

DATE: November 9, 2021

REPORT NO: PD-126-2021

SUBJECT: **Recommendation Report - Snow Event/Weather Advisory Focused Winter Parking Enforcement to Accommodate the Procedural Review of Parking, Driveway, Boulevard and Culvert Bylaws**

CONTACT: Tiana Dominick, By-law Enforcement Officer
Gerrit Boerema, Planner II
Brian Treble, Director of Planning & Building

OVERVIEW:

- Township Planning, Building, Bylaw and Public Works Staff have had difficulty dealing with unauthorized driveway widenings, entrance construction and boulevard alterations over the past few years.
- A large number of residential lots throughout Smithville have altered their driveways, curbs and boulevards. There have been several complaints from residents and a number of ongoing bylaw files that have prompted this report requesting a bylaw and procedural review in order to protect the Township's assets.
- Township staff believe that winter parking enforcement on Township streets is contributing to residents widening their driveways to accommodate more vehicles within their property, and on the Township boulevards.
- In addition to Township staff seeking to create a clear process for members of the public to install a new driveway entrance, or alter an existing driveway or boulevard, Township staff also wish to explore alternative winter parking regulations allowing greater flexibility for on-street parking.
- Due to the procedural review process being incomplete and minimal bylaw enforcement resources, staff seek to proceed with a "pilot project" for the 2021/2022 winter season which will generally target vehicles parked on the municipal roadway 24 hrs. before and after a snow event/weather advisory. The ticket will be the set fine of \$75.00 for interference with snow removal, versus the \$30.00 ticket typically issued for parking on the roadway between 2:00 AM – 6:00 AM.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That, report PD-126-2021, regarding "Snow Event/Weather Advisory Focused Winter Parking Enforcement to Accommodate the Procedural Review of Parking, Driveway,

- Boulevard and Culvert Bylaws”, dated November 9th, 2021 be received; and,
2. That enforcement staff proceed with a parking enforcement focus 24 hrs. before and after a snow event/weather advisory, with an increased set fine to accommodate the ongoing procedural review of the Parking, Driveway, Boulevard and Culvert Bylaws; and,
 3. That enforcement staff provide feedback to Council at a later date in regards to the procedural review, and snow event/weather advisory focused parking enforcement.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

Theme #3, 5, and 6

- Strategic, Responsible Growth
- Community Health and Safety
- Efficient, Fiscally Responsible Operations

BACKGROUND/CURRENT SITUATION:

In the past winter seasons, the Enforcement Officer issued proactive education notices regarding winter parking for approximately two weeks prior to commencing enforcement and issuing penalty notices on November 1st. Additionally, education notices were also posted at all Township facilities, on the Township of West Lincoln website, and in the local newspapers. Staff have continued with this proactive, customer service focused approach for the 2021 winter season.

Due to minimal staff resourcing for by-law enforcement, the past two winters have seen the Enforcement Officer attempt to alternate Monday – Wednesday – Friday, and Tuesday – Thursday for the winter parking enforcement shift which commences at 4:00 AM. The ticket most frequently issued was “Park between 2:00 AM – 6:00 AM” which is a \$30.00 penalty. With that being said, often times the scheduled alternating day did not align with the winter storm advisory and projected forecast. Many residents have also voiced that they understand enforcement when the snowplows are out, but do not agree with enforcing overnight parking if we have an additional bylaw that prohibits parking for longer than 12 hrs on any municipal roadway. This feedback is being considered in the procedural review of the Parking, Driveway, Boulevard and Culvert By-laws.

Staff recommend a “pilot project” approach for the 2021/2022 winter season, with focused parking enforcement 24 hrs. before and after a snow event/weather advisory which guarantees assistance with the municipal snow clearing operations. With this approach, the penalty issued is “Interference with snow clearing operations” which has a set fine of \$ 75.00. This process does not require any amendments or further action from Council. Rather it provides Planning, Building, Enforcement and Public Works staff with further insight for the procedural review in regards to what enforcement process is most effective.

For the purposes of this approach, the Enforcement Officer has discussed the terms “snow event” and “weather advisory” with the Township Public Works Department, and it has been determined that the two interchangeably shall mean any accumulation of snow that sticks to the roadway.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Staff have not identified any financial implications at this time.

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMENTS:

Township Building & Enforcement Department, Planning Department and Public Works Department have had discussions about this enforcement approach and report.

CONCLUSION:

While Planning and Enforcement staff continue to work on the procedural review of the Parking, Driveway, Boulevard and Culvert Bylaws, staff recommend the “pilot project” approach for the 2021/2022 winter season, with targeted parking enforcement 24 hrs. before and after a snow event/weather advisory as outlined in this report, which guarantees assistance with the municipal snow clearing operations. This project will provide staff with further insight for the procedural review in regards to what enforcement process for winter parking is most effective and beneficial to our staff and residents. Feedback will be shared with Council at a later date.

ATTACHMENTS:

No attachments to disclose.

Prepared & Submitted by:



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Approved by:



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Brian Treble
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