

## **STAFF REPORT**

### **REPORT FROM THE MANAGER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

#### **DESCRIPTION**

Re: Process to acquire an electric vehicle charging station for the municipality

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the report from the Manager of Economic Development be received;

AND THAT Council agree in principle that an electric vehicle charging station should be installed on Municipal property;

AND THAT staff are directed to apply through Ontario Charging Network to Natural Resources Canada for grant funding for an electric vehicle charging station

## BACKGROUND

Electric Vehicle (EV) sales grew nearly 60% in 2021 with 86,000 vehicles sold. This was an increase over 2020 which saw 54,000 sold. Ontario represented 22.9% of all EVs sold. There is an expected federal mandate that will call for 20% of new cars sold to be electric and 50% by 2035.

## ANALYSIS

Tourism serves as one of the City's key economic drivers and is a focus for the City's Economic Development Department going forward. Elliot Lake is very welcoming to internal combustion engine vehicles with 2 gas stations, but for EVs, the options are extremely limited. An EV driver travelling on Highway 17 from Sudbury to Sault Ste Marie has two (1 being Tesla only) locations in Espanola and two in Blind River (1 being Tesla only) as the sole charging locations. Elliot Lake does have one charger at a private business location, but up time and functionality have been limited.

The focus of this project has been to install a 150 KW charger. This will futureproof the project and allow for vehicles to charge more quickly and therefore get drivers out in the community. A higher KW/h unit also allows for multiple vehicles to charge in a day, increasing the number of users served and limiting the need for multiple chargers. Further, these charges allow for charging by all EV models not just Teslas.

There are several locations that are capable of supporting a charging station in the Municipality. Staff are recommending the Miners Memorial. This location is ideally located, offers an available parking spot, and is a key stop in the City for visitors. The availability of benches, picnic tables and a stunning view make this an ideal stop to refuel both body and vehicle.

There are 2 firms that are working on quoting the project. Ivy, which was founded by OPG and Hydro One, offers a "charging as a service model" that features a 10-year commitment of roughly \$20-25K per year but includes equipment, maintenance and monitoring (see charging as a service slide in attachment). The alternative is an outright purchase of the equipment by the Municipality. Current estimates are roughly \$200K. Both models include a revenue stream that contributes to the capital and electricity costs. Staff will be bringing forth more detailed quotations in the coming months.

Natural Resources Canada is offering a \$75,000 grant (as noted on the Funding Summary slide). If approved by Council, this funding can be applied through the IVY project as they already have the framework in place to complete the application. The Municipality can then apply to other funders to cover up to 75% of the costs.

## FINANCIAL IMPACT

Costs at this stage are limited to staff time.

Staff will present to Council, both the charging as a service and the outright purchase models once pricing is available.

## SUMMARY

Staff are recommending that Council give staff direction to continue with the project and approve the application to Natural Resources Canada for funding.