

Re: Charges for:

1. Repairs to Sewer House Connections, and
2. Water Valve Turn-Offs and Turn-Ons

ITEM 17

MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 45

COUNCIL MEETING June 23/75

Following is a report from the Municipal Engineer regarding proposed charges for repairs to sewer house connections and water valve turn-offs and turn-ons.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT for repairs to sewer house connections, the property owner be made responsible for clearing blockages and the cost thereof from the house to the main sewer including the portion with the road allowance, effective immediately; and
2. THAT the Corporation bear the cost of repairs to sewer house connections only if the blockage is caused by a crushed or broken pipe on the road allowance or by roots from trees growing on road allowances; and
3. THAT water valve turn-offs and turn-ons done during normal working hours would be free of direct charge; and
4. THAT water turn-offs and turn-ons after normal working hours be charged at a rate of \$10 per each visit, effective upon passage of the suitable Waterworks Bylaw amendment; and
5. THAT suitable publicity be afforded towards implementation of the recommendations contained in this report.

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20 June, 1975

TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER

FROM: MUNICIPAL ENGINEER

SUBJECT: CHARGES FOR:

- (1) REPAIRS TO SEWER HOUSE CONNECTIONS; AND
- (2) WATER VALVE TURN-OFFS AND TURN-ONS

With continuing and increasing budget restrictions, the above matters have been under consideration for some time; we feel that the time has come when we can no longer provide these services as a charge to the budget as a whole. In 1974 the cost for sewer services repairs was \$42,562 and water turn-offs and turn-ons was \$18,455.

Even though water costs are not directly reflected in the general mill rate portion of the budget, we feel that this is a convenience service to certain individual taxpayers and therefore costs should not be shared by all customers of the water utility.

(1) Repairs to Sewer House Connections

In the past, it has been the practise for the Municipality to assume the cost for any blockage from the property line to the main sewer with the householder assuming the responsibility for the portion of the service connection on private property.

In many cases when a blockage occurred, the householder would call a plumber who proceeded to rod the connection from the house towards the main; the plumber would force the blockage beyond the portion on private property and then claim that the stoppage was the responsibility of the Corporation.

In almost all cases, the blockage is caused by material coming from the house; the main sewer is seldom blocked.

If the blockage is between the property line and the main sewer in a location which is unsuitable for corrective work being done by the plumber, the digging will be done by Corporation forces with the Corporation assuming the cost only if the blockage is caused by a crushed or broken pipe, or by roots from trees growing on road allowances. In all other cases, the costs will be paid by the homeowner.

(cont'd)

ITEM 17

MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 45

COUNCIL MEETING June 23/75

(2) Water Valve Turn-Offs and Turn-Ons

In this case, we recommend as follows:

- (a) Any turnoffs and turn-ons done during normal working hours would be free of direct charge.
- (b) Turn-offs or turn-ons after normal working hours would be charged at the rate of \$10.00 per each visit.

This charge is intended to act as a deterrent, with actual cost under overtime conditions being more like \$25.00 per visit. The deterrent is necessary because of the almost irresponsible manner in which many inexperienced home-owners perform their home plumbing work.

The introduction of these charges would generate a revenue of approximately \$40,000 annually for general revenue account and approximately \$8,000 for the water utility revenue account.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT for repairs to sewer house connections, the property owner be made responsible for clearing blockages and the cost thereof from the house to the main sewer including the portion within the road allowance, effective immediately; and,
2. THAT the Corporation bear the cost of repairs to sewer house connections only if the blockage is caused by a crushed or broken pipe on the road allowance or by roots from trees growing on road allowances; and,
3. THAT water valve turn-offs and turn-ons done during normal working hours would be free of direct charge; and,
4. THAT water turn-offs and turn-ons after normal working hours be charged at a rate of \$10 per each visit, effective upon passage of the suitable Waterworks By-law amendment; and,
5. THAT suitable publicity be afforded towards implementation of the recommendations contained in this report.


MUNICIPAL ENGINEER

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