



THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF KINCARDINE

Subject: Bag Tag Program COVID-19 Final

Report Number: Public Works-2020-14

Meeting Date: Monday, April 6, 2020

Recommendation: THAT Council recommend the Bag Tag Program continue status quo and have staff provide for a free temporary home delivery with an online order form for tags.

Date to be considered by Council: Monday, April 6, 2020

Report Summary:

With the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic the Municipality has received numerous calls and concerns from residents about garbage collection and the requirement to purchase bag tags. Concerns revolve around social distancing and financial constraints due to temporary job losses.

Origin: N/A

Existing Policy: N/A

Background/Analysis:

With the Municipal office and the Underwood satellite office closed to the public, these locations are no longer selling bag tags directly to residents. Residents can only purchase tags from local businesses in the community that are authorized vendors. We have taken steps to ensure the businesses that are approved vendors of the Municipal bag tags are kept replenished; however, we continue to receive calls and concerns about the need for residents to have to go out and purchase bag tags, at the same time we are encouraging social distancing. Others are concerned with the ability of some residents to pay for bag tags as a result of temporary job losses.

Municipal staff have been monitoring what other municipalities that provide waste collection services, and have bag tag programs, are doing during this pandemic with respect to user fees and set out limits. At the time of this report most have

remained status quo in their approach with a few looking at alternate options such as detailed below.

1) Continue to require bag tags on each bag of garbage placed out for collection:

Pros:

- There would be no impact on bag tag revenue.

Cons:

- Does little to promote social distancing.
- Does not alleviate current financial concerns of residents financially impacted by the pandemic.

Note: to address the social distancing concern, the Municipality would encourage residents to purchase bag tags when they are making infrequent outings during the pandemic to purchase other necessities such as groceries. Most grocery stores within the do sell bag tags. Sobeys's offers a delivery grocery service and has indicated that bag tags would be included in these deliveries.

2) Provide two weeks of bag tags to those who request them as a result of quarantine due to travel or illness in exchange for a donation to the food bank.

Pros:

- Would promote social distancing.

Cons:

- Negative impact to the bag tag revenue.
- Could prove difficult for staff to manage.

3) Provide for a free temporary home delivery with online order form for tags.

Pros:

- Would promote social distancing.
- No impact to bag tag revenue.

Cons:

- Does not alleviate current financial concerns of residents financially impacted by the pandemic.

4) Allow one free bag per week from April 6 through May 29

Pros:

- Would promote social distancing. The average household in Kincardine is placing an average of 1.5 bags of garbage out for collection per week. With the recycling program still in place there should be very few households that will need to go out and purchase additional bag tags in order to meet their waste disposal needs during the COVID 19 pandemic.
- Would help alleviate some concerns of residents seeking financial relief.

Cons:

- Would result in the loss of approximately \$80,000 in bag tag revenue between April 7- May 29, under normal usage for the average household.
- All costs to operate waste collection remain unchanged.
- The inability to ensure residents comply and don't place additional bags on others frontage.

The 2020 Waste Services Division's budget has \$400,000 allocated as a revenue line item for bag tags.

Typically, there are some minor highs and lows in the sales of bag tags over the course of the year. Overall, the average monthly sales for bag tags is estimated at \$38,000.

Community Plan and Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP)

Considerations: N/A

Financial Implications: If Council elects to proceed with Option 4: Allow One Free Bag per Week, between April 6 and May 29, it will likely result in a revenue shortfall of approximately \$80,000 in the 2020 Waste Management Division's operating budget.

Attachments: N/A