

A MOTION REGARDING THE BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT PROVINCIAL FACILITATION

FEBRUARY 26, 2025

BACKGROUND

In an effort to progress the facilitation process within a reasonable timeframe, Township of Oro-Medonte Council unanimously passed the motion outlined below at the Wednesday, February 26, 2025 Council meeting, requesting support for an expedited approach for the purpose of achieving agreement.

Oro-Medonte Council is of the view that the proposed revised approach will provide a more productive, transparent, and efficient path forward, ensuring the City of Barrie's boundary adjustment request will be determined and closed within a six (6) month timeframe, or sooner.

MOTION

WHEREAS, there are Parties participating in ongoing provincially facilitated municipal boundary adjustment discussions that are in response to a request for lands by the City of Barrie [the Request],

AND WHEREAS, the Municipal Parties are; The County of Simcoe, the City of Barrie, the Township of Springwater, and the Township of Oro-Medonte,

AND WHEREAS, Hemson Consulting ("Hemson") was jointly retained by the parties to evaluate the need for additional residential and employment lands at the boundaries of Barrie/Springwater and Barrie/Oro-Medonte. Hemson has completed this task and produced a report (Hemson Report),

AND WHEREAS, there has been only one meeting to date involving all Parties,

AND WHEREAS, the Facilitation process is significantly (approx. 60%) over-budget, due to higher than anticipated consultant costs,

AND WHEREAS, the Parties are unable to agree on the basic outcomes and findings of the Hemson Report on the land need requirements of the municipal parties,

AND WHEREAS, there has been no meaningful agreement between the Parties, in particular for the need and base growth assumptions that justify the City of Barrie's request,

AND WHEREAS, the Parties should determine the Terms of Reference amongst themselves,

AND WHEREAS, after each Stage or Phase the City of Barrie Requests changes involving inclusion of additional lands and conducting its own internal analysis outside of the facilitation process,

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AND WHEREAS, it has been determined that the region requires more housing of all varieties to meet expected demand,

AND WHEREAS, it has been determined that additional employment lands are not required during the planning period,

AND WHEREAS, when parts of the City of Barrie requests are found to have no Professional Planning justification, they continue to form part of the Facilitation due to a lack of agreement and vision between the parties,

AND WHEREAS, based on the initial Request there has not been a full Professional Planning analysis of the options to address the need for additional housing, including the need to annex lands for any purpose,

AND WHEREAS, there is no set commencement or conclusion or procedure to the facilitation process,

AND WHEREAS, there is a Provincial Mandate to build more homes faster,

AND WHEREAS, the Province has indicated that it prefers a local solution to Municipal matters,

AND WHEREAS, there appears to be a willingness to enter into negotiations to explore ways to assist the Province in its Mandate and to simultaneously benefit the County's regional development objectives,

NOW THEREFORE, let it be known that the Township of Oro-Medonte supports the Provincial Mandate,

AND THAT, Council is willing henceforth to participate in ongoing discussions, regardless of the constitution of those discussion, with the Parties to enable outcomes of mutual benefit and aligned with the provincial mandate to build more homes faster and to protect and expand jobs amidst a rapidly changing geo-political environment,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, in order to expedite an economical, mutually satisfactory outcome the Council of the Township of Oro-Medonte recommends that all further discussions be held in Open Sessions [the Sessions] with all Parties being present at each Session,

AND FURTHER THAT, as an alternative to the present manner of facilitation all Parties enter into discussions in the Sessions in the manner described in the appended process [the Process] as amended to their mutual agreement,

AND FURTHER THAT, once carried, this motion be delivered immediately to the Parties requesting a decision as to whether they agree to such a format,

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AND FURTHER THAT, if this motion is approved at Municipal Council it is to be delivered to the Parties, the Provincial Land Development Facilitator and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing,

AND FURTHER THAT, this draft process be considered by the parties in the establishment of a revised terms of reference,

AND FURTHER THAT, notwithstanding anything otherwise agreed to regarding the Process that from the time of the commencement of the Sessions not more than six months shall transpire. The Process is attached as Appendix A: The Process.

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APPENDIX A: THE PROCESS

The Sessions be constituted in the following format:

- That all Parties be present at all Sessions,
- That the Sessions be live streamed,
- That the Sessions be mediated/facilitated by the same Facilitator who shall act as Chair of the Sessions,
- That support services including record keeping be provided by the County,
- That the Sessions have an agenda,
- That the Sessions provide opportunity for Public input through observance of Meetings, Deputations and Presentations as the Public wills,
- That the Sessions each be not less than one day in length,
- That the Parties be able to break out for caucus purposes during the Sessions in private,
- That there be no more than one week between the Sessions unless otherwise unanimously agreed to,
- That the Parties present an initial issues list,
- That the Parties progress through the issues one-by-one until an agreement is reached,
- Agreement on an issue will be by vote,
- Each Party will have two votes to be made by an elected official of that Municipality or that official's proxy,
- That the Sessions take no more than six months as calculated from the date of the first of them,
- That should the Parties reach or not reach agreement then they shall;
 - If together in agreement [the Agreement], then document it and present it to the Facilitator/Mediator within a month of the conclusion of the Sessions,
 - Instruct the Facilitator/Mediator to present the Agreement to the Minister for disposal of the matter at the Minister's discretion having consideration for the Agreement,
 - If not in agreement, then, each Party shall document arguments with reasons and evidence for their position using only materials from the Sessions [the Submissions],
 - Complete the Submissions within one month of unsuccessful conclusion of the Sessions,
 - Present the Submissions to the Facilitator/Mediator,

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- Thereafter the Submissions will be distributed by the Facilitator/Mediator to all Parties as soon as is reasonably practical,
- Thereafter if they so chose each Party may document a rebuttal to any or all of the Submissions [Rebuttals] and present their Rebuttals to the Facilitator/Mediator within one month of the distribution of the Submissions,
- The Facilitator/Mediator shall take the Submissions and rebuttals to the Minister for disposal of the matter at the Minister's discretion having consideration for the Submissions and the Rebuttals.
- Finally, that the above-noted process take no longer than six months.