

**Minutes of the Special Review Committee
Water Rates Meeting Held
Monday, September 28, 2015**

Present: Councillor Maroosis, Committee Chair
Councillor Bain, Committee Member
Councillor Serran, Committee Member
Mayor McDonald, Committee Member
Councillor Vaillancourt, Guest
Councillor King, Guest
Councillor Shogren, Guest

Mayor McDonald called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Special Review Committee Chair, George Maroosis, reviewed the process that has taken place to-date and asked if anyone wished to make a presentation.

Public Presentations:

1. Stephen Hamilton
 - Consumption should not be a dirty word.
 - The time of use model is something that the City should be reviewing.
 - 60/40 model is equitable.

2. Catherine Madigan
 - Would like clarification on why the water meters were installed.
 - The Council had three meetings to decide the fate of the residents of North Bay.
 - The month of September she stopped using her dishwasher, outdoor hose and bought bottled water to brush her teeth, etc, and took 9 four minute showers. She has now checked her bill and without ever taking a drink of City water her bill is approximately \$69.00.
 - She is on a fixed income it will come down to buying groceries or paying her water bill.
 - The City's marketing should be Every Drop Costs a Lot.

3. Therese Buscemi
 - She has lived in her home for 40 years and every year there are more taxes and more expenses.
 - Their water smells like chlorine and when she asked how she could get rid of this smell she was told by a City Employee to run her water for an hour and that should help. How are you supposed to conserve water when City staff is telling you to run your water?
 - Can't understand why the City has a deficit of \$500,000.00 - how can you spend money that you don't have.
 - She was confused about when the public meeting was as there was a notice that there was one on the 28th and the 29th is the City trying to confuse people about the meeting dates.
 - Why is she paying a waste water rate when they are not at home?

4. Tony Limina
 - He understands the logic behind the water meters.
 - His water rate will be increasing by between 10-16% and his fixed costs will be increasing from \$55.00 to \$550.00 per month.
 - The City will have to start looking at the tax rates also to make this fair and equitable between commercial and residential.

5. Rob Martyn
 - Appreciates the complexity of the situation.
 - The approach that Council has taken has created fear in the community.
 - If the residents cut back on consumption how much will the City save running the Water Treatment Plant?
 - People will have to stop watering their lawns.

6. John Lariviere
 - Has two main concerns:
 - (i) Water rates by cubic meters – the average of 14 cubic meters is a creative figure; he believes the average is somewhere in line with 20 cubic meters.
 - (ii) Why should all of the citizens have to pay for the sewer pipe down Lakeshore Drive for one Chamber of Commerce business?

7. Gary Gardiner
 - Would like to thank the Mayor and Councillor Maroosis for all of their work on this Committee.
 - The 21 million water budget breaks down as follows:
 - 30% Water Works – filtration/pipes
 - 22% Water Treatment Plant
 - 12% Debt – Water Treatment Plant
 - 36% Non-Capital Growth Expansion
 - Citizens are paying 7.8 million dollars which goes to non-capital growth expansion.
 - In order to get the cost of the water down the Council needs to look at the overall budget by reducing the amount of expansion in the system.

8. Karen Anderson
 - What has happened on this Committee is democracy at its best.
 - The ICI sector may not be happy – they got away with not paying their fair share for years and now they have to pay.
 - In order to maintain stability the Council should leave the bills at 60/40 for 3 years in order that the citizens can get use their bills.
 - She is very proud of the Committee as they have come up with a very fair solution for everyone.

9. Richard Cadotte
 - He is one person living in his house and he has only saved \$8.00 by conserving water.
 - He is living on a pension and cannot afford to pay any more money for his water.
 - Sprinkler systems are the most cost effective way of looking after your lawn.

10. Lorraine Godin
 - Is the mandate of installing the meters to conserve water?
 - It costs 21.5 million to run the system why is 40% waste water?
 - Is there any value in the Committee having a pamphlet prepared which sets out in black and white the costs?

11. Myles Peters
 - The City needs to rely on the Hemson Report that has been prepared for the City.
 - The City must do everything possible to ensure that the staff are becoming more efficient.

12. Pierre Hutt
 - Owns a multi-residential unit.
 - Would like suggestions on how to educate his tenants to conserve water.
 - His bill is currently \$800.00 per month and if it is increased by 20% he cannot pass this cost to the tenant.

13. Clarence Street Resident
 - The City is on Clarence Street on a weekly basis unplugging the sewer – this will get worse with low flow toilets.

Meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Councillor George Maroosis
Chair Special Review Committee
Water Rates

Deputy City Clerk Karen McIsaac