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November 19, 2020

The Honourable Ernie Hardeman
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

By email only minister.omafra@ontario.ca

Dear Mr. Hardeman:

Please be advised that the following resolution was passed at the November 17, 2020 Howick Council meeting:

Moved by Councillor Gibson; Seconded by Deputy Reeve Bowman:

Whereas; installing tile drainage is a common land improvement practice among farmers in Ontario and the benefits of tile drainage for crop productivity, farm efficiency and even for reducing environmental impacts have been studied and are generally well known to farmers; and

Whereas; the Tile Loan Program, authorized by the Tile Drainage Act, provides loans to agricultural property owners to help them finance these tile drainage projects; all tile loans have 10-year terms and repayments are made annually; and

Whereas; the provincial government sets the program interest rate at a competitive level which was reduced from 8% to 6% in the fall of 2004 and the loan limit was also increased from \$20,000.00 to \$50,000.00 at the same time; and
Whereas; interest rates have continued to decline over the years and the cost per acre for tile drainage has increased over the years;

Now therefore; be it resolved that Council request the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs to consider lowering the interest rate on Tile Drain Loans to 4% and increasing the yearly loan limit to \$100,000; and that this resolution be forwarded to Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs; MPP Huron Bruce Lisa Thompson; AMO; Land Improvement Contractors of Ontario and Drainage Superintendents of Ontario Association. Carried.

Resolution No. 276/20

If you require any further information, please contact this office, thank you.

Yours truly,

Carol Watson

Carol Watson, Clerk
Township of Howick

cc MPP Perth Wellington Randy Pettapiece
ROMA