

Motion following Notice of Motion

Discontinuation of Fee for Fire Hydrant Maintenance for Multi-Tenant Properties

THAT Administration prepare proposed amendments to the Fees, Rates and Charges bylaw 45-2016 so that multi-tenant properties are exempt from the "private hydrant maintenance" annual \$80.00 fee; and that the proposed amendments be brought back to Council by the end of the first quarter of 2017.

Background

Councillor Bidzinski served Notice of Motion at the January 17, 2017 Council Meeting to be presented at the February 7, 2017 Council Meeting.

All water utility customers in Strathcona County pay a fixed charge of \$5.36 on utility bills. A portion of this charge goes to fire protection, which pays for the extra storage in our water reservoirs, the size of water pipes and fire hydrants.

$$\$5.36 \times 12 \text{ (months/year)} = \$64.32 / \text{year}$$

There are 577 privately owned hydrants and approximately 1,900 County-owned hydrants in Strathcona County.

$$577 \times \$64.32 = \$37,112.64$$

$$577 \times \$80 = \$46,160.00$$

These statements show that both residential homes and condominiums pay for maintenance of the fire hydrants through utility bills through the metered rate and flat charge. And as noted above, condominiums pay an additional charge of \$80.00 each year per hydrant plus all costs of maintenance.

- a) Therefore Fire hydrants should be a matter of public concern and maintained by the municipality, whether on private property or public property, to ensure a high working standard is maintained.
- b) Strathcona County should ensure all property owners are fairly assessed maintenance and repair costs of fire hydrants.

There should be no "extra" maintenance costs for the hydrants charged to condominium complexes.