



Staff Report

Report To: Council Meeting
From: Magda Badura, CAO/Treasurer
Date: 2024-05-09
Subject: Sanitary Sewer Connection Charges

Recommendation:

That West Elgin Council hereby receives the report from M. Badura, CAO/Treasurer re: Sanitary Sewer Connection Charges for review and discussion; and, THAT West Elgin Council consider approving the proposed fees at the upcoming council meeting.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to initiate a discussion with the council regarding sanitary sewer connections for the Rodney and West Lorne and come up with additional sources of revenue to help maintain raising cost of proper sanitation, environmental protection and capital replacement.

Background:

The Rodney and West Lorne sewage systems were initially constructed with grants from the provincial and federal governments. The West Lorne plant underwent refurbishment in 2021, and plans are in place to fully refurbish the Rodney plant by 2026. Over the years, we have gradually expanded our customer base on the sanitary sewer systems without imposing additional fees. Although there were costs associated with these connections, the municipality never enforced any fees for them.

The table below shows the rate increases for Rodney and West Lorne Sewer from 2018 to 2024

2024 Wastewater Rates							
RESIDENTIAL							
	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Sewage - Rodney							
Flat Rate - Single Dwelling	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 73.62	\$ 71.82	\$ 71.10	\$ 58.31	\$ 56.78
Sewage Rate (m ³)	\$ 2.91	\$ 2.91	\$ 2.77	\$ 2.70	\$ 2.58	\$ 2.22	\$ 2.07
Sewage - West Lorne							
Flat Rate - Single dwelling	\$ 72.00	\$ 72.00	\$ 70.60	\$ 68.88	\$ 68.19	\$ 55.64	\$ 49.54
Sewage Rate (m ³)	\$ 2.70	\$ 2.70	\$ 2.65	\$ 2.59	\$ 2.48	\$ 1.99	\$ 1.81

According to our official plan, our municipality is anticipating rapid growth in the next 10 years, and without imposing these fees, future infrastructure upgrades could be jeopardized. The intention is to distribute the cost burden equitably among new developments or properties connecting to the system, rather than solely relying on existing ratepayers.

Attached with this report is a presentation slideshow explaining the methodology used with justification for the proposed charges.

Financial Implications:

A new proposed connection fee will provide stability in annual rate increases.

Policies/Legislation:

2024 Fees and Charges By-Law

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 checked="" 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:	Sanitary Sewer Connection Charges - 2024-13-Administration Finance.docx
Attachments:	- Sanitary Connection Fees .pdf
Final Approval Date:	May 6, 2024

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

Terri Towstiuć