



The Corporation of the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie

Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: September 11, 2023

Subject: SRW.23.18 Tara Cemetery – Cremation Garden Fence

Report from: Scott McLeod, Public Works Manager

Appendices: Appendix A – Pictures of Current Condition (Front, Back, Side)

Appendix B – Fence Spire Design and Specifications

Recommendation

Be It Resolved that Council hereby,

1. Directs Staff to proceed with the project with a spring installation in 2024 and award the contract to Modern Fencing, A Division of B & L Farm Services Ltd., for a total cost of \$16,498.87;
2. Approves a deposit payment of \$10,000.00 from account #23-HLTH-0002 LAND/IMP – Fence work for Tara Cemetery; and
3. That Council approves the inclusion of the additional funds of \$7,000.00 required for the project in the 2024 Capital Budget and that they be funded through reserve #01-0000-7212 – Municipal Buildings.

Report Summary

The intent of this report is for Council to approve proceeding with the project and to award the contract to Modern Fencing, with a deposit of \$10,000.00 to secure pricing for 2024.

Background

The Hillcrest Cemetery, located at 3959 Bruce Road 10, has an area that is designated as the cremation garden. The plots in this location are smaller in size, 3 ft. x 2 ft., and a

maximum of two (2) cremated remains may be placed in each plot. One flat marker is permitted and there is a memorial wall in which names are engraved.

The cost for these plots is much less than a regular plot and includes the land cost, care and maintenance contribution, the grave opening and the engraving, which total \$1,011.35 incl. HST. This provides an all-in-one, cost-effective option.

This area has several spaces still available. Surrounding the area is a hedge, which over time has become quite overgrown and decreases the appeal of this area, depicted to be a cremation "garden".

Analysis

Staff have consulted with local landscapers to obtain ideas that would raise the appeal for this area of the cemetery but remain easy to maintain. It has been suggested that the hedge be removed and replaced with a fence. After this has been completed, Staff will consult the local horticultural society, who currently look after the columbarium area landscaping for future planting requirements.

Staff recommend a black wrought iron commercial grade fence. This type of fence provides a high quality long-lasting protective coating that is adhesion and corrosion resistant. The length of fence required is 132 feet and will surround three (3) sides of the cremation garden, with the memorial wall at the entrance.

The current hedging will be removed by Municipal Staff.

Staff reached out to three (3) local contractors for quotes on the fence. Only two (2) quotes were received.

Contractor	Project Cost incl. HST
Modern Fencing – A Division of B&L Farm Services Ltd.	\$16,498.87
Built Wright Fencing	\$17,390.70

Both quotations received came in over budget, however, Staff recommend continuing with this project as it will increase the appeal of the area and potentially increase plots sales.

It is recommended that the project be postponed until spring of 2024. This approach will allow for additional funding to be included in the 2024 capital budget to support the increased fencing cost.

Staff have spoken to Modern Fencing, who will accept a deposit payment of \$10,000 to order the materials this year to guarantee the pricing and a spring installation for 2024. The future soft landscaping costs will also be identified in the 2024 Capital Budget after further consultation with the local horticultural society.

It is anticipated that the project will be completed prior to Decoration Day which will take place on Sunday, June 9, 2024.

Link to Strategic/Master Plan

6.1 Protecting Infrastructure, Recreation and Natural Assets

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding/Link to Procurement Policy

Originally, this project was planned for 2022, and staff received estimates in 2021 for budget purposes, however, it was excluded from the capital budget due to funding constraints. In 2023, the project was approved based on the same estimate of \$10,000.00. The increase reflected in the report is due to increases in the cost of materials.

As noted earlier in the report, the pricing can be secured for 2024 with a deposit payment of \$10,000.00 which will cover the cost of materials. This would be funded through the capital budget account #23-HLTH-0002 LAND/IMP – Fence work for Tara Cemetery.

Staff recommend that the additional funds of \$7,000.00 to complete the fence installation and landscaping be included in the 2024 capital budget and funding through reserve 01-0000-7212 – Municipal Buildings. There are sufficient funds available in the reserve, as the balance as of December 31, 2022, is \$426,695.13.

Approved by: Sylvia Kirkwood, Chief Administrative Officer