



Date: May 8, 2023

To: Mayor and Council

Author: Shaun Martinho, Manager of Public Works and Environmental Services

RE: Bulk Water Rate and Filling Station Repair

RECOMMENDED ACTION

1. That a Bulk Water Rate of \$3.50 per cubic meter of water **BE APPROVED**; and,
2. That repair of the bulk water filling station **BE APPROVED** using \$20,000 from the Water Working Capital Reserve.

BACKGROUND

Civil construction works consume large quantities of water in operations, using it at every stage of a project's life cycle. Contractors use tanker trucks that they fill with water, which they operate, for dust suppression, material compaction, directional drilling, vacuum excavation, and various other processes and activities. To help support road construction activities, Environmental Services has four metered hydrant connections provided to contractors and developers on a first-come, first-serve basis. Additionally, a coin-operated bulk water filling station at Town Hall has fallen into a state of disrepair and requires upgrading.

DISCUSSION

Work on projects related to greenhouse expansion, civil construction, and residential development has resulted in the need for bulk water connections year-round. It has always been challenging to meet the demand for this service in Kingsville due to the following:

- A limited number of hydrant connections force contractors to drive tanker trucks long distances to obtain water. Difficulty securing water can lead to theft from unmetered illegal hydrant connections resulting in lost revenue, damaged fire hydrants, and potential threats to the drinking water supply. Recently Infrastructure and Engineering purchased two additional units. Ensuring they are well maintained will allow for more backflow-certified, metered connections on construction sites.

- Hydrant connections can only be provided when temperatures are above freezing, typically between May 1 and October 31. Repair of the bulk water filling station at Town Hall would allow for bulk water service in the winter.

Several additional factors are leading to an increase in demand for this service. Bill 93, *The Getting Ontario Connected Act, 2022*, is helping to provide fast and affordable internet and cellular connectivity for underserved residents and businesses in the community. However, the construction of the infrastructure required to support this communication network is heavily reliant on bulk water. Since funding was announced in 2022, vacuum excavation and directional drilling contractors have placed numerous requests for bulk water. Continued growth and development in Kingsville, and the construction of supporting infrastructure, will require improvements to Kingsville's bulk water fill services.

The Town's bulk water filling station has been out of service for at least five years, and its technology is dated and no longer supported, as evidenced by its coin-operated controller. An upgraded fill station would communicate usage with Town Hall using a cellular network and be operated using a four (4) digit PIN assigned to the hauler by the Municipality. Customers would fill a pre-paid account that must be replenished as funds are depleted to continue to receive water.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Kingsville's existing bulk water filling station requires \$20,000 plus the HST burden in maintenance and upgrades

Rates for bulk water in other municipalities range from \$2.24 to \$5.14 per cubic meter. If the Town were to implement a rate of \$3.50 per cubic meter, it would generate approximately \$5,000 per year in additional revenue, representing a 4 year pay-back.

As the revenue generated from the bulk water filling station will be attributed to the Town's Water budget, Administration recommends funding the \$20,000 in maintenance and upgrades from Water Working Capital Reserves.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Increasing the Town's ability to provide bulk water filling services will decrease the carbon emissions from haulers travelling long distances to acquire water in neighbouring municipalities.

CONSULTATIONS

Flowpoint Environmental Systems LP
Finance, IT and, Customer Services Department

PREPARED BY:



Shaun Martinho, HBSc., MBA

Manager of Public Works and Environmental Services

REVIEWED BY:



G.A. Plancke Civil Eng. Tech (Env)

Director of Infrastructure & Engineering