

December 4, 2020

Municipality of Middlesex Centre  
10227 Ilderton Road  
Ilderton ON N0M 2A0  
Attention: Michael Di Lullo, CAO

Dear Michael,

Re: Municipality of Middlesex Centre Corporate Strategic Plan

Remarkably, it is now just over a year since Bill Winegard and I submitted our proposal to support the strategic planning program at the Municipality of Middlesex Centre. Of course, at that time, we had no awareness of the approaching global crisis due to the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic. While our progress was halted for some weeks, we collectively managed to persevere and advance a comprehensive consultation and engagement program. All of us involved showed a strong commitment to see this project through to completion, while at the same time demonstrating our readiness to be resilient and adaptive in challenging circumstances. We cannot overestimate how much we appreciate the logistical and technical support provided by the CAO, the senior managers and the broader MXC team.

As I have frequently observed, the path we take to arrive at the destination of a final strategic plan document is as important as the final product. There is tremendous value in showing our community and our stakeholders that we care about what they have to say, that we listen closely, and we are committed to bring their views to the table. It is clear from our engagement process that Middlesex Centre is blessed to have such a diverse collection of stakeholders who are passionate about their community, and who, through their efforts, make the municipality such a special place.

Clearly, much of the input we received was aimed at the dynamic change taking place in the community in terms of growth and development. That feedback will be of value to Council, the senior management team and your consultants as you work through the Official Plan review, currently underway. Bill and I will follow your progress with that initiative with interest.

It has been a great pleasure to support the municipality in developing a fresh set of strategic directions and initiatives. As we have observed, the end product may be somewhat less “strategic” than is typically the case in other municipalities. This, however, is a powerful testament to the success Council has achieved in assembling a team of top calibre managers and staff, and clear reinforcement of the significant progress that has been achieved in advancing the municipality’s culture and programming along the path to organizational excellence.

This has been a most enjoyable assignment for Bill and me. It has been a delight to get to know Mayor DeViet and members of Council, your CAO and his team, and the wonderful folks we encountered along the way. Thank you for the opportunity to take on this assignment.

Warm regards,

*Murray Clarke and Bill Winegard*  
Erebus Municipal Services Inc.