
TO: Mayor J. Lehman and Members of Council

FROM: C. Morton, C.E.T., PMP, Director of Roads Parks and Fleet (Acting)

NOTED: D. Friary, Manager of Infrastructure & Growth Management (Acting)
M. Prowse, Chief Administrative Officer

RE: Staff Report RPF009- 18 – Feasibility of Policy Change Related to Sewer Connection Ownership – Option of City Provided Grants

DATE: June 25, 2018

The purpose of this memo is to provide additional information related to Staff Report RPF009-18 concerning the feasibility of a policy change related to sewer connection ownership and an additional alternative.

It is staff's understanding that there may be an interest in the option of the City providing grants for the portion of the costs incurred from the property line to the sewer main for replacement or repair of failed sewer laterals (with the property owner responsible for the portion of the costs related to the property line to their own building). It is staff's understanding that there is an interest in funding this grant from the Wastewater Rate Capital Reserve.

In this circumstance, the property owner would maintain responsibility for the entire sewer connection from their building to the main. If a property owner experienced challenges with their sewer connection, the following process would be put in place:

- The property owner would contact a plumber to determine the cause and location of the issue.
- If the issue was a collapsed or damaged sewer requiring replacement/relining between the property line and the sewer main and the property owner was seeking reimbursement from the City for repair or replacement costs, the plumber would be required to send a video (at a cost of approximately \$500/occurrence) to the City.
- City staff would review the video to confirm where the blockage or failure had occurred (whether the blockage or failure was between the building and the property line or between the property line and the sewer main). If determined by video inspection that the blockage is under City property and caused by structural issues, the City would reimburse up to \$500 for the investigation and video inspection.
- If the blockage or failure was between the property line and the sewer main, the City would coordinate repairs through a contractor and a grant would be provided to the property owner for these costs. The City would pay the invoice associated with the work and up to \$500 for the cost of the investigation and video inspection.
- If the blockage or failure was between the property line and the building, the homeowner would be responsible for the costs including the investigation and video inspection and a grant would not be provided to the property owner.

This is similar to the process utilized for bituminous fibre pipe blockages and failures today.

Staff have reviewed the additional workload associated with this option and are of the opinion that an additional 12 month full time Foreperson and an eight month Civil co-op student resource would be required to implement this change for a one-year trial period before reporting back to General Committee. The new resources are required as current storm and sanitary staff are at peak workload and would not be able to address reviewing the videos, determining location of blockage or failure, coordinating contractors to complete the repairs and issuance of grants/payment of invoices for contracted work. Staff have completed an analysis of this alternative based on a number of assumptions, and believe the annual



cost of this option would be \$822,000 to be funded from the wastewater rate capital reserve. Staff have assumed that 60 repairs or replacement of sewer connections would be conducted annually. The following is a breakdown of the estimated cost:

Additional Annual Operating Increases Funded through Wastewater Rate	2019	Future Impact
2 Full Time Equivalent resources – salaries, benefits and training of the additional 12 month full time Foreperson and an eight month Civil co-op student resource	\$150,000	Perpetual with incremental annual increase
Rental of temporary vehicles	\$ 12,000	
City paying for service call by plumber and video for blockages (60 x \$500 = \$30,000)	\$ 30,000	Perpetual with incremental annual increase
City paying for replacement/repair – contractor, materials, restoration (current cost of bituminous fibre pipe repairs \$70,000 not included)	\$630,000	Perpetual with incremental annual increase
Total	\$822,000	

Should General Committee wish to proceed with this option, the following motion (instead of the motion included in Staff Report RPF009-18) would provide the necessary direction:

1. That effective immediately, the policy regarding the responsibility for sewer connections approved under motion 72-G-303 be amended by adding the following:

“Unless an object introduced to the sewer lateral from the building is the cause of the blockage, the property owner shall be eligible to receive a grant funded from the Wastewater Rate Capital Reserve equivalent to costs incurred for the replacement or repair of failed sewer laterals where the blockage or failure occurs in the portion of the connection from the property line to the sewer main and the repair or replacement has been undertaken under the direction of the City of Barrie. This provision also applies to sewer replacements undertaken pursuant to the policy approved under motion 94-G-339 concerning Bituminous Fibre Pipe.”
2. That an increase to the Roads, Parks and Fleet Department complement of a 12 month full time Foreperson and an eight month Civil co-op student resource be approved to implement the new policy.
3. That staff in the Roads, Parks and Fleet Department report back to General Committee after the first full year of implementation of the new policy.

If there are any questions, please contact Craig Morton at extension 4910, or by email at craig.morton@barrie.ca.