

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

ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL

SEPTEMBER 10, 2020

5: 00 p.m. The meeting convened with J. Kohler Chair, presiding.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Councillor Jeff Kohler, City of St. Thomas
Councillor Justin Pennings, Southwold Township
Councillor Dennis Crevits, Municipality of Central Elgin
Councillor Stephen Wookey, City of St. Thomas

Staff

J. Lawrence, Director, Environmental Services and City Engineer
N. Bokma, Manager of Development & Compliance, Environmental Services
T. Tiersma, Administrative Assistant, Environmental Services
K. Kamerman, Compliance Coordinator, Environmental Services
G. Brooks, Director of Infrastructure and Community Services, Municipality of Central Elgin

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Nil.

MINUTES

Motion by Councillor Crevits – Councillor Wookey:

THAT: The minutes of the meeting held on February 27, 2020 be confirmed.

Carried.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Report No. SWB03-20 – St. Thomas Area Secondary Water Supply System – Financial Plan and Rate Study – APPENDIX A (pg.3-53)

The members requested further explanation of the report. The Director of Environmental Services and City Engineer explained the report calculations including Figure 1, outlining that future large expenditures are for pipeline replacements. Staff strongly recommend that the Board not issue debt in order to fund improvements or replacements to the secondary system. This recommendation was of the financial plan.

Councillor Pennings requested clarification on the Capital Expenditures Plan for 2023. The Director of Environmental Services and City Engineer explained that expenditures were financed from the reserve fund balance as well as new revenue generated from rates in that year.

Councillor Crevits inquired on how the joint ownership is reflected in the current plan, specifically with respect to the need to replace the generator. The Director of Environmental Services and City Engineer explained that inherent in the agreement with Primary Board was that the annual rental charges go into a reserve to fund improvements on shared assets with the Elgin Middlesex Pumping Station (EMPS). It was further explained that if there was a surplus, the Board could potentially defer or lower rates, but that annual payments were included in plan. This reserve fund can only be used for EMPS shared asset improvements.


Having reviewed the report prior to the meeting, the members were satisfied with the 2019 Annual Report.

Motion by Councillor Wookey – Councillor Crevits:

THAT: Report No. SWB 03-20, relating to the St. Thomas Area Secondary Water System Rate Study and Financial Plan 2021-2031, be received for information

Carried.

CONFIRMED



CHAIRMAN

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Report No. SWB04-20 – Drinking Water Quality Management System Management Review Meeting-2020– APPENDIX B (pg.54-58)

Motion by Councillor Wookey – Councillor Pennings:

THAT: The St. Thomas Area Secondary Water System Rate Study (2021-2031) and Water System Financial Plan (2021-2031), attached to report SWB03-20 be approved

Carried.

Motion by Councillor Wookey – Councillor Crevits:

THAT: The Financial Plan (2021 – 2031), the Board Resolution approving the Financial Plan, and the Water System Rate Study (2021-2031) underpinning the Financial Plan be submitted to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing; and to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, as part of a complete Municipal Drinking Water Licence Renewal Application.

Carried.

Motion by Councillor Wookey– Councillor Pennings:

THAT: Notice be provided to users of the STASWSS of the availability of the Financial Plan through the benefiting municipalities websites.

Carried.

Motion by Councillor Wookey – Councillor Pennings:

THAT: Report SWB 04-20, relating to the St. Thomas Area Secondary Water Supply System Drinking Water Quality Management System (DWQMS) – Management Review Meeting 2020, be received for information.

Carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

EMPS Joint Occupancy and Use Agreement:

The Director of Environmental Services and City Engineer shared that the agreement should be formalized later this year and be available for review in November.

Lake Huron/Elgin Area Water System Workshop Update:

Due to COVID-19 this workshop was postponed. The Director of Environmental Services and City Engineer and Councillor Wookey will attend an upcoming workshop when it is re-scheduled on behalf of St.Thomas and can report back to the secondary board if there are questions.

Councillor Wookey explained that from St.Thomas City Council’s perspective there are some significant concerns with going to either a municipal services board or a municipal services corporation. There didn’t appear to be a legal imperative to change and clearing debt room for the City a concern.

Councillor Pennings concurred.

Councillor Crevits mentioned that historically a solicitor has represented other municipalities on discussions like this and he foresees challenges with London receiving a larger portion of water and therefore asking to change the voting structure.

NEW BUSINESS

Next Meeting

To be set for early November with notice to members

ADJOURNMENT

CONFIRMED



CHAIRMAN


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Motion by Councillor Wookey – Councillor Crevits:

THAT: The Board adjourn at 5:17 p.m.

Carried.

CONFIRMED



CHAIRMAN

