

TATAMAGOUCHE WATER UTILITY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Tatamagouche Water Utility Committee was held at the Tatamagouche Legion on August 24, 2021 at 10:00am.

Present:	<p>Mayor Christine Blair, Chair Deputy Mayor Geoff Stewart Alan Fahey, Citizen Representative Keith Ferguson, Citizen Representative Heather Maddigan, Finance Manager Michelle Boudreau, Director of Public Works</p> <p>Regrets: Councillor Mike Gregory Anne DeAdder, Citizen Representative</p>
Approval of Agenda:	<p>Moved by Alan Fahey Seconded by Deputy Mayor Stewart</p> <p>All in favour</p>
Introductions and Background	<p>A brief background on the purpose, membership and function of the Committee was provided. Information was also presented on the Utility and Review Board's role, and the need and timing for rate reviews. The next rate review is expected in 1.5 to 2 years and will involve a community feedback component. Since the Tatamagouche Water Utility operates as its own business under the umbrella of the County, any motions approved by the Utility Committee are forwarded to County Council for approval.</p> <p>The function and activities of the Tatamagouche Source Water Protection Committee were also reviewed. This committee is separate from the Water Utility Committee.</p> <p>Mr. Fahey and Mr. Ferguson requested copies of a water utility map.</p>
Approval of Minutes:	<p>The Minutes of the Meeting of August 25, 2020 were approved by the Committee.</p> <p>Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart Seconded by Keith Ferguson</p> <p>All in favour.</p>
Operating Budgets:	<p>Heather Maddigan reviewed the utility budget.</p> <p><u>2020/21 Fiscal Year</u></p> <p>The Utility showed a small profit this year, mainly due to conservative budgeting on the transmission and distribution system. Extra is usually built into the budget to accommodate unexpected watermain breaks. Also, less system maintenance was conducted this year due to COVID restrictions. There was also a savings in the Administration line item due to lower legal costs, less travel expense, and reduced training activities due to COVID. There was only a small capital expense</p>

	<p>of \$1300 this year, for design and tendering of the new 246 Watermain. The annual contribution of \$12,300 was made to the annual filter reserve, which now sits at \$118,500. We also continue to build the depreciation fund, which now sits at \$646,483. Not many budget changes are proposed, and the budget remains fairly static in non-rate-review years.</p> <p><u>Three Year Budget</u></p> <p>The three-year budget is based on history and trends within the utility. Revenues were budgeted as per prior years, as no rate change or increase in consumption is expected. Transmission expenses are budgeted conservatively to allow for any unexpected watermain breaks. We are projecting a profit for fiscal 2021/22, but then losses for the following 2 years. This is due to an adjustment in salary allocations. Logging of staff hours over the last 2 years has shown that more staff time is being spent in Tatamagouche than previously thought. This logging of hours was requested by the Utility and Review Board during the last rate review. If deficits continue over the next 6 months, this may trigger a rate review.</p> <p>The majority of the \$189,000 shown in the capital line is for the construction of the new watermain on Highway 246. This project will be funded through the depreciation fund. There is also a small capital expense for the purchase of new meter reading equipment.</p> <p>The Committee approved the 3-year operating budget with the following motion:</p> <p>That the Committee recommends to Council that the 3-year operating budget for the Tatamagouche Water Utility for years 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 be approved”.</p> <p>Moved by Alan Fahey Seconded by Keith Ferguson</p> <p>All in favour</p>
Update, Highway 246 Watermain	A brief history on the watermain replacement project on Highway 246 was provided. The existing 1” diameter line will be replaced with a 3” diameter line, with work to take place in October.
Tatamagouche Fire Department, Water Hauling	In order to reduce overall water consumption and withdrawal amounts from the river, the Tatamagouche Fire Department has been asked not to haul water for pools in July and August. This has resulted in a major improvement in consumption. They haul in May and June and are invoiced accordingly. The amount is about \$3,000 per year.
Passing of David Scharf	A moment of silence was held for former Committee member David Scharf.
Next Meeting:	TBD

Adjournment:	Meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 10:45am. Michelle Boudreau, Recording Secretary
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