



## Staff Report

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**Report To:** Council  
**Report From:** Geoff Aitken, CET, Director, Infrastructure and Public Works  
**Meeting Date:** November 5, 2024  
**Subject:** IPW-2024-39 – Request for Compensation – Water Damage

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### Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of staff report 'IPW-2024-39 – Request for Compensation-Water Damage', council forgoes granting the request by William Bishop for compensation for water damage at his property.

### Highlights:

- On August 30, 2024, there was an accumulation of rainfall throughout Grey County.
- Mr. William Bishop has reported water damage.
- During his delegation, Mr. Bishop provided documentation showing minor rutting in the driveway and a new air conditioner.
- Mr. Bishop is requesting compensation of \$6,518.89 plus HST for various supplies from Home Hardware, Home Depot excavator work and a replacement air conditioner.

### Previous Report/Authority:

[Delegation from William Bishop Re: Request for Compensation for Water Damage](#)

### Analysis:

On September 25, 2024, Mr. Bishop contacted staff to advise of a request for compensation regarding water damage at his property, noting that on August 30, 2024, there was a rainstorm that resulted in damage to his property requiring the rental of an excavator with operator, various supplies, and replacement of his air conditioner.

The following Monday, Mr. Bishop came to the municipal office to turn in his receipts, totaling \$6,518.89 plus HST, for payment. Reimbursing residents for out-of-pocket expenses is not part of the Municipality's standard business practices. This approach

aligns with common procedures observed in many municipalities, including West Grey. The standard practice for insurance claims for private property is for the resident to contact their insurance company to submit a claim. This practice is consistent with water damage caused in the case of broken water services, storm sewer and sanitary sewer backups on residences connected to municipal systems. In this particular case, the requestor explained that submitting an insurance claim was not an acceptable option for two reasons, and noted the following:

1. His deductible is \$5,000; and
2. He has a discount on his premium for being “claim free”.

Neither reason is a rationale to deviate from standard municipal practice for compensation.

### **Financial Implications:**

There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

### **Communication Plan:**

Communication of this report is through the posting of council meeting agendas on the West Grey website.

### **Consultation:**

Chief Administrative Officer

Director of Legislative Services/Clerk

Supervisor, Rural Operations

### **Attachments:**

None.

### **Recommended by:**

Geoff Aitken, CET, Director, Infrastructure and Public Works

### **Submission approved by:**

Michele Harris, Chief Administrative Officer

For more information on this report, please contact Geoff Aitken, Director of Infrastructure and Public Works at [publicworks@westgrey.com](mailto:publicworks@westgrey.com) or 519-369-2200 x 227.