

**2020.02.24 Councillor Raven Notes to File Ellsworth Estates Water System Meeting. Centreville Hall, 7PM Start-8:45PM Adjourn. Approximately 40-persons in attendance including Mayor Muttart and MLA John Lohr**

Actions Cecil offered in response to questions raised during the discussion

- Filters on HWY 221 water pipes serving customers to the west of Ellsworth Estates that were removed will be replaced.
- He will designate an employee as a contact to report problems to that can be used when he is away or cannot be reached. Noted that his electrician is Ron Keddy and Chris Brown is an employee with knowledge of the system.
- He will provide advance notice of any scheduled maintenance by: joining the Ellsworth Estates Community FaceBook group; placing an advance notice poster on the mailbox on Andrew Drive; and communicating by email with those who provide their email.
- He will build a shed for the generator he has purchased this Spring/Summer, in the meantime the pump house will be wired so it can be brought to Ellsworth and attached quickly.
- Low-pressure issues, although not bad right now, will be addressed to ensure pressure is better and will be further addressed to ensure the pressure is appropriate to the higher water use that will arrive during the summer months.
- He does not see any immediate need for an increase in the water rate and plans to hold the water rate at \$400 for the foreseeable future.
- In terms of long-term viability of his ownership and continuance of the service, he offered to sell the water system to a home-owners cooperative, if there is interest.
- Will consider a regular maintenance schedule in lieu of fixing things once they break.
- If some-one in the subdivision is willing to take on the role of contacting him when water is out and hooking up the generator, he would compensate them for their time by providing water to his/her household at no cost.
- No plans to flush the system as that action is not required/appropriate for Ellsworth.

Items customers want Cecil to consider

- Agree to an independent assessment of the system's reliability.
- The customers have a strong preference for installation of an automatic generator that will "kick in" when there is a power outage.
- Better recording of paid and unpaid bills to decrease demands for payment when invoice has been paid.

Actions that customers can take

- Send an email and their name(s) to Pauline at [paulineraven@gmail.com](mailto:paulineraven@gmail.com) or [councillor.raven@countyofkings.ca](mailto:councillor.raven@countyofkings.ca) as a way to be added to a notification list for scheduled outages.

- Join the Ellsworth Estates Community FaceBook site as that will be one of the formats used for notifications.

#### Feedback of customers regarding options

- There was no interest expressed in switching from the current ownership to a Home-owners Co-operative. It should be noted that this option was raised as a way to address concerns regarding a succession plan if the current owner is no longer able and as a method to give customers more direct control over the water. (The Mayor suggested the formation of a water co-op would involve purchase from Cecil, linking shares to lot sales, an ability to install a fail-safe back-up system, and hiring their own maintenance manager).
- There was some interest in the Municipality becoming the owner, this interest decreased sharply when the issue of any significant increase in annual costs would be likely.
- Some customers (3) indicated their intent to drill a well. There was discussion by one customer indicating that he would be seeking a legal opinion on whether the covenant would continue to require payment to Cecil.

#### Actions the municipality could potentially take

- Make inquiries with our Director of Engineering and report back regarding the reports of sand in the system (toilet tanks, tubs and taps).
- If Cecil agrees, help address how an independent assessment of the system's reliability could be achieved.

CC: Mayor Muttart; MLA John Lohr; Centreville and District Community Development Association.