

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 7, 2016

Item 12, Report No. 7, of the Finance, Administration and Audit Committee, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on June 7, 2016.

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HOME DIALYSIS FINANCIAL RELIEF PLAN

The Finance, Administration and Audit Committee recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer and the Director of Financial Services/Deputy City Treasurer, dated May 30, 2016:

Recommendation

The Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer and the Director of Financial Services/Deputy City Treasurer in consultation with the Director of Environmental Services recommend:

1. That the City of Vaughan implement a home dialysis financial relief program; and
2. That a By-law be enacted to give effect to the Home Dialysis Financial Relief Program.

Contribution to Sustainability

The outcome of this report contributes to the sustainability of the health and well-being of residents, as well as the economic sustainability of residents taking dialysis treatment at home.

Economic Impact

The impact of implementing the Home Dialysis Financial Relief Program will be a decrease of approximately \$6,500 in water revenue per year. The impact will be absorbed by the existing Water and Wastewater Budget with the burden of the relief program shifting from the patients receiving home dialysis to the remaining water and wastewater rate payers. Although the relief program is expected to have a relatively small financial impact there are additional costs to administer and manage the program by city staff.

Communications Plan

This relief program is specifically targeted at a small group of residents in the city. Vaughan residents with chronic kidney disease (CKD) have a relationship with the Central Local Health Information Network (LHIN), the Ontario Branch of the Kidney Foundation of Canada and the Ontario Renal Network. Those organizations will be made aware of the relief program in order to communicate to those currently receiving home dialysis and invite them to apply for the rebate. Ongoing communication will focus on ensuring residents who need to begin receiving home dialysis are made aware of the program.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to review municipal policy with respect to residents receiving home dialysis treatment, and propose ways to mitigate the financial impact of that treatment. This relief program specifically targets a small group of residents in the city, those living with CKD.

Background

The City of Vaughan does not currently provide financial relief for residents undertaking dialysis treatments at home. Dialysis treatment requires a considerable amount of water that substantially impacts the average bill of a resident while undergoing dialysis treatment at home. A financial relief program would provide support to reduce the financial burden and encourage home dialysis treatment rather than undergoing treatment in a hospital or clinic.

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Facts about Chronic Kidney Disease

Source: Ontario Renal Reporting System

- The total number of CKD patients increased from 80 in 2000 to 107 in 2014 at Mackenzie Health, with a low of 69 in 2008 and a high of 116 in fiscal year 2010/2011.
- The provincial target for independent (home) dialysis is 40% of *appropriate* CKD patients.
- *Appropriate* CKD patients must meet several criteria including:
 - Emotionally and cognitively competent;
 - Stable medical condition;
 - Has a dependable dialysis care partner or provider available to help if necessary; and
 - Has sufficient water, electricity and space available in the home to accommodate the equipment.
- For the fiscal year 2013/2014, 25% of *appropriate* Mackenzie Health CKD patients chose home dialysis, approximately 10 patients.
- The impact of implementing the Home Dialysis Financial Relief Program at the City of Vaughan will be a decrease of approximately \$6,500 in water and wastewater revenue per year.

Only two municipalities currently provide financial relief to residents undergoing home dialysis treatment, the City of Ottawa and the Township of Clearwater.

Current Home Dialysis Relief Programs in Ontario

1. City of Ottawa
The City of Ottawa operates a Home Dialysis Grant Program which provides residents on home dialysis treatment with a grant of up to \$500 annually based on the amount of water used in their treatment regimen. Residents are asked to provide proof of treatment as well as details about the duration of the treatment and the equipment used, in order to gauge the amount of water consumption being directed to the treatment. In 2011, the City of Ottawa provided \$6,441.06 in grants for residents on home dialysis.
2. Township of Clearwater
The Township of Clearwater in Simcoe County currently provides residents on a proven home dialysis treatment regimen with a rebate for 90% of the water and wastewater rates and fees. The resident is expected to contribute the remaining 10% of the bill.

Proposed Vaughan Program Application Requirements

- Name of the applicant receiving home dialysis treatment
- Address of the applicant receiving treatment
- Water account details
- Description of the dialysis unit being used at home by the applicant
- Letter from a medical professional or hospital confirming the applicant as receiving home dialysis treatment, and the duration of that treatment

Relationship to Term of Council Service Excellence Strategy Map (2014-2018)

This report promotes the strategic goals of the Term of Council Service Excellence Strategy Map, in particular Council's priority of ensuring the safety and well-being of citizens.

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Regional Implications

Preliminary discussions with York Region suggests they are not positioned to provide financial relief for municipal programs. Through future discussions, staff will continue to pursue opportunities for recovering costs.

Conclusion

The implementation of a home dialysis financial relief program for area residents undergoing home dialysis treatment will provide financial aid to a limited number of people burdened by the cost of significantly greater water consumption. The overall financial cost to the City will be similarly limited while providing much needed support to ailing residents seeking treatment at home.

Attachments

N/A

Report prepared by:

Evan Read, Municipal Management Intern
Sean Skinkle, Acting Finance Manager, Water/Wastewater/Stormwater

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Evan Read, Municipal Management Intern

Sean Skinkle, Acting Finance Manager, Water/Wastewater/Stormwater

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Mirabella-Siddall, CPA, CA

Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer

Dean Ferraro, CPA, CA

Director of Financial Services/Deputy City Treasurer

THE CITY OF VAUGHAN

BY-LAW

BY-LAW NUMBER 076-2016

A By-law to authorize a relief program for patients receiving home dialysis treatment.

WHEREAS the Corporation of the City of Vaughan (the “**City**”) has a responsibility for the supply and distribution of water within its jurisdiction;

AND WHEREAS the City recognizes the financial burden of home dialysis treatment on residents;

AND WHEREAS the City deems it appropriate to provide financial relief to these residents;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the City delegate authority to the Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer to adjust the rebate as required;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the City ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. DEFINITION

- (1) “**Eligible Resident**” means a person who,
- (i) Requires dialysis as part of his or her treatment regimen;
 - (ii) Receives the necessary dialysis treatment at his or her place of residence;
 - (iii) Completes and submits the required form as outlined in Section 4; and
 - (iv) Receives written notification of approval from the City authorizing the application of a rebate for his or her account.

2. AUTHORIZATION

- (1) The application of a rebate for water consumption from Eligible Residents is authorized.

- (2) The Chief Financial Officer is authorized to review and adjust the rebate amounts as required.

3. REBATE

- (1) The rebate shall be based on the annual increase in the amount of water consumed by the Eligible Resident as a result of home dialysis treatment.
- (2) The City will issue a rebate cheque on a bi-monthly, pro-rated basis to the Eligible Resident while undergoing treatment.
- (3) The annual amount of the rebate shall be as follows:
 - (a) \$460.00 for an annual consumption increase up to 125 cubic metres;
 - (b) \$560.00 for an annual consumption increase between 126 and 175 cubic metres; and
 - (c) \$650.00 for an annual consumption increase in excess of 175 cubic metres.
- (4) The rebate program will be reviewed annually.

4. APPLICATION PROCESS

- (1) Applicants wishing to be considered for Eligible Resident status shall be required to complete and submit an application form to Water and Wastewater Financial Services staff annually by December 31st of each year for approval for the following calendar year.
 - (a) Where an individual commences home dialysis treatment after the application deadline outlined above, he or she may apply for a rebate during the calendar year, and where he or she is determined to be an Eligible Resident, shall be provided a rebate until December 31st of the following year.
- (2) The following information is required as part of the application:
 - (a) Name of the applicant receiving home dialysis treatment;
 - (b) Address of the applicant receiving treatment;
 - (c) Description of the dialysis unit being used at home by the applicant;
 - (d) Water account details; and
 - (e) Letter from a medical professional or hospital confirming the applicant as receiving home dialysis treatment, and the duration of that treatment.

- (3) Applicants shall be notified in a timely manner, of the result of their application. Where an individual has been determined to be an Eligible Resident, information shall be provided outlining the rebate.

Enacted by City of Vaughan Council this 7th day of June, 2016.

Hon. Maurizio Bevilacqua, Mayor

Jeffrey A. Abrams, City Clerk