response to this application.

Ms. Ashlea Brown, Director, Regulations, presented on behalf of the Authority, providing an overview of Section 28.0.1 of the Conservation Authorities Act. She also provided an overview of the proposed Oro Station Automotive Innovation Park project and outlined the recommended conditions of approval with the rationale behind the specific permit conditions, 26 in total, as outlined in Staff Report No. 12-21-BOD included in the agenda package. She advised the Hearing Board that upon approval of any or all of the conditions, staff would be obligated to issue the permit as required under Section 28.0.1.

Mr. Geoffrey Campbell, Managing Partner, Oro Station, presented on behalf of the applicant, 2639025 Ontario Inc., providing an overview of the concept for the proposed project, a multi-use facility that will join an automotive business park with testing facilities, and outlined the many features of the project.

Chair Emmerson advised the applicant of the Hearing Board's decision to approve Staff Report No. 12-21-BOD without any changes to the conditions.

Regular Board of Directors' Meeting

Announcements:

- a) Chair Emmerson welcomed new Board member, Councillor Cria Pettingill, who has been appointed by the Regional Municipality of Durham to represent the Township of Brock. Board members introduced themselves and welcomed Councillor Pettingill to the Board.
- b) Director, Corporate Communications & Engagement, Kristen Yemm, provided an update on the Annual Conservation Awards, noting that similar to 2020, it is believed there will not be a physical event in 2021 due to the pandemic. Staff are working on developing a virtual awards celebration, and more details will be provided as they become available.

Chief Administrative Office, Rob Baldwin, referenced the wave uprush event from a few years back that caused a lot of damage on the east side of the lake and was pleased to advise that a new webpage, the [Lake Simcoe Shoreline Status](#) has been added to the Authority's website, where a variety of information can be found on current weather-related conditions.

Presentations:

a) 4th Quarter Financial Report and 2021 Proposed Capital and Operating Budget

General Manager, Corporate Financial Services/CFO, Mark Critch, provided an overview of the Authority's 4th Quarter financial results and the 2021 Proposed Capital and Operating Budget, noting much more information can be found in the two staff reports that accompany this presentation.

Highlights and results of 2020 included an operational deficit of \$203K, which was much lower than anticipated at the end of the third quarter; an additional reserve draw of \$134K for work at Scanlon Creek Operations Centre; some surplus from the offsetting operational programming that enabled the return of \$212K to reserves; some capital budget variances, the majority of which were due to timing issues; and a decrease in return on investments due to lower interest rates. A procurement summary shows \$1.2M for 87 purchase orders; and an offsetting summary shows \$155K spent on offsetting projects in 2020, and a deferred balance anticipated to be spent on offsetting projects in 2021 and beyond. He reviewed the status of major project work in 2020 and provided an update on reserves.

Moving on to 2021, GM Critch noted the audited financial statements will be coming to the Board in April, annual operating priorities for 2021 have been developed, and the 2021 Budget is ready to be approved by the Board of Directors. The 2021 Budget is within the guidelines approved by the Board in July 2020 and is in line with targets set by the funding municipalities. Budget presentations were provided to partner municipalities who requested a presentation, and our Budget-at-a-Glance document was provided to all partners. He noted that at this time, approval of the 2021 Budget has been received from eight of the nine funders, and approval from the ninth funder remains outstanding.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [2020 Results and 2021 Budget Presentation](#)

Correspondence and Staff Reports:

Correspondence

The Board received a copy of the Authority's Comments on the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan 10-Year Review (ERO-019-2833), as submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks on March 3, 2021.

4th Quarter Financial Report and 2021 Proposed Capital and Operating Budget

The Board received Staff Report No. 13-21-BOD regarding the Authority's Fourth Quarter Unaudited Financial Report for the period ending December 31, 2020.

The Board received Staff Report No. 14-21-BOD regarding the Authority's 2021 Proposed Capital and Operating Budget, adopted all projects therein, and authorized staff to enter into all agreements and execute all documents for the undertaking of said projects. The 2021 Capital and Operating Budget was approved by weighted vote as required by Ontario Regulation 139/96 (formerly O.S. 231/97).

BDO Canada LLP – Audit Planning Report for the 2020 Annual Audit

The Board received Staff Report No. 15-21-BOD regarding the 2020 Audit Plan from BDO Canada LLP.

Housekeeping Update to Planning and Development Fees Policy

The Board received Staff Report No. 16-21-BOD regarding the Planning and Development Fees Policy and approved the recommended updates effective April 1, 2021.

Smoke-Free Conservation Areas Policy

The Board received Staff Report No. 17-21-BOD regarding smoke-free policy within Authority properties and conservation areas and directed staff to implement a pilot project at Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area and to pursue the possibility of implementing a smoke-free policy across all Authority properties.

Confidential Land Matter

The Board approved Confidential Staff Report No. 18-21-BOD regarding a confidential land matter.

For more information or to see the full agenda package, visit [LSRCA's Board of Directors' webpage](#).