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**RE: Concerns**

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**From** Richard Sparham <rsparham@tillsonburg.ca>

**Date** Fri 3/7/2025 8:57 AM

**Cc** [REDACTED]  
Larry Scanlan <lscan@hotmail.com>; Pete Luciani <pluciani@tillsonburg.ca>; Amelia Jaggard <AJaggard@tillsonburg.ca>; Geno Vanhaelewyn <GVanhaelewyn@tillsonburg.ca>; Carlos Reyes <CReyes@tillsonburg.ca>; Kyle Pratt <kpratt@tillsonburg.ca>; Deb Gilvesy <dgilvesy@tillsonburg.ca>

Dear Gail J. Ross,

This letter is in response to the concerns raised on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, regarding an incident involving a Town of Tillsonburg Public Works Roads Operator and a dog on Eleanor Court. After a thorough investigation, we have compiled the following findings:

On January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025, Town of Tillsonburg Roads Operators were performing pothole repairs on Eleanor Court. Eleanor Court is of a pavement condition which staff will monitor closely to address pothole issues quite frequently and this becomes quite problematic during the winter due to temperature changes and plowing.

Further, staff also schedules road patrol as part of routine inspections throughout the Town. Road patrols are an essential component of the Minimum Maintenance Standards, O Reg 239/02 (MMS) for municipal highways in Ontario. These inspections are conducted regularly to identify and address potential hazards, including potholes, debris, or icy conditions, as well as identifying any missing signage or other irregularities with the aim of maintaining road safety for all users. As a Class 5 road, Eleanor Court is patrolled every 28 days or 13 times annually.

At approximately 11:44 a.m., while driving along Eleanor Court, the operator reported that a dog unexpectedly ran out from the property at 5 Eleanor Court and under the rear wheels of the Roads vehicle. The Roads Operator reported the incident immediately upon returning to the Operations Centre.

Following the incident, a comprehensive investigation was conducted. This included an analysis of video footage and vehicle telematics data obtained from the vehicle's GPS/AVL system. The investigation confirmed that the vehicle was operated within established parameters and speed limits, with no indication of negligence or fault. The telematics data indicates the vehicle was traveling at 22 km/h on Eleanor Court at the time of the incident.

For reference, the default speed limit in the Town of Tillsonburg is 50 km/h in urban or residential areas, as stipulated by the Ontario Highway Traffic Act. These limits are applicable in areas without specific speed signage.

It is very unfortunate this incidence has occurred, and the loss experienced by the resident. As communicated during our phone call after the event, we extend our heartfelt condolences for their loss.

Sincerely,



**Richard**

***Richard J. Sparham, C.Tech., CRS***

**Manager of Public Works**

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