
REPORT TITLE: By-law Amendments to Reflect 5.5 Per Cent Utility Rate Increase Approved by Regional Council in the 2021 Budget

FROM: Julie Pittini, Acting Commissioner of Finance and Chief Financial Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That the water consumption fees and charges set out in Schedule A to By-law 10-2021 and the wastewater system fees and charges set out in Schedule A to By-law 9-2021 be amended to reflect the 5.5 per cent utility rate increase approved by Regional Council on February 11, 2021 as part of the 2021 Operating and Capital Budget;

And further, that the necessary amending by-laws be presented for enactment;

And further, that the requirement to provide Public Notice prior to the enactment of these amending by-laws, pursuant to the Region's Corporate Public Notice Policy G00-16, be waived.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- On February 11, 2021, Council approved a 5.5 per cent increase for Water and Wastewater fees and charges as outlined in the 2021 Consolidated Operating and Capital Budget.
- 2021 Water Consumption Fees and Charges By-law 10-2021 and 2021 Wastewater System Fees and Charges By-law 9-2021 were approved to reflect the 5.5 per cent increase.
- Due to staff oversight, the schedules attached to By-laws 10-2021 and 9-2021 included unit rates that reflected a slightly higher rate than the final approved 5.5 per cent utility rate increase.
- Revisions to the By-laws are recommended to ensure that the unit rates reflect the final approved 5.5 per cent utility rate increase.
- As the adjustments are technical in nature, and will result in a lower calculated blended rate, reflective of the 5.5 per cent approved increase, the public will not be negatively impacted by this amendment.

DISCUSSION

1. Approval of 2021 Budget included a 5.5 per cent Utility Rate increase

On February 11, 2021, Council approved the revised 2021 Consolidated Operating and Capital Budget.

This included the 2021 proposed fees and charges related to water consumption, and wastewater systems incorporating an increase of 5.5 per cent for water and wastewater

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services. The 2021 Water Consumption Fees and Charges By-law 10-2021 and 2021 Wastewater System Fees and Charges By-law 9-2021 were also passed that day.

a) Schedules to By-laws 10-2021 and 9-2021 require amendments

The unit rates contained in the Schedules to the By-laws passed on February 11, 2021 were based on a slightly higher, earlier version of calculations, and not the final approved utility 5.5 per cent rate increase. As these calculations are technical adjustments only, this will not have any impact to the 2021 approved Operating and Capital Budget.

b) Request to waive Public Notice Policy G00-16

The Region of Peel’s Public Notice Policy G00-16 generally requires public notice to be published in newspapers and posted on the Region’s website at least 10 days prior to the enactment of a by-law fixing fees and charges and any amendments thereto. The Policy also states that where the requirements of the policy conflict with any resolution of Regional Council, the resolution shall prevail. The amendments being proposed to By-laws 9-2021 and 10-2021 at this time are necessary to reflect the annual 5.5 per cent utility rate increase approved by Regional Council on February 11, 2021 as part of the 2021 Operating and Capital Budget. The rates originally contained in the schedules to By-laws 9-2021 and 10-2021 at the time they were passed were based on earlier calculations and do not reflect the slightly lower 5.5 per cent approved utility rate increase.

By-laws 9-2021 and 10-2021 and the corresponding new 2021 utility rates are scheduled to come into effect April 1, 2021. Given the nature of these by-law amendments (technical in nature and outlining slightly lower rates than the rates contained in the earlier by-laws), the public will not be negatively impacted; staff therefore recommends that the public notice requirement be waived.

2. Proposed Direction

Staff proposes that By-laws 9-2021 and 10-2021 and the related schedules be amended (as shown in the table below) to align them with the final approved blended 5.5 per cent increase for Water and Wastewater.

Schedule A to 2021 Wastewater System Fees and Charges By-law 9-2021:

Consumption	Service Unit	Original Rate	Amended Rate
Metered	Per thousand Imperial gallons	\$5.84	\$5.82
	Per cubic metre	\$1.2849	\$1.2796
Unmetered	Flat rate	\$14.53	\$14.47

Schedule A to 2021 Water Consumption Fees and Charges By-law 10-2021:

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Consumption	Service Unit	Original Rate	Amended Rate
Metered	Per thousand Imperial gallons	\$7.67	\$7.60
	Per cubic metre	\$1.6863	\$1.6724
Unmetered	Flat rate	\$21.30	\$21.12

RISK CONSIDERATIONS

Provided that the relevant By-laws are being adjusted to reflect the Council approved 5.5 per cent utility rate increase, there will be no risks, financial or otherwise.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with the changes to By-laws 9-2021 and 10-2021. Council approved a blended water and wastewater increase of 5.5 per cent. These By-laws are being amended to align with approved increase.

CONCLUSION

An approved blended utility rate increase of 5.5 per cent comes into effect on April 1, 2021. Amending By-laws 9-2021 and 10-2021 will align the rates in the schedules to the final approved 2021 utility rate increase.

For further information regarding this report, please contact Norman Lum, Director, Business and Financial Planning, Ext. 3567, Norman.Lum@peelregion.ca.

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Reviewed and/or approved in workflow by:

Department Commissioner, Division Director and Legal Services.