



Committee Request

Planning & Development

Budget Year: 2026

Issue Paper No.: Report #

Description: Economic Committee – Project Funding Request

Purpose: Economic Development Committee Funding Request for 2025

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council APPROVE/DENY/DEFER this budget request.

Background:

Businesses of Cramahe Sign

Economic Development Committee has identified the “Businesses of Cramahe” sign located across from the entrance to 262 Orchard Road (The Big Apple) as needing redevelopment. The Economic Development Committee sees value in maintaining a sign at this location and is looking to replace the structure and update the messaging.

The sign has been in its current location for many years and focuses on key business in the community. The structure, which includes wooden posts, frames, and guidewires, has been repaired on occasion. However, given the unknown age of the structure and its current condition, it is now in need of complete replacement. The existing materials are at the end of their service life (i.e. the laminated 6x4 posts have a lot of checks at the lags) and the 2x6 strapping is mounted to the face, as opposed to a ladder-build style of construction. The guy wires no longer taut and allow for a fair bit of play in the wind. This means that wind-load conditions and materials failure are a concern if we have any abnormal storm conditions (See Figure 1 below).

Figure 1: Existing Condition of the Sign

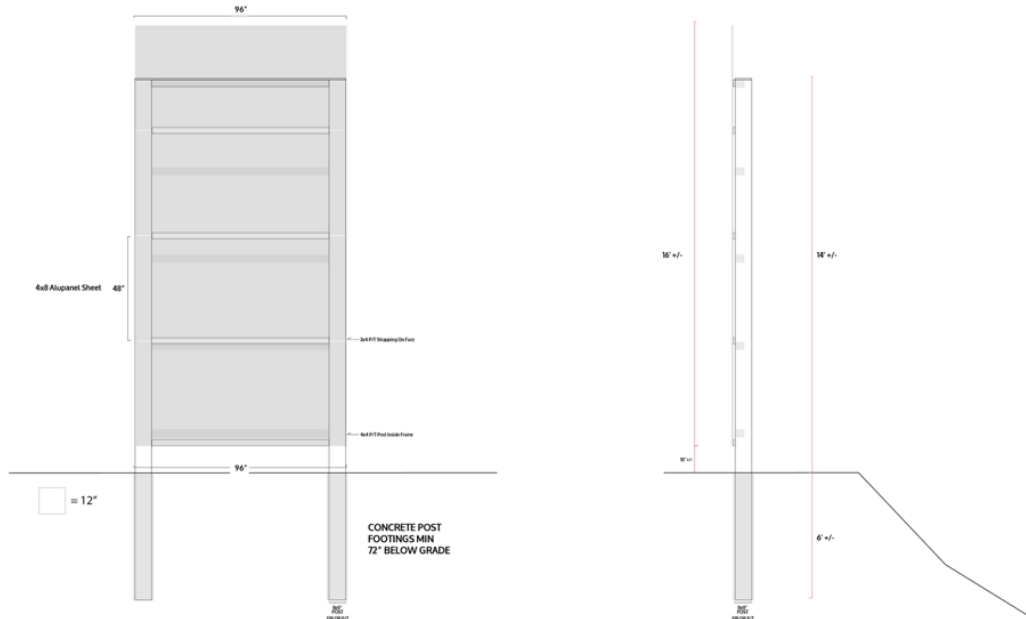


Updated messaging would replace the current advertising program focused on individual businesses. A new program is proposed to be designed that would promote broader economic interests within Township.

The purpose of the funding request is to begin work on the content design aspects of this project. Options for a new sign that focus on broad economic priorities include promoting the historic and cultural assets of the Township. This content would establish the ground work for a digital platform where local residents and visitors could find further information on specific businesses, events and services within the community. This digital platform would be available accessed from website links and QR codes that would be displayed on the sign.

Following the design of the sign, it is the intent of the Economic Development Committee to tender the reconstruction of the sign at 262 Orchard Road replacing the existing structure with new footings, material, and messaging. A preliminary construction rendering has been prepared (see Figure 2 below). The cost of materials is estimated to be \$10,100 and installation of the sign is estimated to be approximately \$3500.00. Potential savings on the installation is possible through the utilization of Township staff in completing structural components (e.g., updated footings and reinforcement).

Figure 2: Construction Rendering



Requested Amount \$13,600.00.

Community Economic Development 101

Community Economic Development 101 (CED 101) is a workshop from the Ontario government for groups involved in rural community economic development. It provides the basics about economic development and provides practical tools to help communities develop and implement an effective economic development strategy. In 2026 the Township of Cramahe in partnership with the Municipality of Brighton will host the workshop. The requested funds will contribute to cost of hosting the workshop.

Requested Amount \$2,500

Bicycle Racks for Downtown Colborne

The downtown core currently lacks adequate facilities for patrons and cyclists to securely park or properly support their bicycles. This is particularly important given that some riders invest up to \$20,000 in their bikes. Any bike rack(s) selected should be either powder-coated or galvanized to ensure long-term durability. A black powder-coated finish would also align well with the existing aesthetic of the area. A 7-loop style rack is suggested. These can cost anywhere from \$800.00 and up. There will be shipping costs also associated with this.

5-Loop Wave Style Bike Rack



[O. More Images](#)

Requested Amount: \$3000.00

Financial Impact:

Total amount requested: \$19,100

Staff have identified a total budget requirement of \$19,100 for these initiatives. Of this amount, \$4,500 has already been allocated within the existing Planning and Development Department budget. As all other costs have been accounted for internally, the Committee is requesting Council's consideration for the remaining balance of \$14,600 to fully fund the total budget requests.

Recommended Source of Funding:

Source Funding would be through taxation.

Submitted by:

Matthew Coffey, Manager of Planning

Reviewed by:

Holly Grant, CAO/Clerk