

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – MAY 29, 2006

PROPOSED REGIONAL POLICIES JURISDICTION OF WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Recommendations

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works recommends:

1. That this report be received for information purposes.
2. That a copy of this report be forwarded to the Region of York, advising that the City of Vaughan concurs with the Region's final draft policies as outlined in the Regional report entitled "Regional Jurisdiction – Water Infrastructure" and "Regional Jurisdiction – Wastewater Infrastructure".

Economic Impact

There are no immediate economic impacts resulting from the adoption of this report.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform Council on the Region of York's updated final draft policies related to the jurisdiction of water and wastewater infrastructure, and to advise the Region that the City of Vaughan has no comments on these final draft policies entitled "Regional Jurisdiction – Water Infrastructure" and "Regional Jurisdiction – Wastewater Infrastructure".

Background - Analysis and Options

Under the Municipal Act, 2001, the Region of York is given exclusive jurisdiction over water production, treatment and storage; and is restricted in its ability to sell water directly to the end consumer. The Region is only permitted to wholesale service to the local municipality who then have the responsibility to retail services to the end consumer. The Municipal Act however, does not give guidance on what constitutes Regional water distribution or wastewater infrastructure. As a result, it is important to have policies in place defining the jurisdiction of water distribution and wastewater infrastructure.

The Region's current infrastructure jurisdictional policies related to sanitary sewer systems and water systems have been in place since 1999 and 2002 respectively. These policies have been found to be too prescriptive to be readily applicable across the Region in an equitable manner. The new policies shift to a more Regional system based perspective where the same fundamental criteria are applied along with an added consideration for the Regional functionality and how it relates to each unique local municipality.

On April 27, 2006 Regional Council approved the two proposed policies entitled "Regional Jurisdiction – Water Infrastructure" and "Regional Jurisdiction – Wastewater Infrastructure".

The following is a general summary of the jurisdictional criteria established within the new Regional policies relating to water and wastewater infrastructure. Regional infrastructure that is identified in the Regional Master Plan shall meet the following functions necessary to provide:

- Water / wastewater treatment.
- Pumping to a storage tank, treatment facility or other Regional system.
- Storage of water.

- Flow equalization tanks.
- Metering for the purpose of municipal billing and tracking inter-municipal flows.
- Conveyance systems that meet a series of specific criteria intended to define and support Regional functions listed above.
- Field information collection systems (SCADA) where appropriate.
- Interconnectivity where required through the Regional Master Plan.

Infrastructure that meets this criteria but that is not currently identified in the Regional Master Plan will be reviewed during the periodic master plan updates to ensure appropriate Regional context is considered in the decision making process. Deviations to the criteria may also be considered provided it is warranted and it is in alignment with the overriding servicing objectives of the Region's Master Plan.

Staff have been involved in discussions with the Region on their infrastructure jurisdictional policy review process since the spring of 2005. During this time meetings were coordinated, the policy update process was reviewed and comments were provided.

Once the Region's policies are adopted by their Council and accepted by all local municipalities, the next step will be to work closely with individual municipalities to identify existing infrastructure which may qualify under the new policies for transfer.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

In consideration of the strategic priorities established by Vaughan Vision 2007, the recommendations of this report will assist in ensuring:

- Effective and efficient delivery of services;
- The implementation of OPA 600;
- Effective political leadership; and
- Stronger relationships with other government authorities and agencies.

Conclusion

Copies of the associated Regional Council report and updated policies on the jurisdiction of water and wastewater infrastructure have been formally circulated to all local municipalities for comment by May 31, 2006.

Staff have been involved in the review and updating of the Regional policies on water and wastewater infrastructure jurisdiction since the spring of 2005. Accordingly, it is recommended that the Region be advised that the City of Vaughan has no further comment on the final draft policies as presented.

It is anticipated that Regional Staff will be providing a report for adoption of the policies by Regional Council in June 2006 following formal notification and acceptance from all local municipalities.

Staff will continue to work closely with the Region to identify current City infrastructure that may classify for Regional assumption. It is anticipated that a future report addressing this issue in detail will be brought forward to Regional Council for consideration in the Fall.

Attachment

N/A

Report prepared by:

Michael Frieri, Development Supervisor, Engineering Planning and Studies, Ext. 8729
Rob Meek, Manager of Environmental & Technical Services, Ext. 6100

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Robinson, P. Eng.
Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works

Michael Won, P. Eng.
Director of Development /
Transportation Engineering

Brian T. Anthony, CRS-S, C. Tech
Director of Public Works