

# Back to drawing board for sewer line

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Expos

By ROSS MAROWITS  
EXPOSITOR STAFF  
Brantford

The city is back to square one after spending more than \$2 million in an unsuccessful attempt to pass a sewer pipeline to the northwest industrial park.

The municipality is now re-examining four costly alternatives recommended by a consultant after failing to extend a pipeline below the Grand River.

Each of the options would cost at least \$3 million. The two favored possibilities at this time are the erection of a truss bridge or an open cut.

"It is not good news. It has been a very difficult project," city engineer Alf Gretzinger told city councillors on Monday.

The city will negotiate the severing of ties with consultant Kast Construction because of its failure to complete the project that was originally slated to cost \$3.2 million.

Costly overruns were anticipated once efforts to pass a pipeline through the river bed using directional drilling ran into roadblocks. A subcontractor abandoned the site Feb. 9 when a pilot hole couldn't be enlarged through very hard rock.

Failure to extend the pipeline effectively terminates an agreement with Six Nations that would have required installation of monitoring devices at the existing aging pipeline crossings. However, the city hopes to win support of the elected and confederacy councils before proceeding with new attempts.

Mayor Chris Friel has contacted elected Chief Coun. Wellington Staats and believes support can be secured.

environmental assessments.

The bridge would contain environmental safeguards and be easier to monitor than if the pipeline were placed below ground. Gravity would be used instead of siphons.

"Building the truss bridge is a sure thing," Gretzinger told councillors.

An open cut option, abandoned several years ago in the face of environmental objections, would take at least six months to complete depending on opposition. It would cost \$3 million.

Two other options, that will likely be abandoned because of cost, would attempt new directional drilling techniques or micro-tunnelling below the river bed. Each method would cost \$7.8 million.

Gretzinger hopes to have more details available for councillors within 10 weeks.

Several provincial ministries were called to the drilling spot after silt was reported to have entered the river when water was pumped from the dug holes. Silt in large quantities can kill fish life. But the contractor was able to minimize output of the milky substance, councillors were told.

The city has paid Kast \$1.56 million. Site security cost \$273,000, engineering was \$317,000 and another \$66,000 in costs are expected. The city has also spent about \$18 million developing the northwest, and recently received a provincial cheque of \$2.5 million.

Several councillors questioned whether the city shouldn't also look at alternative industrial sites, including the airport location. But Gretzinger said the airport could pose serious political problems with the county.

Coun. John Starkey urged staff to consider all options,

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The truss bridge option appeared to win native support before the directional drilling method was adopted, Gretzinger added. Construction is expected to cost \$3.5 million and take about a year to complete, depending on en-

vironmental assessments.

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Coun. John Starkey urged staff to consider all options, including developing an industrial park with the county. He said the economic planning board was told more than a year ago not to worry about developing alternatives because the city didn't plan for failure.