

A Strategic Session is a standing Committee of Council for the purpose of reviewing specific municipal matters in an informal meeting setting.

Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

Council met to discuss the County's Waterworks Connection Bylaw, and Water and Sewer Policy and Procedure. The session focused specifically on residents connecting to municipal water and sewer services constructed by the County, as well as fair and equitable off-site levy requirements.

The County is committed to providing quality water and sewer services, as well as protecting the lake and other environmentally-sensitive areas. Council's goals are to improve the health of the natural environment and ensure the health of residents through investment in municipal infrastructure. In order to achieve these ends, the County has invested considerable funds to construct water and sewer trunk mains to service local subdivisions, particularly those located along the lake.

Council discussed ways in which the County's Water and Sewer Connection Policy could offer procedures and implementation practices that will both treat residents fairly and serve as a catalyst to protect County watersheds from the impacts of on-site sewage disposal systems.

Council discussed possible ways to encourage and mandate residents' connection to County infrastructure, where available. Council discussed incentives, amortization and penalties in order to encourage compliance. They also discussed the intrinsic increase in property value to homeowners who are connected to municipal services.

After discussion, Council directed Administration to make the following amendments to the draft bylaw, policy and procedure:

- Include three-year grace period for connection once the bylaw has been approved.
- Include a \$5,000 penalty for failure to connect to water and sewer services in service areas within three years.
- Offer no possibility for timeline extensions to connect to water and sewer lines after the three-year grace period is over.

The draft bylaw, policy and procedure will be brought back to Council at the September 1, 2015 Policy and Priorities Committee Meeting. Once the draft bylaw has been reviewed by Council, it will be brought before residents at public consultations prior to final ratification.



Strategic Session
July 29, 2015