

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING OF - JUNE 14, 2007

AMENDMENTS TO SCHEDULES "L" AND "K" OF FEES BY-LAW NO. 396-2002

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works recommends that:

1. Schedule "L" of By-law No. 396-2002 (as amended by By-law No. 286-2004), be further amended so that the unit price for backyard composters reads "Cost minus \$10 each," and
2. The fee for a Municipal Consent as listed in Schedule K of the Fees and Charges By-Law 396-2002 be increased from \$260 to \$405.

Economic Impact

On average, less than 200 backyard composter units are sold per year. This wording change will have no impact on the 2007 draft budget, but will result in an increase of \$2 per composter unit when sold to residents.

There could be an increase to revenue generated through Municipal Consent applications which is estimated to be approximately \$12,615. This figure is based on 87 Municipal Consent applications processed in 2006.

Communications Plan

The revised prices for composters will be advertised in the upcoming collection schedule, the Greening Vaughan web site, as well as through notices in the City Page.

The amendments for the Fees and Charges By-Law 396-2002 will be advertised per City policy in the local news papers and the City's web site.

Purpose

To amend the Fees and Charges By-law to allow the Public Works Department to sell backyard composters at a price reflective of the cost to the City, minus a \$10 subsidy per unit. This revised price(s) will in be in keeping with the recommendation approved by Council in 2003 allowing for a \$10.00 subsidy per backyard composter.

To seek Council approval to increase the fee for a Municipal Consent as listed in Schedule K of the Fees and Charges By-Law 396-2002 from \$260 to \$405 to reflect the cost of providing the service.

Background - Analysis and Options

Schedule L

On February 10, 2003, Council approved a report entitled "Steps to Increase Waste Diversion". Of particular relevance was the recommendation, "That the sale of backyard composters be subsidized at a rate of \$10.00 per composter". At the time of that report, the cost to the City for backyard composters was approximately \$25 per unit. With the implementation of the \$10 subsidy, the sale price to the residents was \$15 per unit. Currently, the Fees and Services By-law identifies the price of backyard composters as \$15 per unit.

Since the time of the February 10, 2003 report, the cost of the backyard composters has increased slightly. This price increase is reflective of the higher costs associated with purchasing raw materials (petroleum based products) to manufacture plastic products like backyard composters. In 2007, the cost to the City to purchase backyard composters is \$27 per composter. In keeping with the \$10 subsidy approved in 2003, this would increase the price of the composters from \$15 to \$17 per unit.

Although the price the City pays for the composters does not change too frequently, the recommendation permitting the "Cost, minus \$10 each" will allow for City staff to alter the price of the backyard composters as necessary without having to amend the by-law. This would ensure that the price of the composter is always consistent with the 2003 recommendation providing for a \$10 subsidy per composter.

Schedule K

The Municipal Consent is a service provided by the Utility Coordinator within Engineering Services Department. It represents the technical review of the proposed location of new plant by Utility Companies, ensuring that spatial and technical requirements within the City's rights-of-way are maintained and properly managed.

The Engineering Services Department has been in lengthy negotiations with telecommunications companies to enter into a Municipal Access Agreement (MAA) with the City.

At the time that City Departments were solicited for amendments to the schedules of the Fees and Charges By-Law 396-2002, the fee for a Municipal Consent was under negotiation. The historical fee within the current By-law was approved by Council and is set at \$260.

Discussions with the major telecommunications companies have set the revised Municipal Consent fee at \$405. Agreements executed by Rogers Cable Communications Inc. and Bell Canada are now with the City for our execution.

It is prudent to amend our fee for Municipal Consent at this time.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and complies with Vaughan Vision, specifically Vaughan Vision A "Serve our Citizens" and B "Manage our Resources".

Regional Implications

None.

Conclusion

The proposed amendment to the Fees and Charges By-law will allow the City to sell backyard composters at cost, less \$10/unit, and is in keeping with Council's previous intent to subsidize the cost by a set amount. Although the price of the composters has remained fairly steady from year to year, the "Cost minus \$10" will allow City staff to alter the price of composters without the need for a staff report being prepared every time the price of backyard composters increases or decreases.

Municipal Access Agreements with Rogers Cable Communications Inc. and Bell Canada have established an increased fee for a Municipal Consent, set at \$405. It is therefore

prudent to amend the fee for a Municipal Consent as listed in Schedule K of the current Fees and Charges By-Law 396-2002 from \$260 to \$405.

Attachments

None.

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Respectfully submitted,

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