

# **Maple Ridge Township**

## **Special Meeting Minutes**

Dec. 21, 2016

**Purpose of the Meeting:** Discuss Water Disconnect Issues with the DEQ and the Health Department Representatives, discuss payment of the disconnect fees, and vote to hold the regular monthly meeting immediately after this Special Meeting.

### **I. Call to order**

**Supervisor, Judy Trudell** called to order the Special meeting of the **Maple Ridge Township Board** at **6:30pm** on **Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2016** at the **Maple Ridge Community Building**. Board Members present were Supervisor Judy Trudell, Trustee Bill Toyra and Clerk Sue Sicotte. Treasurer Barb Nummilien and Trustee Sandy Beauchamp-Absent.

### **II. Pledge of Allegiance Recited**

### **III. Approval of Dec. 21, 2016 Agenda**

No additions or corrections made to the agenda - Stood as Written.

### **IV. Discussion Regarding Water Disconnect Issues:**

Representatives Chuck Thomas from Department of Environmental Quality along with Mike Snyder and Ian Nelson from Environmental Health were present to answer and discuss any questions in regards to any/all disconnections from the Maple Ridge Township Public Water System.

Chuck Thomas from DEQ made it very clear to the public that the decision as to where a disconnect takes place in a water system is by the Township Water Authority-being the Maple Ridge Township Board. DEQ and Environmental Health can make suggestions but they do not make that final decision, it is up to the Board.

He also made clear how the Physical disconnect, that is required, from the water system should be made and that it must be in a manner to eliminate any possibility of a cross connection occurrence. Putting a rock on the shut off, placing a pebble in the shut off mechanism, just removing the meter and the meter horn and turning off the water at that point and/or just turning off the water at the curb stop, were some of the procedures mentioned at the last regular meeting; as a means to disconnect from the water system. These procedures were addressed one at a time by Mr. Thomas. They are not an acceptable means to eliminate cross connection or a means to eliminate stagnant water filtering into the water system supply. He also confirmed the recent disconnect that took place was done in the best possible location; at the CORP (the connection to the water main). This was also confirmed by Traverse Engineering in an e-mail received 12-21-16. Mr. Thomas also stated that should the customer that just disconnected need to reconnect (in the future), a new service line could be provided through directional boring eliminating the need to tear up the road as stated in last month's meeting.

The question was brought up about residents not allowing digging up of the main adjacent to their property. It was also made very clear, that the Rock Water System Main Lines are in the road right of way-so Maple Ridge Township has Easement to these areas. The Township cannot be denied access.

The need for Ready to Serve charges was also explained. Testing of the water of new wells was also discussed.

The question was also asked "Who is responsible for the charge to disconnect from the public water supply?" The response given by Chuck Thomas was that it is Usual and Customary for the person getting the disconnect done, to pay the fees involved- that the other people on the water system should not be responsible for this fee. A set fee? No. You do not know what issues the contractor may encounter while completing the disconnect. He used the example; if you hire a plumber to do work at your house and he encounters a problem and/or unexpected issues, you as the homeowner still have to pay the bill. Clerk Sue Sicotte asked Mr. Thomas if he would please reiterate these statements to Dave Beauchamp and he did.

Ian Nelson was asked to comment on the discussion held with the Nummilien's and Dave Beauchamp that occurred and was addressed in the Nov.29, 2016 meeting minutes.

The three gentlemen answered questions from the Public.

*Meeting was recessed at 7:15pm to allow the guest to leave.*

*The Supervisor called it back to order at 7:23pm.*

**V. Approve Payment for the disconnect work done by Brunette Contracting:**

Motion by Bill, supported by Judy to approve the payment of \$2,800.00 to Brunette Contracting for the Nummilien disconnect work that was done. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

**VI. Determine Responsible Party for the Disconnect Fees**

This agenda item was tabled due to the absence of Barb Nummilien and Sandy Beauchamp. The Board felt a decision would not be made without their opportunity for input.

**VII. Approval of Minutes:**

Motion by Sue, supported by Bill to approve the Nov. 29, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes. All Ayes. Motion carried.

**VIII. Vote to reschedule the December 29<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting to be held tonight after the Special Meeting**

Motion by Bill, supported by Judy to cancel the Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting and hold the December Regular Meeting tonight Dec. 21, 2016 after the Special Meeting. All Ayes. Motion carried.

**IX. Public Comment**

Ted Bartczak commented on the vote to reschedule the December Regular Meeting

Linda Maki commented on the Absent Board members having prior commitments and the scheduling of the Special Meeting and Regular Meeting.

Dave Beauchamp commented on his wife Sandy Beauchamp's receipt of the notification letter to hold the Special Meeting. Clerk Sue Sicotte informed the public that the Special Meeting Notice was placed online and in Public on Sunday Dec. 18, 2016. This was 3 days prior to the meeting date-the requirement via Open Meetings act is 18 hours. She also confirmed that a copy of the Special Meeting notice was placed in the mail at the Rock post office on Sunday Dec. 18, 2016.

**Judy Trudell** adjourned the meeting at **7:35pm**.

Un-Approved Minutes submitted by: Sue Sicotte