

## Minutes - Public Meeting (Council Adjourned)



**MEETING DATE:** July 24, 2006 – 7:30 pm

**LOCATION:** The Blue Mountains Council Chamber

**PREPARED BY:** Serena Wilgress, Deputy Clerk

### A. Call to Order

- Mayor Anderson called the scheduled Public Meeting to order regarding the imposition of a fee or charge for the consumption of water and the use of a sewage system.
- Mayor Anderson then asked if anyone wished to speak to the proposed fee or charge.
- Director of Finance Chris Fawcett noted that there were approximately 12 people in attendance at the open house held earlier that day, during which proposed rates and related budget information was reviewed.
- Area resident Paul Mitchell noted concern with metered billings not occurring until well into 2007, noting the process has taken a long time to bring about.
- Mr. Mitchell then questioned the water rate, noting no sewer rate appeared to be in any of the paperwork distributed at the open house.
- Manager of Environmental Services John Caswell noted meter reading was to begin in late 2006 and that information would be distributed to all ratepayers later this year, bi-monthly billings to begin in January 2007.
- John then noted the majority of the meters were installed in 2005 and 2006, further noting a by-law needs to be considered by Council.
- Chris then clarified meter readings will be taken in late 2006 with bills to be sent out in 2007.
- Councillor Gamble questioned the rate structure, Chris noting a report will be brought back to Council in September.
- CAO Paul Graham noted lower usage would result in lower user charges.
- Councillor Martin questioned if ratepayers would be charged before the rate was set, Paul replying no.
- Chris noted the Town was still investigating the consumption rates.
- Paul Mitchell questioned when the sewage charge would come into effect, CAO Paul Graham noting there would be two different rates for wastewater and water with wastewater generally higher.
- Area resident Chris Nick questioned an estimate for his home, John noting the information has not been compiled at this time, a report to come to Council in the near future.
- Chris Fawcett noted Capital costs are based on service area, noting there were differences between the Camperdown and Lora Bay.
- Mr. Nick noted concern with costs being shared by developers and ratepayers.
- As no one further wished to speak, Mayor Anderson declared the Public Meeting to be adjourned.