

**NOTES OF MEETING WITH
ONTARIO CLEAN WATER AGENCY
JANUARY 12, 2006 AT 10:30 A.M.
Latchford Council Chambers**

PRESENT: Mike Delmonte, OCWA
Tony Janssen, OCWA
George Terry, OCWA
Mayor Peter Davies
Betty Gibson, Clerk

A meeting was convened with OCWA representatives to review a number of items.

Following is a summary of the significant items of discussion in the order they occurred:

- OCWA stressed the importance of the Town being in compliance with all new regulations; and that OCWA ensures the Town is made aware of what is going on in order that it is communicated to residents.
- Under the Drinking Water Quality Management Standard, another license may be required and OCWA advised they will be prepared if this is necessary.
- OCWA has integrated workplace management and will convert it into our financial management plan.
- It was noted there should be a long-term budget for capital improvements.
- The concept of a “hub structure” was discussed, and OCWA stated that regional management would not affect OCWA’s operation, but all municipalities within the “hub” would be under one “board”, comparable to DTSSAB.
- Mayor Davies questioned OCWA regarding Elk Lake’s water treatment operation, whereby Elk Lake uses one of their own trained staff to respond to such things as low pressure alarms and fire alarms, but would not respond if the Plant were to shut down and there was no water.
- Mayor Davies commented that Latchford had been out of water for six hours, and Mr. Janssen stated that this may happen now and then, but the aforementioned occurrence was an unusual situation.

- **Contract:**
 - Mayor Davies advised that the Town is interested in a slightly better deal with OCWA i.e. if the Town could save on their contract by responding to low pressure alarms as is done in Elk Lake.
 - Mr. Janssen noted that the present contract does not expire until 2008, and it would be almost impossible to renegotiate it.
 - George Terry suggested that different options could be reviewed by OCWA, who could advise whether such options are plausible.
 - Mayor Davies reiterated the importance of endeavouring to find a way to decrease the cost of the OCWA contract.
 - Mayor Davies commented that the Town would be interested in hiring an employee who had some water certification in order to be qualified to assist OCWA with operations; emphasizing that the Town does not wish to replace OCWA.
 - George Terry emphasized that the new “REGS” leave no room for errors.

- **Alarm System:** The alarm system was discussed, and the Mayor advised that the Town will be putting in a new alarm system at the Water Treatment Plant and will provide the estimate to OCWA for their review. Mr. Janssen suggested that the alarm system could be answered through OCWA’s alarm response system. Mr. Delmonte suggested talking to Earth Tech to check on the possibility of this work being included in the upgrades, noting the Town could still employ a local business to do the work.

- **Heat Pump:**

Mayor Davies noted the Town is considering a “heat pump” at the Water Treatment Plant. A new system may be included in the Upgrades, and Earth Tech will be contacted in this regard.

- **Upgrades;**

Mr. Janssen stated that OCWA receives a large number of call-outs to Latchford i.e. cleaning filters every two weeks, noting that this is due to the required upgrades.

- **Distribution System;**
 - It was noted that the infrastructure is also in need of major repairs. Mr. Terry advised that the whole grid should be reviewed. Some valve boxes are rotted off and full of sand. He noted that the new legislation applies to distribution systems also.

- Mr. Delmonte stated that the higher pressure may cause problems to the old distribution system.
- Mr. Janssen suggested having “A1 Hydrants” swab and review the whole system.
- Once there is a model set up – make sure there is proper documentation.

- Upgrades:
 - Diesel generator will not be as critical with the hydro-magnetic tanks – also more efficient.
 - High lift pump will shut down when pressure is at the right level.

- OCWA’s Mandate is to provide an arms length operation for water/waste water management.

- Sewage: It was noted that mechanical sewage plant costs approximately \$25,000 over the cost of lagoons, but emphasized that lagoons also fall under the new regulations.

- Contract Cost: The Mayor reiterated his desire for OCWA to review the possibility of the Town using an employee to assist OCWA in order to save money. OCWA noted that the cost is typical of other similar municipalities.

- Clusters: Mr. Terry noted legislation must be put in place to incorporate this system. Some municipalities may feel that they are being forced into a type of “amalgamation”.

- Mr. Delmonte noted that the skill sets have changed dramatically in the last three years, and any water operators must be both technically and instrumentation trained, in order to trouble shoot the variety of problems in different types of plants.

- Upgrades: Mike Delmonte advised that OCWA is a resource for the Town during the project, as engineers and contractors are not water experts, and asked that OCWA be included in all meetings, especially during the commissioning stage.

- Sewage Pump: Mike Delmonte noted that there have been a number of repairs required and he has talked to the manufacturer in this regard. Mayor Davies questioned if it should be replaced.