

Cost recovery model for servicing historical grinder pumps on private property

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Presentation Outline

1. Previous Direction
2. Progress Update
3. Staff Recommendation

Previous Direction

Council, at its **October 30, 2023, regular meeting**, adopted “Sewerage and Drainage Regulation Bylaw No. 5263, 2023”.

Council, at its **January 27, 2025, Closed meeting**, passed the following resolutions:

THAT

staff be directed to prepare an amendment to Sewerage and Drainage Regulation Bylaw No. 5263, 2023, such that the District maintains, repairs, replaces municipal grinder pumps as required;

staff be directed to report back to Council with a proposed cost-recovery model for maintaining these systems for consideration at a future closed Council meeting;

the cost recovery model include a simplified form of release and indemnification in favour of the District; and

the decision to prepare an amendment to Sewerage and Drainage Regulation Bylaw No. 5263, 2023 and development of a cost-recovery model be released for public information.

Council, at its **March 31, 2025, Closed meeting**, directed staff to prepare and send a letter to the owners of those properties which have benefited from historical municipally-maintained grinder pump systems. The letter (**Appendix A**) was to provide property owners with an overview of a legal framework for cost recovery based on a Local Area Service model, including some terms and conditions for a District servicing plan. The letter allowed for an opportunity to opt in to participate in the cost recovery model once established.

Progress Update: Cost Recovery Model

- Staff have continued to work internally and with legal counsel to explore mechanisms for reinstating service for historical pumps under a Local Area Service model of cost recovery.
- On closer inspection, staff have identified several legal, administrative and practical challenges that require Council's additional direction.
- The additional legal and internal review suggests a “fee for service” approach as a more appropriate cost recovery tool.

Progress Update: Considerations for Implementation

- Given unique history, risk and liability considerations, and servicing needs for grinder pumps located on private property, a bylaw alone may not provide adequate clarity or certainty for either the District or beneficiaries of the proposed grinder pump servicing plan.
- Establishing Council policy and supporting procedure could provide clear terms and conditions for a private pump servicing plan and its provision, including the requirement for a Statutory Right of Way against the property title for local area service eligibility.

Staff Recommendation

THAT the report from the Director, Engineering and Transportation Services, dated October 6, 2025, titled “Cost recovery model for servicing historical grinder pumps on private property” be received for information.

THAT

1. staff be directed to proceed with developing a fee-for-service model that provides for reinstatement of District servicing of historical municipal maintained grinder pumps benefiting private property owners on a cost-recovery basis;
2. staff be directed to prepare a proposed policy and supporting procedures that provide for District servicing on a fee-for-service cost-recovery basis;
3. staff prepare applicable amendments to the District of West Vancouver’s Sewerage and Drainage Regulation Bylaw No. 5263, 2023, that allows for reinstatement of servicing of historical municipal maintained grinder pumps benefitting private property owners on a cost recovery basis; and
4. staff report back in Q1 2026 with an update on the Council direction, including proposed policy and supporting procedure and proposed bylaw amendments for Council's consideration.

**Thank you
and
Questions?**

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