
HALDIMAND COUNTY

Report CDS-01-2021 By-law for Low Speed Vehicles

For Consideration by Council in Committee on March 30, 2021



OBJECTIVE:

To present a by-law that will permit the County's low speed vehicles to legally use municipal roads.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Report CDS-01-2021 By-law for Low Speed Vehicles be received;
2. AND THAT the by-law included as Attachment 1 to Report CDS-01-2021 By-law for Low Speed Vehicles be presented for enactment.

Prepared and Respectfully submitted: Mike Evers, MCIP, RPP, BES, General Manager of Community & Development Services

Approved: Craig Manley, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The County has purchased two (2) Low Speed Vehicles (LSVs) which are planned to be put into service in 2021 for the purposes of Municipal Law Enforcement patrols (Caledonia) and community use (stationed in Dunnville but to be shared across the County). Under Provincial regulation, a municipality must enact a by-law to permit LSVs to travel on specific low speed limit roads. A by-law has been drafted and is presented as part of this report to address this requirement.

BACKGROUND:

As part of the 2019 capital budget, Council approved the purchase of two (2) Low Speed Vehicles (LSVs). The LSVs were earmarked for the purposes of Municipal Law Enforcement patrols (to be stationed/used in Caledonia) and community purposes/events (e.g. parades, people mover – to be stationed in Dunnville but moved around the County). The LSVs have been purchased, licensed, and customized (County logo) and are presently housed at the Kohler operations facility. The vehicle details are as follows:

- 1) Polaris GEM E2 – 2 doors with windows; 2 seater; maximum speed 40 km/h. This LSV would be used for Municipal Law Enforcement purposes. An image of the unit is included to the right.



- 2) Polaris GEM E4 – 4 doors with no windows; 4 seater; maximum speed 40 km/h. This LSV would be used for community purposes (parades, people mover, etc.). An image of the unit is included to the right.



Under the *Highway Traffic Act*, O. Reg. 215/17, Low Speed Vehicles are only allowed on roads with a speed limit of up to 50 km/h if permitted by municipal by-law, and are allowed to be driven through an intersection where the speed limit of the cross street is not greater than 60km/h. The underlined item is the impetus for this report given the County currently does not have a by-law in place to legalize road use.

ANALYSIS:

On July 1, 2017, the Province launched a new pilot to permit Low Speed Vehicles (LSVs) on Ontario's roads. The Ontario Government is committed to supporting new and emerging technologies that can help move people safely and efficiently while limiting environmental impacts. Through this pilot, and other efforts, the Province has indicated that it is interested in promoting transportation modes that are environmentally friendly, help to reduce air pollution and reduce reliance on conventional fuel.

A key component of the pilot (which is intended to run 10 years) is the enactment of program requirements or 'rules'. These requirements are set out in Ontario Regulation 215/17 with the key aspects ('rules') being:

- Low Speed Vehicles drive at a maximum speed of between 32 km/h and 40 km/h and may not be modified to drive faster than 40 km/h.
- Low Speed Vehicles are only allowed on roads with a speed limit of up to 50 km/h if permitted by municipal by-law, and are allowed to be driven through an intersection where the speed limit of the cross street is not greater than 60km/h.

The County's LSVs are restricted at 40 km/h and will comply with the first bullet above. In terms of roads to be travelled, the units will be based/used in urban settings and accommodated on 50 km/h roads only. The enactment of the by-law attached to this report will legitimize that road usage activity.

FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

A by-law must be enacted to legalize road use of the County's Low Speed Vehicles.

STAKEHOLDER IMPACTS:

Not applicable.

REPORT IMPACTS:

Agreement: No

By-law: Yes

Budget Amendment: No

Policy: No

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Low Speed Vehicle By-law.