

**TOWN OF MINTO**

DATE: April 3, 2018
REPORT TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Gordon Duff, Treasurer
SUBJECT: Main Street Revitalization Initiative– Municipal Funding Agreement

STRATEGIC PLAN:

5.1 Actively seek out Federal and Provincial grants and revenue-sharing programs, and promote sustainable and equitable funding programs that require a minimal amount of reporting and promote local autonomy.

5.3 Ensure financial plans to include a blend of capital financing methods including long term debt, user fees, grants, internal reserves and taxation, and maintain reserves to the point where Minto reduces reliance on borrowing or tax increases to finance major capital expenditures.

BACKGROUND:

The Ontario government announced a new funding program in January with a stated purpose of helping municipal governments undertake main street revitalization activities that support and benefit small businesses. There are two streams, one that funds initiatives through an existing Community Improvement Plan (façade or building rehab work) and a second regarding municipal physical infrastructure. Eligible costs incurred between April 1, 2018 and March 31, 2020 qualifies for up to 100% funding. The amount of funding for each municipality has been set according to a formula. The Town is eligible for up to \$45,316.35 under this program.

AMO is administering the program on behalf of the Province and has circulated their standard form agreement with provisions summarized as follows:

- Required acknowledgement of OMAFRA funding including notice of media events/announcements
- Scope of work eligible for funding is outlined in Schedule B 2b Streetscaping which includes much of the work planned in the Clifford downtown.
- Proper accounts to be maintained
- Annual report required as to the use of funds, and “Results Report” upon completion
- Funds transferred upon execution of the agreement
- Stacking of funds is permitted.

- Normal liability, insurance, conflict and other protective clauses in primarily to the benefit of AMO and OMAFRA

COMMENTS:

As Minto fully funds the Community improvement Plan through the economic development budget, it is recommended the Town apply under the municipal physical infrastructure stream. One of the top priorities for 2018-19 is to enhance the streetscapes of downtown Clifford in order to improve its attractiveness to new and existing businesses and their customers. This funding will allow improved street lighting, electrical infrastructure and street furniture.

As is the usual practice, the Province of Ontario requires a Transfer Payment Agreement to be signed to govern the use of the funds. In this case, the Ontario Ministry of Food and Rural Affairs signed a Transfer Payment Agreement with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, (AMO) to administer the Main Street Revitalization Initiative funds. An agreement between the Municipality and The Association of Municipalities of Ontario is required in order to facilitate the transfer of funds.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The Town will recognize this grant as capital funding for the Clifford Streetscape project. The estimated costs of eligible expenses under this initiative are \$140,000 for decorative street lighting, \$8,600 for bollards and approximately \$15,000 in street furniture, trees and landscaping.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council receives the report from the Treasurer dated April 3, 2018 regarding the Municipal Funding Agreement for the Ontario's Main Street Revitalization Initiative Program and considers a by-law in open session authorizing the Mayor and C.A.O. Clerk to sign the agreement.

Gordon Duff, CPA, CGA
Treasurer