

**To: David Creery, Chief Administrative Officer**

**From: Dan Locke, Director of Public Works**  
**Harold de Haan, City Engineer**

**Re: Water and Wastewater Contract Negotiations**

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## **AIM**

To provide City Council with an update on the City of Woodstock negotiations with the County of Oxford for the Water Distribution and Wastewater Collection Contract agreement.

## **BACKGROUND**

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023, County Council passed the following resolution.

*Resolved that Report No. PW 2023-26 entitled “2022 Water Quality Management System Update” be received as information and that the report be deferred to negotiations and that the Town of Tillsonburg and City of Woodstock be provided the option to bring forth comments with regards to the aforementioned report;*

*And further, that County Council authorize the Chief Administrative Officer and Director of Public Works to negotiate a new Water Distribution and Wastewater Collection agreement and bring it back to County Council for approval by August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 with the Town of Tillsonburg and City of Woodstock, to further delineate the specific roles and responsibilities of both the upper tier municipality (Oxford County) and the lower tier municipalities of Tillsonburg and Woodstock.*

Prior to this on April 6, 2023, City Council passed the following resolution.

*That Woodstock City Council requests County Council to defer consideration of changes that impact the status of the City of Woodstock as operating authority of the water distribution system;*

*And further that City Council direct City Staff and request County Council to direct County Staff to bring forward a renewed Water and Wastewater Services Agreement to replace the 2006 service agreement before the end of 2023 for approval by City and County Council;*

*And further that this review include the proposed changes to DWQMS system and all other necessary updates.*

**COMMENT**

City Staff along with Tillsonburg Staff have been negotiating with County Staff, meeting four times to date with several more meetings scheduled in August. Progress has been made and all parties have already agreed on several changes to the agreement. The next meeting is an all-day meeting on August 4<sup>th</sup>. Although progress has been made there are still some outstanding items that need to be negotiated. The Drinking Water Quality Management System (DWQMS) and the Operating Authority are two items that have not yet been discussed. It is the focus of City and Town Staff that this will be the bulk of the discussion on August 4<sup>th</sup>.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Woodstock City Council receive the report regarding Water and Wastewater Contract Negotiations as information.

*Authored by: Dan Locke, C.E.T., Director of Public Works*

*Authored by: Harold de Haan, P.Eng., City Engineer*

*Approved by: David Creery, M.B.A., P.Eng., Chief Administrative Officer*