



REPORT

Clerk's Department

TO: Mayor and Members of Council

FROM: Debbie Leroux, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk

DATE: April 22, 2024

REPORT: CL-12/24 **FILE NO.**

SUBJECT: Request to Issue Expression of Interest Letters and Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Uxbridge Train Station and Metrolinx Lands which includes the Rail Yard Lands and Rail Line

BACKGROUND:

In January 2024, the Township received notice from a Trustee Company B Riley Farber that YDHR had declared bankruptcy and that they would be handling the disposition of the assets remaining on the lands. In March 2024, B. Riley Farber commenced a sale process for a sale or combination of sales of all or substantially all of the Company's property.

The Township has been working closely with the Trustee throughout the process.

DISCUSSION:

On January 8th, Council received Report CL-01-24 which addressed YDHR vacating the train station, rail yard and rail line due to termination of their leases. At that time, staff were directed to investigate available opportunities for the train station and to enter discussions with Metrolinx regarding future use of the rail yard and rail line.

The Township remains optimistic that we can attract a short line rail operator so that the land continues to be utilized in the same manner. However, we have to determine and seek approval on the path forward for this process. There are many benefits/advantages to having the train operational within the Township particularly related to the tourism/economic spin off from the train operation in the Downtown and surrounding areas. While there has been interest and inquiries by short line rail

operators, it is recognized that the Township may not attract another short line railway operator and therefore it is suggested that Council also direct staff to prepare a further RFP to invite other tourism uses for the station and the lands should the Township not receive any expressions of interest by short line rail operators.

The Township engaged a solicitor with short line rail experience to assist in the process of preparing an expression of interest letter and a Request for Proposal (RFP). The expressions of interest letters would be sent to existing short line operators to determine if they would consider submitting an RFP to operate a short line railway within the Township. Any expressions of interest received would be provided an RFP so that they can participate in the process.

We have not yet received a firm date as to when the Trustee will have all the assets removed and have property cleaned up, however, the date for the bids/sale of assets is to close on April 26th.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Good Governance

Collaboration and Partnerships

Community Well-Being

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Report CL-12/24 of Debbie Leroux, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk be received for information;

AND THAT staff continue to work with Metrolinx on the continued use on the rail yard and rail line lands by a short line railway operator;

AND THAT Council direct Staff to prepare an Expression of Interest letter and Request for Proposal for the operation of a short line railway which would include the use of the Uxbridge Train Station and the Metrolinx property which consists of the rail yard and rail line once the continued use of the land through the lease has been confirmed by Metrolinx.

AND THAT if no viable interest is received by a short line railway operator for the use of the train station and the associated Metrolinx lands, that a further RFP be prepared to invite other viable tourism uses for the station and the lands.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Debbie Leroux
Director of Legislative Services/Clerk