



## TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HURON

## REPORT

Item No.

**REPORT TO:** Reeve Vincent and Members of Council  
**PREPARED BY:** Donna White  
**DATE:** 04/07/2017  
**SUBJECT:** Whitechurch Water Connections  
**ATTACHMENTS:** Huron Kinloss letter

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the Council of the Township of North Huron hereby receives the report from the Director of Finance for information purposes;  
AND FURTHER THAT Council agrees to pass a by-law to ensure that the existing users of the Whitechurch Water system remain connected to the system and that a by-law be prepared for the July 17, 2017 council meeting.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Township of Kinloss assumed the water system in the Hamlet of Whitechurch in 2001. At that time, the Township of Kinloss passed a connection by-law which required any properties that were connected to the system had to remain connected. Their by-law allowed for an exemption from connecting if the property had an existing water supply prior to the passage of their by-law in 2001. Huron Kinloss has confirmed that they are not forcing residents to connect at this time. North Huron residents were given the option of: remaining connected to the system, drilling their own well or connecting to a neighbour's drilled well.

By-law #69-2001 was passed by North Huron to enter into an agreement with Huron Kinloss to supply water to residents of North Huron and to provide for payment arrangements. A subsequent by-law was passed in 2009, to authorize the costs of upgrades at that time. Neither of these by-laws required existing users, currently connected to the system to remain connected.

### **DISCUSSION**

A letter has been received from the Township of Huron-Kinloss requesting that North Huron pass a by-law to ensure that the existing users of the Whitechurch water system remain connected.

In order for small water systems to be sustainable, the costs must be shared amongst the users. It is also important that those already connected to the system remain connected and therefore staff are in agreement with the request from Huron-Kinloss that a by-law should be passed to ensure that existing properties remain connected.

The Township of Huron-Kinloss received Federal Funding for a 2017 reconstruction project in the hamlet of Whitechurch which included road base improvements, paving and new sidewalks. Included in the construction was the upgrading of the original water distribution system to a four inch standard, as well as new services to their property line. The cost per connection approved by Huron Kinloss Council is \$6,075.00 but it is unlikely that any money will be due in 2017. Under the above by-laws, Huron-Kinloss will invoice the Township of North Huron for these costs and we will in turn collect from the residents connected. There are two properties that were previously connected which will be subject to the \$6,075.00 upgrade fee.

A third North Huron property has requested, and has been granted permission to connect to the system as part of these upgrades. This property was not previously connected and therefore is subject to all previous upgrade costs (adjusted by inflation) as well as the 2017 Upgrade costs for a total of \$12,733.03.

There are four remaining North Huron properties not connected to the system. If these properties connect to the system in the future, they would have to pay the applicable costs owing for the upgrades at the time of connection.

In addition, the residents are billed annually for the operating costs.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The costs of the upgrades are billed to the property owner. Any unpaid amounts are added to the tax roll.

#### **FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS**

A by-law be prepared for the July 17, 2017 council meeting to ensure that properties currently connected, remain connected to the Whitechurch water system.

#### **RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

Goal #4 – Our administration is fiscally responsible and strives for operational excellence.



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Donna White, Director of Finance



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Sharon Chambers, CAO