City of Elliot Lake

MEMO

To: **Public Service Committee**

From: **Bill Goulding, Acting Director of Public Works**

Date: **May 12, 2023**

Subject: **Gravel Road Dust Abatement 2023**

Staff was able to meet with some concerned citizens in March 2023 regarding the efficacy of the City's efforts surrounding dust abatement on the unsurfaced roads in the North of the municipality.

Staff understands that this issue is somewhat of an ongoing concern. While the need to tolerate some dust is associated with living in proximity to gravel roads, staff has an appetite to ensure that road maintenance operations are being conducted in both an efficient and effective way.

Some affected residents have suggested that dust abatement efforts should begin earlier in the season. Staff conducted some research on this, including reviewing best practices outlined in technical documents, reviewing weather records as well as discussion with vendors and experienced City staff. Based on this work, it seems that the current annual schedule of a single treatment with dust abatement, beginning somewhere in mid to late June through to the first week of July, provides sufficient dry time for road surfaces to make the application as efficient as possible.

In general, the calcium chloride solution that the City uses for this purpose appears to be the correct product for our local climate conditions and the schedule to which is applied is in line with best practices. However, some research material that staff was able to review indicated that second supplementary application later in the season can be justified when conditions require.

Last year, recycled asphalt material was applied to approximately 6 km of Dunlop Shores Rd. This material does not generate dust, and as a result, no dust abatement application is required in this area. This leads to an anticipated savings for dust abatement costs in 2023.

In an effort to improve the situation, staff intends to allocate the anticipated savings to a second application of solution in the latter half of summer, and will be monitoring the efficacy of both the application itself and this second treatment.

Respectfully submitted,