



Corporate

NO: R246

Report

COUNCIL DATE: December 3, 2001

REGULAR COUNCIL			
TO:	Mayor & Council	DATE:	November 28, 2001
FROM:	General Manager, Finance, Technology & HR General Manager, Engineering	FILE:	0304-2002
SUBJECT:	New Drainage Parcel Tax		

RECOMMENDATION

That By-law No. 14593, Drainage Parcel Tax, be brought forward and that By-law No. 2183, Sewer Parcel Tax, be repealed.

BACKGROUND

Currently the sewer and drainage utility is funded through the sewer rates and the sewer parcel tax. The sewer parcel tax applies to all properties that are connected, or could connect, to the City's sewer system. To more equitably share overall sewer and drainage costs, it is proposed to eliminate the sewer parcel and introduce a drainage parcel tax. This approach was outlined in the 2002-2006 Five Year Financial Plan report to the Finance Committee, and at the November 6 meeting, the Finance Committee approved, subject to some minor adjustments, the overall sewer and drainage utility rate structure.

The new proposed drainage parcel tax would apply to all properties in Surrey, so a minority of parcels that did not pay the sewer parcel tax will, if approved, now see this new drainage parcel tax. The proposed parcel tax is a flat rate of \$140 on all parcels with the exception of agricultural lands. For agricultural lands, the parcel tax is proposed to be \$90 to reflect what the average size, 10-acre parcel pays to the dyking districts (average dyking charge is \$5/acre). The previous sewer parcel tax was \$136.

Future Steps

The establishment of a drainage parcel tax would be the first step in moving to user-pay for drainage. The next

steps would include the phasing out of the parcel tax and introducing a drainage charge based on size and use of a property.

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