



Staff Report

Report To: Council Meeting
From: Magda Badura, CAO/Treasurer
Date: 2024-05-09
Subject: Sewer Rodding Policy

Recommendation:

That West Elgin Council hereby receives the report from M. Badura CAO/Treasurer re: Sewer Rodding Policy; and That West Elgin Council approves the Sewer Rodding Policy as presented.

Purpose:

The purpose of Sewer Rodding Policy is to support property owners, manage costs and promote timely resolution of sewer issues for property owners connected to the municipal sanitary sewer system.

Background:

We have recently received numerous inquiries from residents seeking financial assistance for blocked sewer lines. Typically, these issues occur on private property, specifically from the property line to the house, resulting in sewer line obstructions that cause backups into their homes. In such cases, it is the responsibility of the property owner to cover any costs associated with resolving the obstruction.

However, we have encountered complaints from residents disputing responsibility for the sewer line section from the property line (public drain connection) to the sewer main. Although this section is not on their private property, it is solely utilized by them, making them accountable for its maintenance. Unfortunately, we lack clear policies or guidelines specifying who is responsible for the costs associated with maintaining this section of the line, which complicates dispute resolution.

It is important to clarify that any blockages occurring from the sewer main to the private property fall under property owner responsibility. The attached draft policy aims to provide a clear explanation of responsibilities and financial incentives for ratepayers experiencing these issues.

With the approval of this policy, residents will receive financial assistance to help offset the costs of engaging professional services needed to address these sewer line blockages, regardless of where the obstruction occurs. This support is intended to alleviate financial burdens and facilitate timely resolution of sewer-related problems for our community members.

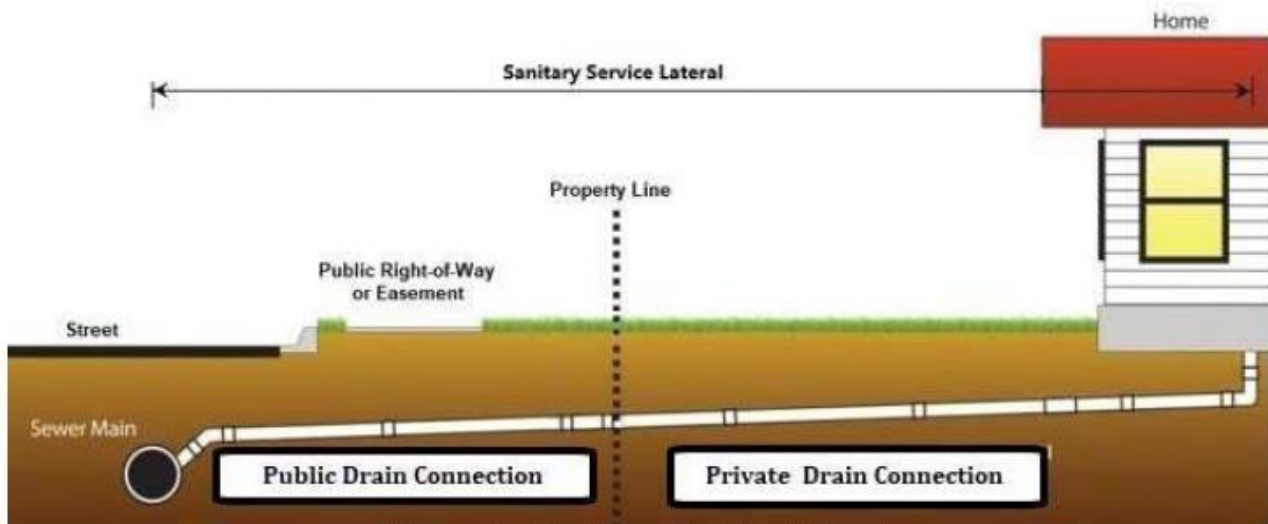


Figure 1: Sanitary Service Lateral

Financial Implications:

The reduction in staff time allocated to addressing problems and the shift in responsibilities are expected to result in potential savings. The actual amount of these savings will be determined at the end of the year, based upon the number of issues that arise throughout the year.

Policies/Legislation:

By-Law #724 and 827
Sewer Rodding Policy

Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

Infrastructure Improvement	Recreation	Economic Development	Community Engagement
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To improve West Elgin's infrastructure to support long-term growth.	<input type="checkbox"/> To provide recreation and leisure activities to attract and retain residents.	<input type="checkbox"/> To ensure a strong economy that supports growth and maintains a lower cost of living.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To enhance communication with residents.

Respectfully submitted by,

Magda Badura
CAO/Treasurer

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Sewer Rodding Policy - 2024-10-Administration Finance.docx
Attachments:	- Sanitary Sewer Rodding Policy.pdf
Final Approval Date:	May 3, 2024

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Terri Towstiuć