

# THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF MISSISSIPPI MILLS

## STAFF REPORT

**DATE:** June 7, 2022  
**TO:** Committee of the Whole  
**FROM:** Cory Smith, A/Director of Public Works  
**SUBJECT:** Windstorm Update – Levels of Service

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### RECOMMENDATION:

**THAT Committee of the Whole recommend to Council that it direct staff to continue to provide extended hours at the landfill and communicate this to residents to inform them of the additional access to our disposal services for brush and wood debris for an additional 2 weeks.**

### BACKGROUND:

On Saturday May 21, 2022 Mississippi Mills experienced a severe windstorm that caused significant damage to trees, powerlines and structures across the Municipality. As a result, many roadways were blocked with fallen trees and powerlines. Public Works responded and cleared all roadways they could and made our road network passable. In areas where fallen trees and debris were entangled with power lines staff had to wait until Hydro crews made them safe before clearing the debris. Our Water and Waste Water systems were assessed and continued the provision of safe clean water and wastewater services through the use of generators.

On Sunday May 22, 2022 the Municipal Emergency Control Group (MECG) was activated and the MECG and Senior Staff members coordinated activities and communication strategies. Public Works staff continually assessed the situation and works continued as required and as could safely be performed.

On Monday May 23, 2022 cleanup efforts continued, as part of the continued coordination efforts the MECG and Senior staff members met and reviewed the information available including current and future needs and concerns that would need to be addressed. An Emergency meeting of Council was held where staff requested direction on levels of service. Council provided staff with direction to do the following;

1. **STAFF DIRECTION** - communicate to the public via radio, posters and other signage.

2. **THAT** Council direct staff to bring back options and costing for additional yard and waste pick-up.
3. **THAT** Council direct staff communicate to residents that they can place an additional container of garbage for 2 weeks.
4. **THAT** Council direct staff to communicate to Carleton Place to allow non-residents access to Mississippi Mills facilities for access to showers, chargers, and filling up water bottles.

Subsequent to the Meeting on May 23, 2022 Staff continued communication efforts, ensured that waste collection services collected 2 containers for curbside collection without additional bag tags, and staff communicated with Carleton Place regarding access to our facilities for their residents. The regular curbside/roadside waste collection was adhered to for the week of May 23, 2022. Last week was the scheduled leaf and yard waste collection. Hours of operation at the Howie Road and Pakenham drop off sites for brush were extended and additional days of operation were added to the schedule for a two week period. Again these were communicated to the public through a number of methods. In addition, Public Works staff continued clearing our roadways and opening up our roads to two way traffic as could be completed safely. Other wastes such as spoiled food and other debris appear to have been well handled by our additional waste set outs and advertising of the private services available. As such no further works need to be considered at this time for food waste and other debris.

The Mississippi Mills Fire Department also provided wellness checks in hard to reach areas as well as provided information on available services. They also reported back to Public Works areas of concern.

## **DISCUSSION:**

Senior Staff have kept monitoring the cleanup efforts both by our workforce and by residents. As of the date of this report the clean up efforts have gone well. Municipal forces have cleared most of the right of ways and our residents have done an excellent job of cleaning up their yards and have taken fair advantage of extended access to our facilities for disposal of their brush. In reviewing the Municipality some residents still have brush and debris left to deal with that originated on their own property. Public Works Staff will continue to deal with the damage and clean and clear brush and debris from Municipal Trees. However, some requests have come in from residents for our staff to go around and collect wood waste from private properties. At this time it is prudent to provide options and ask council for direction on the levels of service they wish to provide.

## OPTIONS:

1. Direct Staff to clean up wood waste from private property if brought to the roadside.
2. Direct Staff to continue to provide extended hours at the landfill and communicate this to residents to inform them of the additional access to our disposal services for brush and wood debris.
3. Direct Staff to continue to provide public information about our disposal options for brush and other waste including private services.
4. Municipality to hire a private service to collect and deal with woodwaste from private properties in our Municipality by requesting quotes from local contractors in order to provide timely removal of brush and debris.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

For options 1 and 4 duration of time is unknown as if the service is advertised people currently taking care of their own woodwaste may choose to use the service offered by the municipality. As such it is difficult to assess the costs for providing the service for our residents for material from private property. The hourly rate of our staff and equipment can be determined, however, this additional staff involvement does take our limited staff away from our ongoing regular duties required to ensure safe well maintained infrastructure. As this is no longer a critical service the hourly rate for a private service to collect and deal with the materials would need to be obtained through a request for quotation as per our procurement policy.

Options 2 and 3 have a limited cost to the municipality as they would only be limited to internal staff costs of a small amount of staff for a limited time.

Estimated Costs per option.

**Option 1** – Hourly Cost for crew, traffic Control, Equipment Costs, and Supervision  
**Estimated Hourly Cost:** based on internal costing \$405.00/Hour

**Option 2** – Includes increased hours at adding Thursday evenings in pakeham and extending closing times Saturdays in both Howie Road and Pakenham until 4:00pm plus advertising  
**Estimated Weekly Cost:** \$540.00/Week

**Option 3** – Includes staff time and advertising costs  
**Estimated Weekly Cost:** \$125.00/Week

**Option 4** – Includes hiring external services to collect and deal with woodwaste including traffic control, staffing and equipment, as well as, Municipal Supervision  
**Estimated Hourly Cost:** \$450.00-\$750.00/Hour based on discussion with know contractors

It should be noted that these costs are rough estimates only at this time. Options 1 and 4 are only hourly as the time to complete these works is unknown at this time and may increase based on uptake of users if this service would be advertised.

**SUMMARY:**

Staff have provided options for council to consider in providing staff direction on levels of service. Staff will fulfill the direction provided to the best of its abilities.

Respectfully submitted by,

Reviewed by:

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Cory Smith,  
A/Director of Public Works

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Ken Kelly,  
CAO