

THE MUNICIPALITY OF LAMBTON SHORES

Report DPW 04-2025

Council Meeting Date: February 25, 2025

TO: Mayor Cook and Members of Council
FROM: Nick Verhoeven, Director of Public Works
RE: Housing Enabling Water Systems Fund
RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report DPW 04-2025 regarding Housing Enabling Water Systems Fund be received; and

THAT the Municipality of Lambton Shores proceeds with the Thedford Watermain Improvement Project; and

THAT the amount \$401,500 required for the project be funded from the Water Reserve fund.

SUMMARY

This report provides a recommendation that Lambton Shores moves proceeds with a watermain improvement project in Thedford despite not receiving Housing Enabling Water System funding.

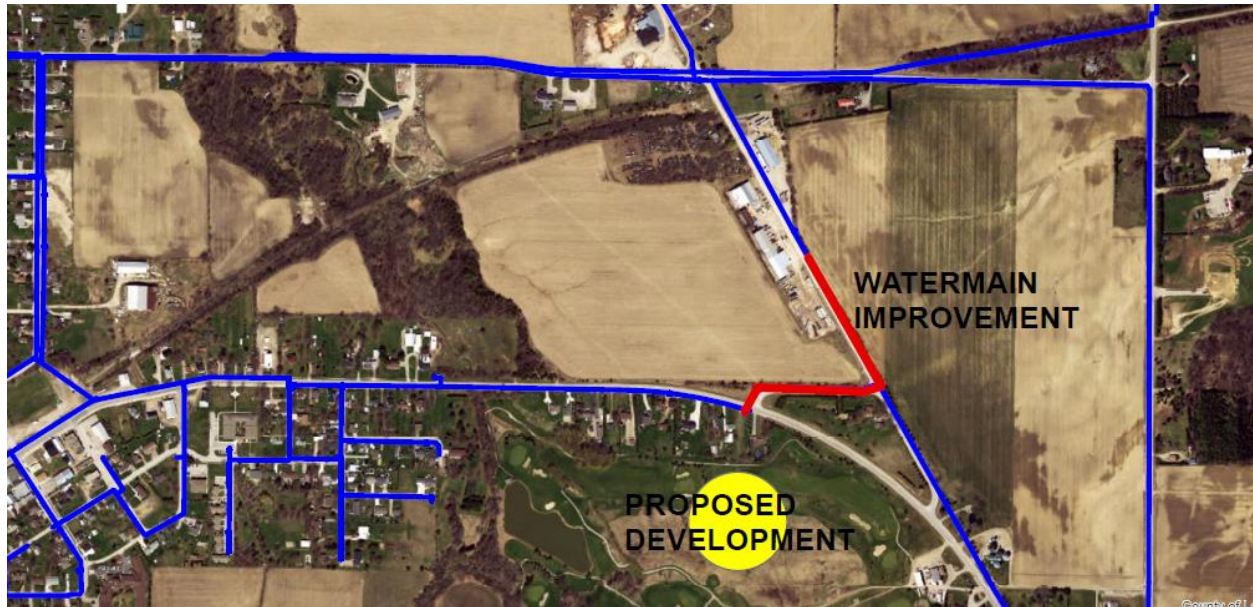
BACKGROUND

In 2024 the Province of Ontario announced a new funding program, the Housing Enabling Water Systems (HEWS) Fund, to provide funding to Municipalities for water, wastewater, and stormwater projects that promote growth and enable housing. Staff identified a watermain improvement project in Thedford to expand water capacity to the south east area of the Village. There is a proposed residential development south of Main Street. While Municipal water is available, providing modern fire flow values has been a challenge. Preliminary analysis of the watermain network has shown that increasing watermain sizes on Widder Road and Main Street would improve fire flows available and allow the development to proceed.

On October 22, 2024 Council authorized staff to make an application for funding for the Thedford Watermain Improvement project. Staff were informed on January 17, 2025 that the funding application was not successful.

The total project cost of \$550,000 was included in the 2025 capital budget which was funded by \$401,500 in grant funding and \$148,500 funded from the Water Reserve Fund. Following notification that the HEWS grant application was unsuccessful, the project is now unfunded by an amount of \$401,500.

Staff recommend proceeding with the project as it both encourages potential development within Thedford and Lambton Shores but also improves service to existing area residents in Thedford. The unfunded project funding is recommended to be taken from the Water Reserve fund.



ALTERNATIVES TO CONSIDER

Council could decide to not proceed with the project at this time.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

That Council allocates \$401,500 from the Water Reserve Fund to fund the unfunded portion of the Thedford Watermain Improvement project.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Lambton Shores included \$148,500 in the 2025 Capital Budget for this project and assumed that a \$401,500 contribution from HEWS funding would be received. The municipality has been notified that the funding application was unsuccessful and will require \$401,500 from the Water Reserve Fund to proceed with the Thedford Watermain Improvement project. The Water Reserve Fund has sufficient funds available for this project.

CONSULTATION

Rebecca Clothier, Director of Financial Services