

The ROCKWOOD Miller

Highway painting bid disqualified

By Denise Paulsen

A bid to paint highway lines submitted by a paving company with ties to a member of Guelph/Eramosa Township council was recently disqualified.

The Township's Manager of Public Works, Ken Gagnon, sought legal advice and determined that Niagara Crack Sealing's bid of \$8,000 was in contravention of a procurement bylaw, automatically disqualifying the company from the tender process. Gagnon recommended council accept the \$19,890 quote

submitted by Metro Pavement Marking Ltd.

Last month, both companies were asked for references, and a list of sub-contractors the company would use to do the line painting. Ward 2 Councillor Roger Knapp's company – R & M Maintenance – was on the list submitted by the low bidder. Gagnon said the quote from Metro Pavement Markings Ltd. is consistent with those received by the Township for similar road works in the last couple of years.

Although the submitted quote by Niagara was

considerably less than the bid accepted by the Township, Guelph/Eramosa Mayor Chris White's position is firm – it would be totally unacceptable for the Township to waiver on its current position that sitting councillors cannot bid for contracts awarded by the municipality. Gagnon said Metro's quote for the work is less than the 2010 operating budget's amount of \$20,250, designated for line painting. Knapp was absent for the meeting, and at press time, had not responded to repeated requests for comment.

Appeal court paves way for lawsuit

A recent Ontario Court of Appeal decision paves the way for a Rockwood couple to proceed with a lawsuit against three obstetricians, four obstetrical nurses and Guelph General Hospital in connection with the birth of their son nine years ago.

Kevin Liebig, who has

cerebral palsy, was born with brain damage caused by hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy, or oxygen deprivation that the family alleges was caused by negligent caregivers.

Mother Susan Liebig alleges she was not adequately monitored after being given a drug to

speed up her labour. The allegations have not been proven in court and are denied by the obstetrical team. The court ruled newborn infants can sue for injuries caused during labour based on the long-standing practice of holding negligent health care providers liable for injuries to unborn children.

The trial is set for September.



HIGHWAY PLANS: Several hundred people viewed Ministry of Transportation plans to reconstruct Highway 7 through Rockwood at an open house last Tuesday at Rockmosa. – Denise Paulsen photo

Huge crowd views Highway 7 plans

Safety and timing of a project to reconstruct Highway 7 through Rockwood were priority issues for the public who attended an open house last Tuesday night at the Rockmosa Community Hall. Approximately 200 residents viewed the plans to reconstruct Highway 7 from Eden Mills Road to the Conservation Area through Rockwood.

The project also includes repairing the Eramosa River Bridge, fixing existing storm sewers and culverts and replacing existing sidewalks through the village of Rockwood.

Guelph/Eramosa Township Mayor Chris White hopes the project will lead to a walkable, pedestrian friendly community with sidewalks running from the south end of Rockwood to the Conservation Area.

While the province is responsible for reconstructing the highway, it is Guelph/Eramosa Township's responsibility to assess pedestrian crossing needs, supply crossing guards and establish school crossing zones.

Rockwood resident Pat Cernick said she hopes the impact on local businesses during construction can be minimized. Several Rockwood homeowners complained that the consultant's design maps were not up-to-date and excluded some of the area's more recent housing developments.

The highway reconstruction will be done in the

spring of 2011 and 2012. During construction the highway will remain open, although local traffic will be reduced to single-lane. People whose driveways are on Highway 7 will be contacted by the MTO prior to construction.

The public can comment on the draft plans until July 16, by contacting Sabrina Stanlake at Dillon Consulting Limited, 130 Dufferin Avenue, Suite 1400, London, On, N6A 5R2, or 519-438-1288, Ext. 1235 or Email ssanlake@dillon.ca.

The consultants will take comments from the public meeting into consideration before submitting a final design.

Advance poll dates set for October election

Guelph/Eramosa Township council recently approved two dates for ratepayers to vote in advance of the upcoming election – Thursday, October 14 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday, October 16, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

A special advance poll will also be held on Friday, October 15, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., strictly for residents at the Eden House Care Facility in Eden Mills. Addition-

ally, seniors living at the home will be able to vote at an inhouse poll on election day, Monday, October 25, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. – which are reduced voting hours.

The Township will return to standard voting practices this year, as opposed to the mailed-in or telephone voting options used in 2006. In the 2003 election, 187 of 2,726 registered voters – 6.8 per cent – voted at the municipality's two advance polls.

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