

On Thu, Apr 23, 2020 at 10:29 PM David M. MacRae < > wrote:

Dear Ms. Watson,

We too hope that you and your family are well in these unusual times. Thank you also for sending out the notes on the capital budget matters (**ref: Capital Budget Docs [posted online](#)**).

Having read the notes, I was struck by the absence of any mention of the White Lake Road East (WLRE) rebuild in the capital plan.

However, I do note that the 10-year plan for D-D roads (Revised Dec 2019) that is on the Twp website at <https://tinyurl.com/y83c5wgh> (and attached here) reflects the intention expressed in Resolution Number 280-2019 passed on Aug 6, 2019 (see below). That resolution called for consideration of moving the rebuild of WLRE forward to 2021, with completion of the surface treatment on 2022 as part of the budget deliberations.

The 10-year plan on the Twp website now confirms that WLRE will be subject to a proper road-bed rebuild in preparation for a Double Surface Treatment in 2021, and a Double Surface Treatment to be completed in 2022. Based upon the intention expressed in the aforementioned Resolution, and the subsequent revision of the 10-year plan attached here, I assume that we may now count on that plan being carried out.

Are you able to confirm this for us please? May we request that this item be included on the Agenda for formal confirmation at the May 5<sup>th</sup> 2020 Council Meeting?

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For those copied on this note, I have set out the history of Council deliberations and relevant Resolutions that relate to WLRE, along with some questions that should best be considered for clarification in the upcoming May 5th meeting.

### **Special Council Minutes, April 30, 2019**

David MacRae, was in attendance to make a presentation regarding the poor condition of White Lake Road East and to present a petition to Council requesting that White Lake Road East be rebuilt and a hard top surface be applied.

*Note added here: This petition augmented previous representations to members of the Twp staff and Councilor Landsmann regarding the inequity of treatment Golf Course Rd with respect to upgrading the latter to "Semi-Urban" based upon the number of properties per km when WLRE has a property count almost 4 times as great as GCR considering those properties dependent on WLRE for access.*

### **Council Minutes – June 4, 2019**

Report to Council – Petition to Add Surface Treatment to White Lake Road East

Resolution Number 210-2019 Moved by: Deputy Mayor Moher  
Councillor Landsmann

Seconded by:

That the report to Council, dated May 29, 2019, regarding the petition from White Lake Road East residents be deferred until the study of gravel roads is complete and presented to Council for review and analysis and further that a report with recommendations be brought back to Council on this issue in two to three months' time. **Carried**

### **Council Minutes – June 18, 2019**

David MacRae – Petition (*presentation copy attached here*) regarding White Lake Road East (WLRE)

Resolution Number 233-2019  
Landsmann

Moved by: Councillor Watson Seconded by: Councillor

That the presentation from David MacRae regarding a petition to request a hard top surface for White Lake Road East (WLRE) within 18 months, be received. **Carried**

### **Council Minutes – Aug 6, 2019**

Report to Council – Update to Road Maintenance Schedule for White Lake Road East

Resolution Number 279-2019  
Landsmann

Moved by: Councillor Watson

Seconded by: Councillor

That Council receive the report regarding the road maintenance schedule for White Lake Road East, dated July 30, 2019, and move to defer until after the special meeting on roads taking place on Thursday August 8, 2019. **Defeated**

- The referenced report (to my knowledge) was not made available for review prior to the meeting, and, unless I am mistaken, has never been published in an accessible form.
- No mention of White Lake Road East is made in the minutes of the Aug 8, 2019 meeting. Nor was it discussed while I was present.
- The Report is alleged to be available but can no longer be found here:  
<http://www.dourodummer.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/7m-Other-White-Lake-Road-East-2.pdf>
- Is the latter report the above-mentioned “study of gravel roads”?

Resolution Number 280-2019  
Councillor Watt

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Moher

Seconded by:

That the report to Council, dated July 30, 2019, regarding the updated road maintenance schedule for White Lake Road East be received, that the Township of Douro-Dummer maintain its revised schedule to upgrade White Lake Road East to a surface treated road in 2022 and that the issue be brought up at capital budget time to see if it is possible to move up to 2021 instead. **Carried**

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**The additional comments and questions are the following:**

1. Referring to Resolution Number 210-2019 June 4, 2019 (above),
  - a. Where can the report on the “study of gravel roads” be seen?
2. I draw your attention to the potential downsides of a reduction in gravel application that now appears to be the adopted standard going forward. See the note to David Clifford of Sept 3, 2019 attached. Any consideration of gravel reduction flies in the face of the real-world knowledge and recommended maintenance standards for gravel roads such as WLRE. Reports submitted to the Twp, and even available online <https://aors.on.ca/?s=douro+dummer>, show that such knowledge has been communicated to the Public Works department by consultants contracted to the Twp. The question is whether the learning has been captured in subsequent decision-making.
  - a. While making decisions, does the Twp keep in mind the results of such quantitative studies towards which we the tax-payers have contributed?
3. I would be curious as to who is leading the charge regarding road projects. During the meeting on August 8<sup>th</sup>, the Mayor made it very clear that an advisory committee on roads was to be set up. At some time after the meeting, it was announced that David Clifford was stepping down, and that Harold Nelson was to retire. It would be interesting to know how that has affected planning, and in particular, how the needs of other roads like WLRE are now being carefully considered.
  - a. Is there still a regular schedule of the planned road committee meetings that were deemed to be absolutely essential in the above Aug 8<sup>th</sup> meeting discussions?
  - b. Who is on that committee?
  - c. Are minutes issued and available?

Thank you for your help with these matters,

Regards,

David MacRae

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David M. MacRae

home  
cell