

Motion for consideration by Water & Sewer Commission, to be discussed 13 November 2023:

WHEREAS

1 - The lift station and pipe on the wharf pre-date the municipal sewer system by many decades: When the municipal sewer system was created (2008), Council took a decision to incorporate the wharf sewer infrastructure into the municipal system, thereby making it the municipality's responsibility to maintain the system. Development permits have been issued by the municipality on the basis of the sewer system being adequate for the commercial use of the businesses there.

2 - Both our operator, and Dept of Environment, have brought attention to how out-of-date the system is: It does not meet code, therefore Dept of Environment has requested the municipality replace the lift station urgently (and also the pipe when possible). Additionally, our operator must regularly attend and service the station during the operating season, because of frequent failures, due to how outdated the equipment is. This maintenance cost is borne by all water-and-sewer ratepayers, and the extra work is frustrating for our Operator.

3 - Because there are no modern communication systems/alerts integrated into the lift station, we have only a weak 'emergency light' system: if someone sees the light on, they are supposed to call to alert the operator so they can attend immediately. This system failed in July of this year, resulting in a sewage discharge and a 5-day closure of Victoria Beach that was distressing for residents and visitors, and time-consuming for municipal staff to manage.

4 - An inspection of the tank at the end of the operating season this year, which involved de-constructing the pumps and piping, revealed a large crack around the diameter of the stations' tank: this would let sewage out regularly, and seawater in during high tides. It is highly unlikely that the Dept of Environment will allow us to recommission the existing tank without costly repair, and our Operator does not want to re-construct the old pumps and piping.

5 - Last time there was a bid on the Wharf Infrastructure project, albeit with a different design (moving the lift station to the land), in 2022, it came in at \$755k. This was roughly twice the estimate of probable costs named in 2021, and was far out of reach for the municipality's budget. In consultation with Dept of Environment, last year the Water & Sewer Corporation requested the engineers create a design that involves replacing the lift station in-situ on the wharf.

6 - The pipe in the wharf curb (from the lift station to the shore) is made of polyethylene, which no longer meets code. For as long as it is not replaced, the risk of the pipe breaking and needing to incur the costs of emergency repairs increases. In addition, at some future point, the pipe will need to be replaced, which will again require the municipality to cover the administrative and engineering costs of that replacement project. It is not possible to know what the remaining lifetime is on this very old pipe. It was included as a provisional item, in case the total budget for both items was not feasible for the municipality simultaneously.

7 - Accepting the bid on the lift-station replacement alone, and declining to accept the bid on the pipe replacement, is within our budget, and would leave additional funds available to allocate to other infrastructure projects in the municipality. Accepting the bid to replace not only the lift station, but also the pipe, will require Council to make an additional capital budget allocation next year.

BE IT RESOLVED that, pending the further authorization of Council, the W&S Corporation instructs the CAO:

- to accept the bid from Island Coastal for replacement of the lift station on the wharf (\$366,701 including HST) as soon as all relevant permits are secured.
- to negotiate with our Engineering service providers, to reduce their charges to the municipality.
- if the CAO successfully negotiates engineering charges to below an acceptable threshold, and if Council authorizes sufficient additional Capital spending on this project in FY24-25, to additionally accept the bid from Island Coastal for provisional items (replacement of the pipe).