

From: Barry Wolfe <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, February 23, 2024 8:03 PM
To: Kris Wilkinson <kris.wilkinson@wilmot.ca>; Natasha Salonen <natasha.salonen@wilmot.ca>; Jeff Bunn <jeff.bunn@wilmot.ca>; Harvir Sidhu <harvir.sidhu@wilmot.ca>; Lillianne Dunstall <lillianne.dunstall@wilmot.ca>; Steven Martin <steven.martin@wilmot.ca>; Stewart Cressman <stewart.cressman@wilmot.ca>; Sharon Chambers <sharon.chambers@wilmot.ca>
Cc: Barry Wolfe <[REDACTED]>
Subject: CAO Report

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Hello Kris, Ward 2 Councillor (Wilmot Councilors and Clerk Jeff)

This is submitted for the record and intended as correspondence for the February 26, 2024, Council meeting.

The Prime Ministers Path Project requires a “made-in-Wilmot” process and solution.

It still attracts attention from media based outside the Township. A quote from a Kitchener Record news article by Bill Jackson;

“more community engagement, aligning with the township’s strategic planning process, and “engaging an experienced firm that specializes in creating inclusive engagement plans for diverse communities” to make recommendations regarding the creation, terms of reference and mandate for a working group.”

The council agenda indicates that the Council will “receive” the Report CAO-2024-03. **AGREED**

The Council agenda indicates that the Council directs staff to proceed with option #1. **I think this is too vague.**

There are **two** Options #1). The first is on page 7 of 16 of the report and allows the CAO to complete a Strategic Plan, which potentially could then be used to direct any action regarding a “firm” and a “working group”. This CAO-directed/staff-constructed strategic plan has the potential of becoming unintentionally problematic (see #3 caution below).

The **second** Option #1 is on page 8 of 16 and is not restricted by a time-delaying strategic planning process. The phrase “Maintain Current Direction” must not be interpreted to mean that the strategic plan comes before hiring a “firm” or creating a “working group”. (see observations below).

I suggest that Council give specific directions in its discussion of this motion on Monday night, such that the Youtube and Clerk’s written record indicates that the meaning of the phrase "*That Council directs staff to proceed with option 1, as presented in Report CAO-2024-03 refers to the Option #1 on page 8 of the Report, and shall commence prior to completion of a Strategic Planning process.*"

Associated Cautions: [Not timely for Feb 26 discussion, but for future consideration.]

1) Send out a request for submissions “to quote” on the project to be the “experienced firm”:

- * This needs to be an open bid process, and not going to one ‘convenient’ “firm”,
- * proposals must outline the process to be used by the firm,
- * must describe the criteria used to determine a working group’s membership such that it will be broad-based, representative of various ‘communities’ within Wilmot Township (as opposed to the entire Region, Province, or Country),
- * outline their research methods that employ “sound scientific methodology” and are statistically valid.

2) Do not ask for or accept a proposal from the Peoples Group (they had their chance and blew it).

3) Ensure that the “Township’s strategic planning process” does not limit, nor direct the working group in directions that in effect manipulate the consultation process and restrict opportunities for all Wilmot citizens to contribute (and see their input reflected in the final report and support

documents). # I suggest that Council give specific directions in its discussion of this motion on Monday night, such that the Youtube and Clerk's written record indicates that the meaning of the phrase "*That Council directs staff to proceed with option 1, as presented in Report CAO-2024-03 refers to the Option #1 on page 8 of the Report, and shall commence prior to completion of a Strategic Planning process.*"

[Opinion: It is my conclusion that a previous CAO, in effect, manipulated (intentionally or otherwise?) what did (and didn't) get done re. this project, and Council lost its focus on its responsibilities to direct and supervise its staff. NOTE: Council stays ahead of staff. Council directs staff and receives "best advice" BUT not "direction re. actions.]

Observation - the money:

Storage is reported to be \$23,252 to January 2024. \$661.44 per month.

It's about 34 months until the Wilmot election in 2026 (and a potential referendum). Longer, in reality, because the referendum results (if tied to an election and not conducted before November 2026) are known before any action taking them out of storage occurs.

Future storage + \$22,488.96.

Total, for storage alone as of Nov. 2026, and still nothing is "done" = \$45,740.96.

Reconsidering timelines, on a cost/benefit basis, might suggest taking more decisive action, sooner, based on "offset savings" from statues potentially not being in storage as long as November 2026.

Thank you for your consideration.

Barry Wolfe,
Baden