



## **STAFF REPORT**

**TO:** Municipal Council

**FROM:** Marcia d'Eon, Director of Operations & Protective Services

**APPROVED BY:** **Warren Macleod, CAO**

**DATE:** September 11, 2024

**SUBJECT:** **Sewage Treatment Plant-Options-Municipal Capital Growth Program**

---

### **ORIGIN**

The Municipality received funding from the Municipal Capital Growth Program Fund to assist with demolition of the old courthouse building. Given the upcoming sale of this building, the funding will not be used for this purpose and can either be returned to the Province or spent on another eligible project.

### **BACKGROUND**

In 2020/2021 CBCL completed an assessment of the sewage treatment plant. This assessment included an operational review and evaluation of biosolids removal/disposal options as well as the management and disposal of the sludge within the lagoon. Based on the results of the assessment Council decided to proceed with a removal of the biosolids via the use of geotubes and to plan for future installation of other recommended algae prevention solutions. The final assessment report detailed options to increase the capacity, sustainability and compliance of the septage receiving station/sewage treatment plant including installation of a wetlands polishing pond, installation of surface aeration or mechanical algae removal. A wetlands polishing pond has previously been included in the budget forecast for the fiscal year 2025/2026.

### **DISCUSSION**

The sewage treatment operator has recommended the installation of a wetlands polishing pond and new septage receiving station as a means of expanding the capacity of the sewage treatment plant and ensuring continued compliance with Nova Scotia Environment & Climate Change (NSECC) regulations. These upgrades will ensure that we maintain the ability to accept septage from haulers who service properties utilizing on site septic disposal systems and have the capacity in our lagoon for increased usage in the event of additional sewer service connections. The majority of the Municipality's land mass available for housing development would require on-site septic systems, therefore, having the ability to accept septage is paramount.

Daniel Vincent approached CBCL to ask for a high-level estimate of the current cost for a wetland polishing pond and CBCL verbally indicated that it may be in the range of \$500,000. The quoted cost for a wetlands polishing pond received

in 2021 was in the range of \$245,000. Completion of this project will also necessitate installation of a new septage receiving station which is currently quoted as \$46,464+/- . Given the lack of a current site visit and updated technical data the cost estimate would be a class c at best, requiring a 25% to 40% contingency. The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$565,000+/-.

Options:

1. Return the funding (\$281000) to the Province.
2. Apply for an amendment requesting the change of use for the funding to now be used for the wetlands polishing pond and septage receiving station instead of the old courthouse demolition.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Be it resolved that the Council of the Municipality of the District of Shelburne authorizes staff to proceed with installation of a wetlands polishing pond and new septage receiving station if approved for funding by the Municipal Capital Growth Fund.

### **BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:**

If Council decides upon option 1, the \$281,000 currently held in deferred revenue will need to be returned to the province.

If Council decides upon option 2, the \$281,000 can be put towards the installation of a wetlands polishing pond and new septage receiving station with the shortfall of funds to come from the operating reserve.