



Municipality of the District of Argyle

Item: New Sewer Connection
Support – West Pubnico Sewer

Date: May 27, 2021

VISION

We see Argyle as home to a healthy and thriving rural population. Our municipality promotes and supports economic and social opportunities for the region and engages in the active expression of our unique Acadian heritage. We are a place of choice for rural living and are widely recognized for our warm hospitality and joie de vivre. Surrounded by fresh air and cool ocean breezes, we work and play in the great outdoors. People choose to live in Argyle because of our commitment to each other, to our community and to our neighbors. Argyle is a place we are proud to call home.

Background:

Earlier this year we received a sewer connection request from a resident living at 519 Hwy 335 in West Pubnico. The resident is still using an old on-site sewer and it is at the end of its life. After initial plan review and regular processing we approved the connection in principle as it seemed that the as-built drawings was showing an existing lateral for this existing house. Based on our approval the owner hired an approved installer to proceed with the connection. The contractor had trouble locating the lateral, even with PW staff assistance and double checking our records. After further investigation along the main sewer line with CCTV we came to the conclusion that the lateral was not installed during the initial sewer installation in 1977. The reasons are still not clear and it was never recorded in any notes back in the days. We continued our work to find a solution for the owner to make a connection at lowest cost possible. To allow for a gravity connection the owner would be required to run the lateral through her yard alongside Hwy 335 and then cross under the Hwy 335 to connect to an existing manhole.

The By-Law reads that the owner is responsible for all cost for the installation of a connection to the sewer including crossing any public road and are responsible for the re-installment of paving and all related permits. In this individual case we are dealing with an existing home that was built prior the installation of the sewer main line and the lateral installation was not performed during the initial construction phase, even though it was on the design drawings. The reasons are unknown and it creates a situation of a disadvantage to the homeowner, who is still the same owner since the sewer installation happened in 1977.

Due to this error from 1977 and disadvantage to the owner the Public Works department is prepared to support the homeowner with the cost and contractor selection for the work within the road right of way, as it has been done for other residents and business owners in the community just recently. Based on the recent lateral upgrade work on Franks Rd. we are estimating the costs to be around \$5,000 to \$6,000 to install a residential 100mm (4" diameter) lateral within the road right of way to create a connection for the resident.

Staff is requesting respectfully to approve the request of the resident in aid in creating a better sewer connection for this home and reduce the environmental impact in this community.

MGA considerations:

Council has the power to create and administer a sewer by-law for a community. The West Pubnico Sewer By-Law was created in 2005 and council has the option to make exceptions for individual cases as Part 4 – Connections, Section 4 of the By-Law.

The owner of a building, the nearest part of which is not more than one hundred and fifty feet (150') from any portion of the municipal sewer shall be required to connect to the municipal sewer system, at the owners expense, however, Council may exempt therefrom any such building as appears to it:

- (i) to be adequately served with existing on-site sewage disposal systems;*
- (ii) would not be adequately served by connection to the sewerage system*

Council may review this as a case by case situation.

CAO's Recommendation:

CAO agrees with Our PW Director in his recommendation, an recommends that the West Pubnico Wastewater Committee be advised that Council is considering this motion, as they have approved the 2021-22 operating budget. Also Recommend that Council approve this one time request, as the issue is not at the fault of the homeowner.

Recommend that the install be properly recorded by Public Works for the future, therefore they shall be coordinating the work on the project.

Suggested motion:

Council is accepts the exemption of the property at 519 Hwy 335, West Pubnico from the By-Law and approves the installation of a sewer lateral within the public road right of way to a maximum commitment of \$5,000, and the work shall be administered by Public Works staff.