



**ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT
ENGINEERING DIVISION**

Report Number: 2009- 8

Date: April 14, 2009

**SUBJECT: PROPOSED INCENTIVE FUNDING - EXTRANEOUS FLOWS SOURCE
REMOVAL**

1) PURPOSE:

This report is authored by Ron Hanson, Director of Engineering and Operations at the request of City Council. Requests for funding assistance for the removal of private property sources of extraneous flows outside the designated CSO areas have been received and this report will discuss options for implementation of a funding program.

2) HISTORY, BACKGROUND, COUNCIL POLICY, PRACTICES

Current City Policy dictates that any property owner who requires the installation of a new storm, sanitary or water service to their property must pay the entire cost for the installation. Replacement or repair of existing services on the public side is the responsibility of the Municipality. The property owner has the option of applying to the Municipality for the installation of services on the public side by means of a set rate of Public Works fees, which are updated each year. Currently, the rate for a storm sewer lateral is \$242.00 per metre with a minimum charge of \$1211.00. They alternatively may apply for an Encroachment Permit for their contractor to carry out the work. All costs on the private side are the responsibility of the property owner.

In December, 2008, City Council approved Bylaw #5228/134/08, being a bylaw to regulate the management of a system of sewer works and drainage works in the City of Port Colborne. The bylaw addresses the issue in Section 3.8, which defines their responsibility for costs. Section 4.8 defines the policy for disconnection of sources of extraneous flows. Section 4.8.2 provides for incentive funding for disconnection, contingent on funds being allocated in any budget year for that purpose. Currently, funds have been budgeted in the Arena sewershed under the CSO Management Program. No additional funds are specifically allocated for other sewersheds in the urban area.

The following are excerpts from the bylaw for sections 3.8 and 4.8:

3.8 RESPONSIBILITY OF OWNER

3.8.1 The entire cost of providing, installing, operating, maintaining, repairing, replacing, relocating or renewing any private sewer lateral or private sewer collection system, and any private drainage lateral or private drainage or storm water management system, and appurtenances connected thereto including inspection tees, shall be the responsibility of and paid for by the Owner.

4.8 DISCONNECTION OF DRAINAGE CONNECTIONS TO THE SEWER WORKS

4.8.1 The Owner of any Building or Premises which has a Drain, Storm Water Leaders, Downspouts, Foundation Drains and/or sump pumps connected to the Sewer Works shall, at their own expense, disconnect such Drain, Storm Water Leaders, Downspouts, Foundation Drains and sump pumps from the Sewer Works.

4.8.2 Provided that funds are available, as approved through the Corporation's annual budget deliberations, financial assistance to a maximum reimbursement of \$2,500.00 may be considered to assist Owners with the costs of the following repairs to disconnect Drainage connections from, and to reduce Extraneous Flow, into the Sewer Works:

- i) Removal of roof leaders from the Sanitary Sewer.*
- ii) Removal of existing sump pump connections from the Sanitary Sewer.*
- iii) Repair or replacement of a leaking Private Sewer Lateral.*
- iv) Removal of foundation drains connections from the Sanitary Sewer.*

3) STAFF COMMENTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Redirection of any sources of storm water from the sanitary sewer system should be encouraged, since the payback in treatment costs is immediate. A source of sewer surcharging is removed, which could result in reduced instances of basement flooding.

There are approximately 5700 connections to the sanitary sewer system with an estimated 400 illegal storm water connections to the system City-wide. Many areas do not have a design storm sewer system with laterals available to the property but may be serviced with ditches or ditch tiles. There are areas which cannot be provided with an outlet for a storm lateral.

It is suggested that City Council consider an annual budget allocation of \$20,000.00 for those areas outside the designated CSO areas, to provide incentives to homeowners who meet the criteria for funding. Funds would only be allocated for removal of storm water from the sanitary system based on the criteria established in the sewer use bylaw. Funds to address other drainage or deficiency issues would not be funded. Such an allocation would address possibly eight to ten requests per year depending on the type of remediation. A household inspection, similar to the CSO Plan would be required, in order to define the issue and create a database for the property. Plumbing issues could be addressed at a local level and outside remediation could be addressed with the contractors available through the CSO program or through the hiring of a local contractor in each case. Details would have to be determined as we proceed. In any case, there would have to be a complete buy in from the homeowner.

4) OPTIONS AND FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

a) Do nothing.

The City could continue under the current policy to address the issue under the CSO Management Plan and not provide any additional funding. If the program were to continue and be funded, all urban areas would eventually receive consideration.

b) Other Options

An incentive fund, in an amount determined by City Council, could be created to provide financial incentives to homeowners that wish to remove sources extraneous flows from their property. Staff would create a list of requests for inspections and remediation until funds for any given budget year were expended. There would be an indirect cost to the fund in staff time for inspections and arranging contractors to complete the work. The financial benefit would be dependent of the type of removal achieved in each case. Since funds were not allocated in the current budget, Council may consider use of Gas Tax funds in 2009, with an allocation in future years distributed in the Sanitary Sewer rate.

5) COMPLIANCE WITH STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVES

Not Applicable.

6) ATTACHMENTS

None.

7) RECOMMENDATION

That City Council approve an upset limit allocation of \$20,000.00 in 2009 for the establishment of an Extraneous Flows Removal Incentive Fund, which will provide funding to applicants in the Urban Area, who wish to remove sources of extraneous flows from their home; and that the 2009 allocation be funded from the current Gas Tax allocation available to the Municipality.

8) SIGNATURES

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