



Wasaga Beach Council Highlights

From the Aug. 25, 2020 meeting

Town investing in contract staff person to ensure proper cleaning continues

Council approved a budget adjustment of \$17,908 to support the addition of a seasonal support person to help with sanitizing and maintenance requirements at town facilities for a 17-week period.

As the town continues with full reopening of municipal buildings, as part of the province's overall COVID-19 reopening, the level of required cleaning to ensure public and staff safety is stretching staff ability.

The contract position will allow staff to meet cleaning requirements.

Read a related [staff report](#) to learn more.

Twin-pad arena and library open house well attended

The Design Open House for the new twin-pad arena and library took place Aug. 20

and was well attended, said Councillor Joe Belanger, chair of the Community Services Section of Coordinated Committee.

He noted staff and consultants were on hand at the RecPlex to review details of the project budget, scope, and programming.

Visitors were able to ask questions and make comments.

The feedback will help increase the building's functionality and community appeal.

The project is entering the schematic design phase in which the twin-pad arena and library will be drafted in detail.

Read the related staff report [here](#).

Check out our related project page [here](#).

Town holding onto unopened road allowance

Council agreed it would not dispose of an unopened road allowance at 14th Street South.

Property owners at neighbouring 91 Old Mosley St. wished to purchase the property, but staff advised it serves as a storm sewer outlet and that future storm sewer upgrades will require the corridor.

The town is also advising the 91 Old Mosley St. property owners they will need an encroachment agreement with the town to reflect existing encroachments onto the 14th Street road allowance.

Public meeting for new development charge rates set for Oct. 22

Councillor Stan Wells advised council that during the Aug. 13 General Government section of Coordinated Committee the committee received for information the findings of a Development Charges Study.

Wells, chair of the General Government section of committee, said the Development Charges Act requires the town to review its rates every five years and adjust them as required.

The town imposes fees on development to finance related capital costs such as roads, water projects, and recreation facilities.

Ultimately, the goal is to ensure that new development pays for the additional capital

costs generated by people moving into the community.

Hemson Consulting, on behalf of the town, prepared the new Development Charges Study, which recommends an increase in rates to support growth in the coming years.

Committee directed staff to schedule a public meeting for 9 a.m. on Oct. 22 so the community can share its thoughts on the study.

Staff will be reviewing the capital plan and making adjustments prior to the public meeting.

Review the study [here](#) and the draft capital plan [here](#).

COVID-19 financial report shows town is managing responsibly

Council received for information the [COVID-19 Financial Report](#) for the period ending June 2020.

The report provides a preliminary review of some costs identified to date due to the pandemic.

Overall, the town is managing fairly well from the impact of COVID.

Based on revenues realized to date, it is likely that a significant loss of revenues will occur by the end of the year, possibly in the 25 per cent to 50 per cent range.

The town [learned Aug. 13](#) that it is receiving \$883,780 in federal-provincial support under the Safe Restart Agreement.

Staff will be presenting an accounting of the town's expenditures and projected lost revenues at a future meeting of council.

Town in good financial shape: second quarter report

Town council received the [Second Quarter Financial Report](#) for information.

Treasurer Jocelyn Lee says the financial results for the period are within budget expectations with a few minor exceptions, detailed in the report.

The document states the town is in good financial shape as of the end of the second quarter.

Council allows developer to divide parcels of land so new townhouse units can be sold

Council is allowing a developer of townhomes on Bianca Crescent to divide the lots, allowing the individual sale of the 16 units under construction.

The units are part of the second phase of the Trillium Forest North Plan of Subdivision, in the west end of town.

Learn more about the project in the staff report [here](#).

Retail cannabis survey open until Sept. 4

Members of council received for information a [report](#) on a retail cannabis survey the town is conducting.

In early 2019, council 'opted-out' of the cannabis retail license lottery system and requested staff to analyze the impacts of 'opting-in' at a future point.

In December 2019, council maintained the town's 'opt-out' status and requested staff to continue monitoring 'opt-in' communities.

Council also directed staff to consult the community on whether retail cannabis operations are a good fit in Wasaga Beach.

Through the town's community engagement site, www.letstalkwasagabeach.ca, the town launched a survey on Aug. 17.

The survey asks the public if the town should opt-out or opt-in and allow retail cannabis operations.

A report on the survey results will go to council in October 2020.

Geosands AGM presented at council

Geosands Inc., the company operating Wasaga Distribution Inc., and Wasaga Resource Services Inc., held its annual general meeting as part of the council meeting.

The town is the sole shareholder of the company.

Company CEO Keith McAllister and Trent Gow, board of directors member, presented the company's annual report to council as well as its financial statements.

Wasaga Distribution looks after electricity distribution in the community.

Wasaga Resource Services handles administrative services for Wasaga Distribution and the construction of hydro infrastructure in town.

A third part of the organization, Wasaga Genco Inc., is an inactive incorporation and has been since its inception.

The companies were incorporated 20 years ago and since then Geosands has paid the town \$3.3-million in interest and \$3.1-million in dividends.

For 2019, the company returned \$500,000 to the municipality.

Geosands said it has, and will maintain, one of the lowest rates in the province to deliver power to its customers.

The company's capital enhancement programs will maintain and improve system performance while at the same time increasing the net worth of the organization.

The past year was one of change for the organization.

McAllister, a new CEO, was hired, and six new members appointed to the organization's three boards.

Council heard that an audit of Geosands, performed by Baker Tilly, found the organization in overall good shape.

Review the presentation to council [here](#).

Watch the full presentation [here](#). (It starts at the 3:30-mark).

-Wasaga Beach Council Highlights is produced monthly by the town's Communications Department.

-For the official record of council's meeting, please see the minutes at www.wasagabeach.com.

-Watch our latest meeting here: [Meeting](#)

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