

**TOWN OF INGERSOLL
Clerk's Report**

Dedicated Gas Tax Fund

April 14, 2009
Report No. C-062/09

Background

Funding from the Ministry of Transportation for the Public Transportation Program has been received since 2005. The Ministry required the preparation and adoption of a Transit Asset Ridership Plan and a Transit Assessment & Transit Ridership Growth Plan (approved in 2006) and annually to enter into an agreement for the funding and to complete the stats for CUTA (Canadian Urban Transit Association). The purpose of the program is to provide dedicated gas tax funds to ensure that local public transportation services continue and to increase overall ridership through the expansion of public transportation capital infrastructure and levels of service.

Since the municipality provides only specialized transit (ParaTransit), the two Plans relate to the provision of growth related services. Growth related costs are limited as the municipality contracts the provisions of the service and subsidizes the ridership.

As of the end of 2008, the Town has on hand reserves in the amount of \$226,545.00. The conditional grant allows for money to be spent on:

- a) Public transportation capital expenditures that promote increased transit ridership, and are above a municipality's baseline spending;
- b) Public transportation operating expenditures that are above a municipality's baseline spending;
- c) Capital expenditures on transit security above the municipality's baseline spending;
- d) Major refurbishment on any fully accessible public transportation vehicle.

Note: Baseline is the year 2003.

The purpose of this report is provide Council with information prior to considering proposed By-Law No. 09-4484.

Discussion:

As required by legislation, Council provides a subsidized public transport service for those individuals that meet the criteria

- Persons who are physically unable to climb or descend steps used on conventional public transit facilities.
- Persons who are unable to walk a distance of 175 meters (575 feet) and/or
- Persons who are visually impaired. (Documentation is required.)

Since the inception of the service in 1992, the Town has opted to contract the service to a local taxi business through a tender process and rigid operating standards. The Accessibility Committee undertook an informal study comparing a town owned service versus a contract service. The differential savings to retain the contract service was considerable and Council opted to retain status quo for the provision of this service.

The 2009 allocation that the municipality will be permitted to transfer into the operating budget (2008 actual less the 2003 baseline) \$9,033.22. In addition, monies are to be transferred to cover the purchase of the reservation software outlined in the plan (\$3,000 plus maintenance of \$500).

Recommendation:

Since the program allows for the transfer of funds to cover the excess over the municipality's baseline spending, Council may desire to continue with the annual agreement by adopting the proposed by-law.

Therefore, it is recommended that Council continue to enter into an agreement with the Ministry for the funding as circumstances for the provision of the service may be altered in the future.

Respectfully submitted

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Clerk/Deputy Administrator