

**THE THIRD MEETING OF THE ST. THOMAS AREA
SECONDARY WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

COMMITTEE ROOM 304 - CITY HALL

OCTOBER 24, 2019

5:03p.m. The meeting convened with Councillor J. Pennings, Chair, presiding.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Councillor Steve Peters, City of St. Thomas
Councillor Justin Pennings, Southwold Township
Councillor Dennis Crevits, Municipality of Central Elgin

Staff

J. Lawrence, Director, Environmental Services and City Engineer
T. Tiersma, Administrative Assistant, Environmental Services
C. Andrew, Manager of Water & Sewer, Environmental Services
L. Higgs, CAO/Clerk/Deputy Treasurer, Southwold Township
K. Kamerman, Compliance Coordinator, Environmental Services
G. Brooks, Director of Infrastructure & Community Services, Municipality of Central Elgin

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Nil.

MINUTES

Motion by Councillor Crevits – Councillor Peters:

THAT: The minutes of the meeting held on June 25, 2019 be confirmed.

Carried.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Report No. SWB04-19 – St. Thomas Area Secondary Water Supply System - 2020 Water Rate – Appendix A (pg.2)

Members requested more information on how the water rates are set. The Director of Environmental Services and City Engineer explained that the City waits for the primary board to set their rates first before setting the secondary board rates. The Secondary Water Board is currently in its fifth year of a rate study plan. Increases are required to build money to fund future capital projects.

Members inquired about the pipeline replacement and the timeline for its completion. The Director of Environmental Services and City Engineer explained that the pipeline of entire secondary system needs to be replaced within the next 20 years. Since road resurfacing will be done on South Edgeware Road in 2025, there would be savings on restoration costs and less disruption to traffic flow if the pipeline replacement in this section was aligned with this scheduled road work.

Councillor Crevits requested clarification on how the rate increase is calculated. It was explained that the rate is the sum of the primary and secondary boards rates combined with the established municipal rate.

Members requested that next year, the committee be provided a chart outlining the rate calculations that would be easier to understand.

Motion by Councillor Crevits – Councillor Peters

THAT: Report No. SWB04-19 – St. Thomas Area Secondary Water Supply System - 2020 Water Rate, be received for information; and further,

CONFIRMED _____



CHAIRMAN

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THAT: The Secondary water rate for the St. Thomas Area Secondary Water Supply System of \$0.5255/m³, effective January 1, 2020, be approved.

Carried.

Report No. SW05-19 – St. Thomas Area Secondary Water Supply System Capital Projects Update – Appendix B (pg. 3-4)

The Director of Environmental Services and City Engineer updated the committee members on the removal of the Ford water tower.

Members discussed the reason for the tower removal and the process by which it would be removed. The Director of Environmental Services and City Engineer share that after discussion with Ontario Hydro with respect to the nearby hydro lines, the removal of the water tower will likely be done by large crane.

The Director of Environmental Services and City Engineer shared that new technology in pumps has made the use of water towers obsolete. And, while the tower is currently providing pressure control for the Elgin Middlesex Pumping station, the new pumps at the station will provide this control in the future.

Councillor Pennings inquired if a new tenant should occupy the Ford lands what the implications of the tower removal would be. The Director of Environmental Services and City Engineer stated that it would depend on the water use of the new industry. The removal of the tower would not affect any scenario as the pressure control will be provided by the EMPS pumps. If there was a very large water user, they could require upsizing of the EMPS pumps or upsizing the transmission line. In general, the current transmission line is very large for its current use.

The members discussed the financial requirements to remove the tower. Councillor Peters asked what the anticipated date would be for tower removal tenders. The Director of Environmental Services and City Engineer anticipated it will be late 2020 since the combined air valve needed to be tendered, installed and tested before the tower is removed.

Councillor Pennings asked if funds weren't available, if the tower could be left empty and the removal delayed until reserve funds could finance the venture. It was explained that leaving the tower empty can be dangerous since high winds could potentially blow it over.

The committee discussed one of the historical reasons for removing the tower was the large capital cost of internal and external painting.

Motion by Councillor Crevits-- Councillor Peters

THAT: Report No. SWB05-19 – STASWSS Capital Projects Update, be received for information.

Carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Agreement – Elgin Area Primary Water System

The Director of Environmental Services and City Engineer has reported no change on the EMPS ownership issue between the Primary and Secondary Boards.

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or breaks. The township has devised an experiment to test this by shutting off the valve from the St. Thomas Secondary and testing being backfed from Dutton-Dunwich. They will be performing tests on both capacity and water pressure and putting safeguards in place to turn the water back on. The purpose of the experiment is also to understand and guide future capital investments in the system. A report will be going to Southwold Council as it is anticipated they will perform these tests in the spring of 2020. This report will be shared at the next St. Thomas Area Secondary Water Supply System Board meeting.

NEXT Meeting - Thursday Feb 27, 2020

The members decided 3 meetings per year were sufficient unless otherwise called by the Chair.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councillor Crevits– Councillor Peters:

THAT: The Board adjourn at 5:29 p.m.

Carried.

