



AGENDA ITEM

Sylvan Lake Communal Sewage Bylaw Update

March 24, 2022

BACKGROUND

In December 2021, Council approved the annual utility rates for all of the County's water and wastewater utilities. At that time the Blissful Beach subdivision was still being charged the same volumetric rate for wastewater as construction was still underway to connect the community to the regional system.

With the regional system now ready to accept wastewater from Blissful Beach directly, Administration is proposing to update the rate for Blissful Beach customers to the new regional volumetric rate.

In addition to Blissful Beach, the Slopes Subdivision is also expected to ready to deliver water and wastewater services on May 1st. This subdivision will be delivering its wastewater to the Commission via a gravity line to the Commission's North Shore Lift Station. To facilitate this, the County needs to incorporate the operator into the County's utility bylaw and establish a rate for the collection of wastewater. The Utility operator will be responsible for setting its own rates to customers in the subdivision.

Bylaw 1364/22 is attached with the proposed changes.

ANALYSIS

The volumetric rate for both Blissful Beach and the Slopes Utility Operator will be set at \$3.06 per cubic metre. Currently, the volumetric rate for Blissful Beach customers is \$18.42 per cubic metre. This latter rate will remain in place for the other Sylvan Lake Communal customers as wastewater from these communities will continued to be trucked away. The \$3.06 per cubic metre rate is the same rate charged by the Commission to the County. Like the previous rate, it is a break even flow rate for the County.

The flat rate for Blissful Beach customers remains unchanged at \$36.29 per month. This flat rate covers costs associated with Administration, maintenance, and future infrastructure replacement.

The flat rate for the Slopes Utility Operator is \$10.00 and covers the cost of administration such as billing and meter reading. The operator is responsible for all system costs including maintenance directly.



ALTERNATIVES

1. Council can approve the bylaws as presented. (Administration Recommendation)
2. Council can provide input on alternative rates.
3. Council can provide further direction to Administration.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The change in volumetric rates will have no direct impact on the budget as volumetric rates for this utility are based on a cost recovery basis.

LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Section 3 of the Municipal Government Act (MGA) states the purpose of a municipality are:
 - a) To provide good government,
 - b) To provide services, facilities, or other things that, in the opinion of Council, are necessary or desirable for all or part of the municipality, and
 - c) To develop and maintain safe and viable communities.
2. Section 7 of the MGA provides Council with the authority to pass bylaws for municipal purposes with respect to:
 - (f) services provided by or on behalf of the municipality; and
 - (g) public utilities.
3. Section 180(1) of the MGA states that Council may act only by resolution or bylaw.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve all three readings of Bylaw No. 1364/22 – Sylvan Lake Communal Sewage Services.

PREPARED BY: Michael Minchin, Director of Corporate Services

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REVIEWED BY: Tim Timmons, County Manager

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