

**GOVERNMENT:** Delayed Bethesda Road facility will be less environmentally sustainable

# Low bid for operations centre \$1M over budget

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The town's operations centre finally has a contractor.

Brampton-based Aquicon Construction Company came in with the lowest bid of \$11,038,650. However, that was more than \$1 million over the municipality's projected budget for the project, which has

forced some alterations to be made to the centre and tender.

"Town staff have reviewed the tender submission from Aquicon Construction for potential cost saving opportunities. These negotiations resulted in reducing the bid submission from Aquicon by around \$1,347,500," wrote Paul Whitehouse, director of public works for Whitchurch-Stouffville in

his Sept. 22 report to council recommending Aquicon be awarded the project.

"These changes will not effect the day-to-day operation of this facility as it was originally intended."

But what some of these compromises do, is make the facility less environmentally sustainable than originally intended.

The new budget is now \$10,758,500.

Construction on the operations centre, to be located at 5061 Bethesda Rd., just west of Hwy. 48, was to be well underway by now and completed this fall.

However, a myriad of unforeseen challenges, particularly with the underground works, forced a delay in breaking ground.

The project is now expected to be completed next summer.

The 25-acre site will consist of a 28,987-square-foot main building, a 4,465-square-foot unheated storage facility, a 10,147-square-foot building for sand and salt storage and a garage area with maintenance shops, heated indoor storage, eight double drive-through bays and a double wash bay.

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# Fall food

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(Food Banks are committed to ensure food given to their clients is safe, therefore, items visibly damaged, opened or past the expiry date are not accepted)

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The food collected at your local grocery store and firehall will go to support a local food bank in your community. Coupons will be available at Loblaws stores for making cash donations, which will be directed to a local food bank in your community.

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