

# Report

**City of Merritt**  
**REGULAR Council Meeting**  
**August 18, 2020**

**File Number: 3900.2286**

**To:** Sean Smith, Chief Administrative Officer  
**From:** Greg Lewis, Deputy Corporate Officer  
**Date:** August 10, 2020  
**Subject:** Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw 2286 – Trucked Liquid Waste

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT Council give first reading to the *Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 2286, 2020***

**And**

**THAT Council give second reading to the *Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 2286, 2020***

**And**

**THAT Council give third reading to the *Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 2286, 2020***

**Background:**

The City of Merritt operates a wastewater treatment plant, through which the City's effluent (both residential and commercial) is processed. In accordance with the *Community Charter* requirements, the fees for this service are set by Bylaw. The *Fees and Charges Bylaw* sets rates for servicing effluent that arrives by pipe, and allows for both metered and unmetered connections, in a variety of different circumstances.

Contractors have recently contacted the City asking for information on whether the City has the ability to process trucked liquid waste and what our rates are. Staff have confirmed that the City of Merritt has the capacity and means to process trucked liquid

waste. However, a bylaw is required to set a fee for a municipal service, and our bylaw does not currently prescribe a rate for this service. As such, for years we have been re-directing contractors to Kamloops, which is the nearest place to Merritt that trucked sewage can currently be disposed of.

Staff are proposing that we amend the *Fees and Charges Bylaw*, to allow the City the ability to receive waste by truck and charge a fee for the same.

There would be some additional costs to the City as a result of providing this service, such as purchasing a flow meter that would be inserted into a manhole to measure effluent, staff time to supervise disposal, as well as incremental processing costs, but these would be entirely covered by a proposed fee.

Kamloops reconsidered their trucked waste fee in 2019 and set it at \$50.00 per cubic metre. Prior to that time, Kamloops charged \$20.21 per cubic metre of commercial liquid waste, but found that people would come from as far as Osoyoos or Abbotsford to dispose of waste because of their low fees.

In advance of selecting their rate, Kamloops observed that Penticton charges \$36/m<sup>3</sup> for the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen, Nanaimo has two locations charging \$50.60/m<sup>3</sup>, and Metro Vancouver costs are \$61.30/m<sup>3</sup>. The average cost in the area they considered was \$47.79. Staff research indicates that these rates are unchanged in the last year.

For the City of Merritt, staff are proposing a fee of \$47.50, which would cover the city's manpower and processing costs, provide some additional revenue that would contribute towards the overall maintenance of the system, and should be commercially attractive to potential customers.

In addition, staff are also recommending a flat, after-hours fee of \$200.00 per load, to cover additional staff costs where an overtime call-out is required. This fee is in addition to the regular (per cubic metre) fee.

### **Options / discussion**

- 1. That Council provide three readings to the proposed Bylaw**
- 2. That Council amend the proposed Bylaw as they see fit and give it readings appropriately**
- 3. That Council receive this report for information**

### **Financial / Risk Implications:**

This would represent an opportunity to provide a service the City cannot currently provide. Although Municipal fees are required by law to be connected to the cost of providing the service, and ensuring that that service is sustainable into the future, it represents a business opportunity to gain additional revenue that could be allocated towards the cost of infrastructure maintenance and expansion. Staff feels that the

proposed fee is at a level that is commercially attractive, but which would cover the City's costs and contribute towards the long-term sustainability of our system.

As sewage treatment facilities are expensive to build, this new service would not interfere with a private market that exists in Merritt. Staff believe the primary impact would be from businesses and residents who currently haul waste to the City of Kamloops processing facility, or who those who may dump it illegally due to the lack of a legitimate option in Merritt.

**Attachments:**

Schedule A: Proposed Schedule "B1" for *Fees and Charges Bylaw*

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Greg Lewis**  
**Deputy Corporate Officer**