

Victoria Water and Sewer Commission

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 9, 2022

2:00 PM Old School

Present:

Commissioners - Richard LaGrange (Chair), Cecil MacDonald, Susan Oxley, Murray McAvinn

Guests - Hilary Price (CAO), Keith Dewar (Mayor), Preston Silliker (Operator) by phone

1. Meeting called to order at 2:05
2. Approval of Agenda - Moved by Susan, Seconded - Murray; motion carried
3. Conflict of Interest
 1. None declared
4. Business
 1. A letter from Department of Environment (DOE) raising concerns on bridge repairs that were conducted back in January as well as other related information was shared with the Commission. The Commission discussed the information and invited Preston Silliker to join the meeting via telephone to confirm his understanding of the repairs. Preston confirmed that the size of the pipe was reduced due to issues faced by the company conducting the repairs. Discussion noted that the urgency of the repairs did not provide time to obtain a permit, that there were 2 attempts to fix the repairs (the first attempt was not successful and the second attempt was meant to be temporary) and that the repairs were being conducted in January which made the work very difficult. Commission then connected with Preston Silliker to confirm what repairs were actually done. The Commission also recognized that there could be rationale to expanding the size of the pipe to 4" to accommodate the anticipated expansion of the Halibut PEI facility and the impact of the sale of the land on the opposite side of the road. It was also acknowledged that the final project would require the input and approval of an engineer. The Commission also discussed the issue raised in the letter around whether the water was still potable. The Operator is in the process of collecting water samples at Halibut PEI and the cottage on the same side of the causeway (these are the only 2 facilities that currently are open) and plans to collect these over a period of time to confirm that the water is still safe to drink.
 1. Actions summary:
 1. The CAO is to follow up with Steve Shaw, who oversaw the work and Toombs Plumbing & Heating to better understand why they did not use a 2" line but put used a 1" line which meant that the repair temporary in nature and, given that it was a modification, was not made in compliance with the required regulations. They should also gain an understanding as to why the first repair was not successful.
 2. The CAO is to write the DOE and respond to the concerns raised. The response should note this was a temporary fix, that it was done in an emergency situation under less than ideal conditions, the Commission is in process of considering options for long term repairs with the intent of completing the repairs prior to the coming winter, they were testing the water to ensure that it was safe to drink over a period of time and they are looking at upgrading to a 4" to allow for expansion in the future.

3. The CAO should follow up with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure to determine if replacing the line with a 4" line to allow for increased usage would allow it to be funded by Gas Tax revenue
2. Update on Wharf Project
 1. The tender information and direction from Stantec was circulated to the Commission for their information. It is anticipated that the tender responses will be received and ready for consideration of the Commission later in June. Once they agree on a preferred vendor their recommendation will have to be submitted and approved by Council given that it is using Gas Tax funds.
 2. Actions:
 1. CAO to follow up on who currently pays for the electricity for the current pump and ensure that this practice continues in the future.
 2. CAO to arrange for another meeting of the Commission to consider the tender responses prior to the next Council meeting.
3. Update on water and sewer rate increase
 1. Susan Williams Bulman is working with the CAO in preparing the IRAC submission. The CAO has been communicating with IRAC to keep them abreast of the progress of the submission. IRAC has confirmed that as long as the submission is received in the next few months the proposed increases, if approved, can be applied retroactively to April 1/2022. The package should be ready by the next Commission meeting.
4. Staffing update
 1. Noted that Marsha Empson will start her permanent full-time position to provide full time administrative and bookkeeping support to the CAO
5. Adjournment
 1. Motion to adjourn made by Murray McAvinn at 3:25.