

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE *MINUTES*

Held Tuesday, March 21, 2006
(following Community Services Committee Meeting)
City Council Chambers
At 4:50 p.m.

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PRESENT: Chair, Councillor Poirier
Vice Chair, Councillor Szajewski
Member, Councillor McMillan
Councillor Wasacase
B. Preisentanz, CAO
R. Perchuk, Operations Manager
P. McLaughlin, Note Taker

REGRETS: Councillor Compton

**A. PUBLIC INFORMATION NOTICES AS PER
BY-LAW NUMBER 14-2003**

N/A

B. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None Declared

C. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved by R. McMillan, Seconded by T. Szajewski, and Carried:
THAT the Minutes of the Operations Standing Committee Meeting held
March 7, 2006, be confirmed as written.

D. DEPUTATIONS

WATER & SEWER

1. Grinder Pump Maintenance

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the City of Kenora provide the option to homeowners a fee for service for maintenance of grinder pumps on private property.

Discussion:

Administration was requested to apply numbers to the fee for service option. Councillor Poirier thanked the Operation Department for the report that suggested a \$56.00 per month charge to homeowners for the first 10 years and a reduced fee of \$30.60 per month thereafter to cover maintenance and replacement costs while maintaining compliance under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Legislation mandates the water and sewer department to be a self funded utility.

Mr. Perchuk explained that the fees are based on a 20 year old system with old pumps and no reserve fund in place. The City has to consider the cost of replacing pumps now and again in 10 years. A pump manufacturer,

patronized for pump replacements and repairs, confirmed the average life expectancy of a grinder pump is 10 years. As there are a number of units throughout the City this decision focuses on what is best for the City as a whole. The residents of Rabbit Lake Road and Birchwood Crescent believe there was an "understanding" that the grinder pump system belongs to the City. The City has received a number of claims from resident's to-date.

Mayor Canfield commented that prior to amalgamation the Township of Jaffray Melick began charging homeowners for pump replacements where the cause of pump failure was deemed to be homeowner abuse. Now the reality is full cost recovery, as per legislation. He suggested reducing the fee to \$50.00 and approach residents with the proposal. Once a reserve fund is built up a reduced fee could be considered.

Mr. Preisentanz will review the Act to determine whether grinder pumps could be included under the existing water & sewer utility or a separate utility needs to be created.

Councillor Poirier acknowledged the homeowners frustration and stressed the need for Committee to make a decision. He requested that once the information is obtained a meeting would be arranged with the initial homeowner group to propose the fee for service option.

2. 2005 Kenora Water System Summary Report

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the City of Kenora accepts the 2005 Kenora Water System Summary Report, for the period January 1st, 2005 to December 31st, 2005, as prepared by Warren Ortlieb, Water and Sewer Supervisor.

Discussion:

There were nine (9) non-compliance violations recorded from Jan. 1st, 2005 to Dec. 31st, 2005. Each violation was addressed in the 2005 Kenora Water System Summary Report. The M.O.E. detailed the action required to rectify the violations and the Water & Sewer Supervisor reported on the action taken to bring each violation into compliance.

Recommendation Approved

ENGINEERING

3. GIS Hosting Services for Red Lake

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the City of Kenora enter into an agreement with the Corporation of the Town of Red Lake to provide Red Lake with an internet based GIS mapping service at a monthly fee of \$350, plus GST, and pass the associated bylaw to enter into such an agreement.

Discussion:

The Municipality of Red Lake and possibly other municipalities would like to buy space on our GIS system. This is a revenue generating venture at no cost to the City.

Recommendation Approved

J. McMillin

J. McMillin

OTHER BUSINESS

4. Township of Machin

Discussion:

The Township of Machin thanked the City of Kenora's Water & Sewer Department for assisting them with a break in their main water line. Councillor McMillan commended all involved for a good job.

5. No Left Turn onto Hwy 17 East

Discussion:

The Operations Department recommends allowing left turn traffic movement onto Highway 17 East from Wal-Mart, Canadian Tire and Kenora Police Services.

Councillor McMillan soundly disagrees with the recommendation. Mayor Canfield stated he had no trouble entering Highway 17 East. One accident has been reported to-date.

6. NOMA Conference - Attendance

Discussion:

Mayor Canfield announced that he will be taking Michael Powers place at the conference.

7. ROMA / OGRA Report

Discussion:

Mayor Canfield thanked Rick for his report. More information is available through the office of the Mayor.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, April 4, 2006 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.