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# **Council Report**

STAFF: Mark Becker, CAO

**DATE:** April 25, 2023

SUBJECT: Century Heights Drinking Water System Pressure Zones

### Recommendation

That Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh Council agrees to design the new well and treatment building for a higher pressure and operate two systems independently (i.e. two different pressure zones).

### Background

We have provided Council with a copy of the memo dated April 10, 2023 from Ryan DeVries of B.M. Ross & Associates Ltd. with respect to the ongoing Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) process. In order to continue with the design, our engineer requires direction from the Township on whether there is interest in upgrading the existing well and treatment building to match the new pressures being designed for the new well and treatment building, or if the preference is to operate the two systems independently (i.e. two different pressure zones) at this time.

### Comment

As a follow-up from the memo, staff reached out to our engineer to clarify a few items as follows:

- We are only aware of one pressure complaint, however that area would be drastically improved if operating 2 separate pressure zones and not completing any upgrades to the existing well house.
- Some of the pressure tanks are getting older and there are some signs of deterioration on the walls in places in the existing well house, therefore future repairs will need to be completed.
- The engineer is not convinced that spending \$ 250,000 to upgrade the existing well house to increase pressures along Dunlop Drive and Colborne Place is a worthwhile expenditure, at least not at this time.

As Council may recall, the ACW Water Department Reserve will be depleted this year due to other projects presently in place, and will need to borrow additional funds from Township Reserves for the work completed, and that the funds would be repaid using the annual anticipated transfers to reserves in the years to follow by way of water rate that have been established in the ACW Water Works Financial Plan. This additional expense of \$ 250,000 at this time would result in additional borrowing from Township Reserves at this time.

Based on those facts noted in the report provided, staff recommends proceeding to design the new well and treatment building for a higher pressure and operate two systems independently (i.e. two different pressure zones).

## **Others Consulted**

Brett Pollock, CBO Florence Witherspoon, Clerk Thomas McCarthy, Public Works Superintendent Ryan DeVries, B.M. Ross & Associates Limited

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Becker Chief Administrative Officer