

THE MUNICIPALITY OF LAMBTON SHORES

Report DPW 02-2024

Council Meeting Date: February 27, 2024

TO: Mayor Cook and Members of Council

FROM: Nick Verhoeven, Director of Public Works

RE: Sump Pump Disconnection and Backwater Valve Grant Program

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report DPW 02-2024 regarding the Sump Pump Disconnection and Backwater Valve Grant Program be received; and

THAT the Sump Pump Disconnection and Backwater Valve Grant Program be approved.

SUMMARY

This report recommends a Sump Pump Disconnection and Backwater Valve Grant Program for the Municipality. Funding for the program has been included in the 2024 Operating Budget.

BACKGROUND

Sump Pump Disconnection and Backwater Valve Installation Grant programs are becoming increasingly popular in Ontario Municipalities. It is seen as a cost effective way to reduce inflow into Sanitary Sewer systems and provide property owners grants to retrofit their plumbing to protect against sanitary sewer backups.

The goal of the Sump Pump Disconnection program is to encourage residents to disconnect sources of rainwater from entering the sanitary sewer system. Rainwater entering the sanitary system increases risks of backups, discharges to the environment, and increased pumping and treatment costs.

The Backwater Valve installation grant provides a grant for property owners to have a backwater valve installed on existing sanitary sewer connections. The backwater valves provide protection from sanitary sewer system backups.

Staff are proposing reimbursing costs up to \$2500 per property. The application would be made following completion of the work and accompanied by an invoice from a licensed plumber. Sump pump disconnections and backwater valves require a plumbing permit from the County of Lambton which is also a requirement of the grant program. The applications and grants would be reviewed and approved by staff. Staff propose to update Council on the grant program at any point where the funding gets fully committed and as part of 2025 budget deliberations.

A draft application and terms and conditions are attached to this report for Council consideration. Staff will be preparing a communication strategy through social media channels to advertise this program and educate the public.

Council may wish to consider passing a bylaw to require backwater valves on all new construction. Currently Lambton Shores does not have a bylaw but The Ontario Building Code does allow for municipalities to require them. Staff are aware that in Lambton County Sarnia, Plympton-Wyoming, and St Clair Township have passed such by-laws. If Council wishes to consider such a by-law, staff would ask for direction to prepare a by-law to a future meeting.

ALTERNATIVES TO CONSIDER

Council could make changes to the program at its discretion.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

That the Sump Pump Disconnection Grant and Backwater Valve Grant Program be approved for implementation.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The Sump Pump Disconnection Grant Program was included in the 2024 Budget by Council during budget deliberations.

CONSULTATION

Public Works Staff