



REQUEST FOR DECISION

Report Date: April 9, 2020

Contact: Ryan Roycroft

Agenda Item Number: 9.5

Meeting Date: 04/15/2020

TO: Town Council

FROM: Infrastructure Service

SUBJECT: Aspen Pond Drainage

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT COUNCIL allocate \$30,000 to remedy drainage issues at the Aspen Pond, with the money to be drawn from the Utility Reserve.

REPORT SUMMARY

In Spring 2019, the Town began receiving reports of localized flooding around Aspen pond. The flooding appears to be caused by Town ditches and drainage structures not functioning as intended due to a lack of preventative maintenance.

Town staff recommend reallocating funds from the utility reserve to engage a 3rd party to conclude those parts of the maintenance that staff lack the equipment to maintain.

While the Town has a substantial backlog of maintenance that is required, staff are beginning to catch up on required maintenance.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S COMMENTS

That Council accept the recommendation.

REPORT

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT

In spring of 2019 a Town resident brought forward the concern of Aspen pond not draining properly. Based on discussions with the resident Aspen pond has been an ongoing issue causing several insurance claims. Currently the storm pond in Aspen Creek does not function the way it was designed. This in turn is causing flooding to not only his home but his neighbors (see Site Map). The main problem is the Culvert downstream being backed up with water (see Site Map).

DISCUSSION

Due to a historical lack of maintenance Aspen pond is failing to release water. Based on a site visit with EPCOR this issue appears to be caused by a backup in the Culvert downstream (see Site Map) which is intended to release water into an undeveloped lot south of the pond. Related Culverts upstream are currently underwater indicating the system is not directing this water properly. This causes the system to backup at the storm pond and overflow during heavy rain events resulting in flooding of adjacent properties. After multiple conversations internally with Infrastructure & Operations department Town staff recommends the following process:

Step	Benefit	Cost
1. Dewater Aspen Pond	Mitigates flooding risks to the residents for the spring/summer months	\$12,900 (this work is to be done by Operations)
2. Clearing Growth	Necessary for proper ditch redesign & proper water flow	\$27,750
3. Ditch Redesign	Proper side slopes and grades to ensure water flows into the adjacent lot	

Reference Aspen Ditch Drawing & Site Map

This project will have a minimal impact on resident during construction and it is anticipated to take 3 weeks. Upon completion of the project regular maintenance will be performed on the ditch to ensure water continues to flow.

Town Operations staff will do as much of the work as possible. However, the Town does not own the necessary equipment to do tree removal in a flowing ditch safely. The Town also does not own suitable surveying equipment to ensure the ditch is regraded properly. Rather than risk Town staff and equipment, it is recommended that a 3rd party contractor with suitable equipment be engaged.

STRATEGIC ANALYSIS (IF APPLICABLE)

Maintenance of Town Infrastructure is vital to prevent future issues such as this. Traditionally, the Town has not allocated any significant resources to drainage maintenance, and that has led to situation where drainage systems no longer function as intended.

Since 2019, the Town has started to take a more serious approach to addressing the lack of maintenance of surface drainage.

- Inlet/Outfall inspection processes for storm ponds, dry ponds and other infrastructure
- Clearing blocked and clogged ditches that haven't been cleared in more than 2 decades
- Culvert inspection process
- Maintenance tracking on drainage systems

Additionally, Council has approved funding to assess surface drainage along the Brent Boulevard corridor, where lack of maintenance and unsuitable grades has led to localized flooding.

The Town's drainage systems have not been adequately or seriously maintained for a generation. However, the Town's Surface Drainage Maintenance programs are beginning to reduce the maintenance backlog, which will reduce the likelihood of future emergency requests for funding. Realistically, it will take many years of additional maintenance to catch up with the backlog – however, there is progress being made, and it will continue to be prioritized during summer maintenance seasons.

As part of the 2020 Budget, Council approved funding for a Utilities reserve to fund Utilities projects without requiring tax funding. It is recommended that funds be drawn from this reserve fund, which is the intent of the reserve.

IMPLICATIONS/RELATED ISSUES/RISK (IF APPLICABLE)

If the repair work is not completed, there will continue to be a risk of future pond floods and damage to property. It is not likely that there will be catastrophic damage, but instead continual nuisance flooding, insurance claims, and the perception that the Town's lack of maintenance of infrastructure is hurting residents. The Town's insurer may also grow concerned that the Town's lack of preventative maintenance is leading to additional claims.

CONCLUSION

The above approach will ensure Aspen pond functions properly and the current flooding issue has been dealt with.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

1. Site Map
2. Aspen Ditch Drawing.

REVIEWED & APPROVED BY R. ROYCROFT