

**DATE:** December 10, 2020

**TO:** MAYOR AND COUNCIL

**NAME AND TITLE:** Blake McIntosh, Acting Director of Civic Operations

**SUBJECT:** Deferral of Trucked Waste Volume Charges under Comprehensive Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 7557

**ATTACHMENT(S):** None

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

That Council:

1. GIVES FIRST THREE READINGS to “City of Prince George Comprehensive Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 7557, 2004, Amendment Bylaw No. 9171, 2020;” and
2. GIVES FINAL READING AND ADOPTION to “City of Prince George Comprehensive Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 7557, 2004, Amendment Bylaw No. 9171, 2020.”

**PURPOSE:**

For Council’s approval to defer the implementation of new fees for trucked sanitary sewer waste under section 8.1.2 of the Comprehensive Fees and Charges Bylaw by one year, such that the new fees will commence on January 1, 2022.

**BACKGROUND:**

In December 2019, a report to Council outlined various updates to the Comprehensive Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 7557. Included in this report was the recommendation to commence with the implementation of a volume charge for the disposal of trucked waste at the Shelley Lagoon, a City operated facility, commencing on January 1, 2021.

The intent of the volume fee is to generate revenue to offset the costs of operating a sanitary sewer lagoon facility (Shelley Lagoon) that only accepts trucked waste. Capital, operating and maintenance costs associated with this site are currently covered under the Sewer Utility Budget. Trucked waste is primarily sourced from locations that are not connected to the existing sanitary sewer system and that trucked waste is therefore originating from locations that are not paying into the Sewer Utility Budget.

Current users of the City’s sanitary sewer system pay either a flat rate or a metered amount for their connection. A typical residential customer has a flat rate of \$42 per month (2021 rate) or \$504 per

year. The typical septic tank for a residential property has a volume of approximately 4.5 cubic meters and requires cleaning every 2-3 years. Based on the bylaw volume charge of \$45 per cubic meter, the cost for disposal would be \$202.50 per disposal, which works out approximately \$67.50 - \$101.25 per year.

**STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Council has requested staff to minimize financial impacts on City residents and businesses. Deferral of this fee will defer the costs for users requiring trucked waste disposal.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

With the deferral of the implementation of the volume charge until 2022, the Sewer Utility Budget will continue to cover operating and maintenance costs of the Shelley Lagoon. Current plans for the Shelley Lagoon in 2021 include cell berm repair, roadway improvements and cell debris cleanout.

Future plans that will be deferred include engineering studies to determine long term planning for the site, waste disposal of material cleaned out of the lagoon / site remediation, cell berm protection measures (rodent damage), and preliminary treatment planning to meet Provincial and Federal discharge requirements. Estimates to complete the necessary studies, disposals/remediation and upgrades are projected to be several millions of dollars.

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:**

Administration recommends that Council approves the staff recommendation to defer the implementation of the volume charges specified with the Special User Rates under the Comprehensive Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 7557, section 8.1.2 until January 1, 2022.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

Blake McIntosh, Acting Director, Civic Operations

**PREPARED BY:** William Wedel, Manager, Utilities Division

**APPROVED:**

Walter Babicz, Acting City Manager

Meeting Date: 2020/12/21