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Church Street reconstruction will proceed ??finally

By Mark Pavilons

The long-awaited reconstruction of Church Street in?Schomberg will soon get under way, much to everyone's pleasure.

The project has been anticipated since 2013 but delays for various reasons have stalled the project, until now.

King councillors gave their stamp of approval to moving ahead with the $4.6 million project, to be done by Trisan Construction Ltd.

Township staff have allocated closer to $5.5 million to the work, to include contingencies.

This work, to begin in 2016, will be totally funded by the Township's federal gas tax funding grant for next year.?While the project won't require any debt financing, Councillor Debbie Schaefer was concerned that this one project will ?eat up??all of King's gas tax revenue.

In his report, engineering and public works director Andrzej Drzwkiecki noted this project gets the bulk of its budget from development charges. Staff believes this is the most cost-effective way to completed this needed road work and move forward with the project in its entirety.

Councillor Cleve Mortelliti said this project has taken much longer than expected, creating some angst. Every ward needs infrastructure investment and for Church Street, ?we just need to do it.?

Councillor Bill?Cober said he's happy a shovel will finally hit the ground in 2016. One of the biggest challenges to face is the ultimate ?sticker shock??when it comes to road works. This example speaks to King's ?infrastructure deficiency? which is deeper than meets the eye.

With Church, council approved $2.8 million in funding in 2014 and through the design process more deficiencies were discovered. Storm sewers and the need to expand the scope of the work to nearby streets have led to a much larger project.