



MEMO

To: Ad-Hoc Budget Committee

From: Chief Administrative Officer

Date: February 12, 2025

Subject: Request to Alter Water Billing Method at 99 Axmith Avenue

Background

At the Ad-Hoc Budget Committee meeting on January 29, 2025, Mr. Patrick Maloney, speaking on behalf of the owner of 99 Axmith Avenue, raised concerns about the City's current water billing model used to fund its annual water/wastewater budget. He requested that the City consider an alternative approach, that being the installation of a single meter for the 24-unit dwelling at 99 Axmith Avenue, rather than charging each unit the annual user fee for water and wastewater services.

Analysis

The municipality's User Pay Budget for Water and Wastewater is structured in accordance with provincial regulations, which mandate that rates must fully recover the costs associated with water consumption and wastewater disposal.

The current User Pay Water and Wastewater rates are designed to ensure that the municipality meets its legal obligation to fund the water/wastewater budget solely through user fees, without reliance on taxation. This model secures the necessary funds for both operational expenses and long-term asset renewal and replacement.

At present, the billing structure applies a flat annual rate of \$1,055.00 per unit (residential, multi-dwelling, or commercial). Commercial units may incur additional costs based on actual consumption. This rate covers expenses related to water treatment, distribution, and disposal.

Request for a Single Meter for a 24-Unit Complex

The proposal to implement a single water meter for a 24-unit complex raises significant concerns regarding equity and financial sustainability. Allowing such an exception would create an imbalance in the funding model, granting one property a financial advantage over other multi-dwelling unit owners.

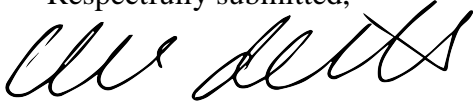
Furthermore, reducing the number of billed units would limit the municipality's ability to maintain sufficient revenue for ongoing operations and infrastructure investments. Ontario municipalities are legally required to fund water and wastewater services exclusively through user fees, ensuring

these costs are not shifted onto property taxpayers. This system promotes fairness, cost recovery, and the long-term viability of essential infrastructure.

Conclusion

While consolidating water billing may appear to reduce costs for individual property owners, it would have broader implications for fairness, revenue stability, and the sustainability of municipal water services. Maintaining equity among ratepayers and securing adequate funding for the municipality are critical to upholding a fair and effective system for all residents.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob deBortoli", written in a cursive style.

Rob deBortoli