

**Overview:**

In December 2019, the Province announced plans to increase access to natural gas by making financial supports available via the Natural Gas Expansion Program. Enbridge Gas Inc., have approached the Township regarding viable projects that may fit into this program.

In 2018 discussions were held between Enbridge Gas Inc. staff and Township staff regarding business cases in the Township that could be made for natural gas expansion. In those discussions two locations were identified, the Hamlet of Young's Point and the Hamlet of Warsaw. In reviewing the business cases that had been created, the Hamlet of Warsaw is the preferred project location as it will meet the required 50 existing homes and business in a geographic area and the route if it came from Peterborough would be able to provide service to a multitude of private residences, multiple local business and to County and Township facilities.

**Conclusion:**

The expansion of natural gas service to the Township of Douro-Dummer could be an economic development driver and would provide residents, businesses and the Township a lower cost energy supply. Enbridge Gas Inc. have provided a list of anticipated submission requirements that will need to be addressed should this project move past the preliminary stage and once project submission requirements are finalised by the Ontario Energy Board. In the list of submission requirements, there is a request for the Township to state whether it would be willing to provide financial support for the project. The example of financial support that is suggested is to refund any new taxes collected on the new natural gas lines for a period of 10 years. It would be premature for the Township to consider the request for financial support as we have not been provided information on the exact path of the service, hook up charges and other costs that may be associated with a transition to natural gas service.

**Recommendation:**

That the C.A.O.-2020-03, dated February 26, 2020, regarding the Natural Gas Expansion Program be received, that the Council of the Township of Douro-Dummer provide a letter of support for the proposed Hamlet of Warsaw gas expansion project and further that at this time the Township reserves the decision on financial contributions to proposed project.

**Financial Impact:** None at this time but there may be capital costs to transition to natural gas service and any potential financial support the Township may want to provide.

**Strategic Plan Applicability:** To effectively respond to the challenges of addressing the Township's municipal infrastructure needs as well as effectively managing the assets of the corporation;

**Sustainability Plan Applicability:** We will create and retain prosperity by providing investment and employment opportunities within sustainable local and global markets.