



**TO:** GENERAL COMMITTEE

**SUBJECT:** BARRIE HYDRO HOLDINGS INC. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MATTERS

**PREPARED BY AND KEY CONTACT:** D. MCALPINE, GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE SERVICES, EXT. 4421

**SUBMITTED BY:** D. MCALPINE, GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE SERVICES

**GENERAL MANAGER APPROVAL:** D. MCALPINE, GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE SERVICES

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER APPROVAL:** M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

**RECOMMENDED MOTION**

1. That, acting as sole shareholder in Barrie Hydro Holdings Inc. (BHHI), the following actions be authorized:
  - a) The minutes of the BHHI Shareholder’s Meeting held on April 5, 2023, attached as Appendix “A” to Staff Report CCS003-24, be approved;
  - b) The non-consolidated financial statements of BHHI attached as Appendix “B” to Staff Report CCS003-24 for the financial year ended December 31, 2023, be received (subject to approval from the Board of Directors); and
  - c) The City of Barrie’s auditor be appointed as Accountants for BHHI, to compile the annual Non-consolidated financial statements through a Compilation (formerly Notice to Reader) engagement, with remuneration to be fixed by the Directors through the City’s agreement with its auditor.

**PURPOSE & BACKGROUND**

2. In February, 1999, City Council directed that the City of Barrie retain ownership of the assets of the Barrie Public Utilities Commission and incorporate a Holding Company and other Affiliate corporations under the Ontario Business Corporations Act to operate Barrie’s electrical distribution corporation for the benefit of the citizens of Barrie.
3. In October, 2000, City Council directed, through Resolution 00-G-291, the establishment of a Holding Company and its related subsidiaries in accordance with the requirements of The Electricity Act, 1998. The Holding Company was named “Barrie Hydro Holdings Inc.” and the subsidiaries were named “Barrie Hydro Distribution Inc.” and “Barrie Hydro Energy Services Inc.”
4. Barrie Hydro Distribution Inc. (BHDI) was merged with PowerStream Inc. effective January 1, 2009.
5. On January 31, 2017, PowerStream Inc. merged with Enersource and Horizon Utilities to create Alectra Inc. On February 28, 2017, Alectra acquired Hydro One Brampton. On January 2, 2019, Guelph Hydro merged with Alectra.

6. Alectra Inc., through its subsidiary Alectra Utilities Corporation, serves over one million homes and businesses in the Greater Golden Horseshoe Area. Efficiencies achieved through the various mergers have resulted in reduced pressure on customer distribution rates, improved customer service and system reliability as well as more robust emergency response capabilities for inclement weather. The dividends received by Barrie Hydro Holdings Inc. have been higher than would have been anticipated if it had remained a stand-alone Local Distribution Company.
7. As a result of the amalgamation to create Alectra Inc ("Alectra") and the subsequent merger with Guelph Hydro, BHHI now owns 8.37% of Alectra and a 20.5% ownership of a ring fenced solar portfolio.

## **ANALYSIS**

### **Financial Statements**

8. In accordance with section 2.04 of the Shareholders Agreement, the non-consolidated financial statements of Barrie Hydro Holdings Inc. (BHHI) have been submitted for acceptance by the shareholder (See Appendix "B" attached). The acceptance of the Financial Statements is recommended to be conditional upon the Board of Directors approval. The Board will be meeting immediately prior to the AGM to consider the statements.
9. As per the Non-consolidated Statement of Operations and Retained Earnings, the net income of BHHI for the year ending December 31, 2023 was \$7,093,559. The accumulated surplus at year end was \$82,526,841, which is an improvement from an accumulated surplus of \$82,397,608 at December 31, 2022.

### **Re-confirming the Appointment of Accountants**

10. Additionally, the Board of Directors recommends that the City of Barrie's auditors (Deloitte) be appointed as Accountants for BHHI and Barrie Hydro Energy Services Inc. (BHESI). Deloitte was the successful respondent to the City of Barrie's Request for Proposals from auditing firms, for the 2022 to 2024 years with an option for an additional two years.
11. Utilizing the City's auditor as the accountants on behalf of BHHI and BHESI results in economic savings to the shareholder. The statement of work in the City of Barrie's Request for Proposals for auditing services included the Compilation (formerly Notice to Reader) Engagement for the annual Non-consolidated financial statements of Barrie Hydro Holdings Inc.
12. The Shareholder is being asked to approve the appointment of the Accountant of the Corporation and its subsidiaries as provided in section 2.06 of the Shareholders Agreement. The engagement of the Accountant is to complete a Compilation Engagement by compiling the annual non-consolidated financial statements.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE MATTERS**

13. There are no environmental or climate change matters directly related to the recommendation.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

14. The non-consolidated financial statements of Barrie Hydro Holdings Inc. have been compiled by the Corporate Treasurer and a Compilation engagement completed by Deloitte. Acceptance by the Shareholder is required under the Shareholders Agreement, and as a result, no other alternatives are presented with respect to the financial statements.

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15. There is an alternative available to the Shareholder with respect to the appointment of the accountants. The Shareholder could recommend that the City's auditor not be appointed as the Accountant for BHHI. This is not recommended as there are cost savings associated with a single accounting/auditing firm on behalf of each organization.

**FINANCIAL**

16. Barrie Hydro's dividend policy reflects the following:
- a) A minimum cash balance of \$100K be maintained in BHHI bank account;
  - b) On a quarterly basis or after receipt of cash payments from Alectra, BHHI declare a dividend and allocate net proceeds (Cash payment from Alectra less cost for loan payments and other expenses, less minimum cash balance of \$100K) to the City of Barrie;
  - c) For the next 10 years (ending December 2028), a total of \$650K of the annual BHHI dividend should be allocated to the City of Barrie's working Capital, to repay the \$6.5 million equity injection.
  - d) The remaining annual BHHI dividend should be allocated 80% to the Reinvestment Reserve and 20% to the Tax Capital Reserve.
17. By declaring and allocating dividends quarterly, any excess cash is transferred from Barrie Hydro over to the City of Barrie, where the funds can be more efficiently utilized through investments or working capital needs.

**LINKAGE TO 2022-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN**

18. The recommendations included in this Staff Report are not specifically related to the goals contained in 2022-2026 Strategic Plan.



Regrets: Councillor, B. Hamilton.

City of Barrie Staff: Chief Administrative Officer, M. Prowse  
Chief Financial Officer, C. Millar  
Director of Legal Services, I. Peters  
General Manager of Community and Corporate Services, D. McAlpine  
Manager of Accounting and Financial Reporting, M. Mifsud.

A quorum being present and due notice of the meeting having been given, the Chair declared the meeting to be regularly constituted for the transaction of business. The Chair welcomed Mr. Ron Stevens, Barrie Hydro Holdings' past interim appointee to the Alectra Inc. Board of Directors to the meeting.

No declarations of conflict of interest were made.

**Business**

It was noted that the meeting was being held in accordance with *The Business Corporations Act*.

***Authorization to the Corporate Secretary – Standard BHHI Shareholder resolutions***

***BHHI-2023-S-01***

MOVED BY: Director, A. Kungl  
SECONDED BY: Director, C. Riepma

That The Corporation of the City of Barrie acting as sole Shareholder of Barrie Hydro Holdings Inc. authorizes the Corporate Secretary to sign standard Barrie Hydro Holdings Inc. shareholders resolutions with respect to:

- a) Adoption of the Minutes of the previous Barrie Hydro Holdings Inc. Shareholder Meeting held on May 30, 2022;
- b) Receipt of the Non-consolidated Financial Statements of Barrie Hydro Holdings Inc. for the financial year ended December 31, 2022;
- c) Confirmation of the appointment of the City of Barrie's auditor as Accountants for BHHI, to compile the annual Non-consolidated financial statements through a Compilation (formerly Notice to Reader) engagement, with remuneration to be fixed by the Directors through the City's agreement with its auditor; and
- d) Approval, sanctioning and confirmation of all acts, contracts, by-laws, proceedings, appointments, elections and payments enacted, made, done and taken by the Directors and Officers as the same as are set out or referred to in the minutes of the meeting or in the financial statements.

CARRIED



**Adjournment**

**BHHI-2023-S-02**

MOVED BY: Director, A. Kungl  
SECONDED BY: Director, C. Riepma

That the Barrie Hydro Holdings Inc. Annual Shareholder's meeting now adjourn at 5:20 p.m.

CARRIED

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_



**APPENDIX "B"**

**Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2023**