

COUNTY OF OXFORD

BY-LAW NO. 6863-2026

BEING a By-law to regulate the use of Oxford County's municipal potable water and wastewater systems to protect the integrity of the County's treatment facilities, distribution and collection infrastructure, and the source water supply for all municipal water systems within Oxford County and referred to as the General Water and Wastewater Services By-law.

WHEREAS Section 11(2) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended (the "Municipal Act"), provides that an upper-tier municipality, may pass by-laws with respect to the financial management of the municipality, its local boards, and services that the municipality is authorized to provide;

AND WHEREAS Section 11(3) of the *Municipal Act* provides that an upper-tier municipality may pass by-laws respecting the matters within the spheres of jurisdiction outlined in Subsection 11(4);

AND WHEREAS Section 9 of the *Municipal Act* provides that a municipality has the capacity, rights, powers, and privileges of a natural person for the purpose of exercising its authority under the Act. Further, Section 9(1) of the *Municipal Act* provides that Section 11 shall be interpreted broadly so as to confer broad authority on municipalities to enable them to govern their affairs as they consider appropriate and to enhance their ability to respond to municipal issues;

AND WHEREAS Section 80 of the *Municipal Act* provides that a municipality may, at reasonable times, enter on land to which it supplies a public utility, to inspect, repair, alter or disconnect the service pipe, wire, machinery, equipment and other works used to supply the public utility; to inspect, install, repair, replace or alter a public utility meter; and, for such purposes, to shut off or reduce the supply of the public utility to the land; and, if a customer discontinues the use of a public utility on land or the municipality lawfully decides to cease supplying the public utility to land, to shut off the supply of the public utility; remove any property of the municipality; or to determine whether the public utility has been or is being unlawfully used;

AND WHEREAS Section 81 of the *Municipal Act* provides the authority to a municipality for shutting off a supply of a utility, the municipality may shut off the supply of a public utility to land if fees and charges payable by the owners or occupants of the land for the supply of the public utility are overdue, subject at all times to the municipality providing reasonable notice of the overdue fees and charges and proposed shut off date to the owners and occupants of the land by personal service or prepaid mail and posting the notice on the land in a conspicuous place;

AND WHEREAS the County operates and maintains municipal drinking water systems and wastewater systems within its municipal boundaries as well as those included under separate service agreements.

AND WHEREAS County Council has adopted the recommendation contained in Report PW 2026-29;

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the County of Oxford hereby enacts the following:

PART 1: ADMINISTRATION

1. DEFINITIONS

"Applicable Law" means all statutes, laws, by-laws, rules, regulations, policies, orders, judgments, guidelines, decisions or other requirements of any Governmental Authority and the common law binding on or affecting the County, property or matter referred to in the context in which such words are used.

"Contractor" shall mean a person, partnership, or corporation who contracts to undertake the execution of work authorized by the Owner or the County on water or wastewater appurtenances.

"Council" shall mean the Council of the County of Oxford.

"County" shall mean the County of Oxford and/or its designate.

"County Standards" means all applicable County by-laws, design manuals, standards, and guidelines as may be amended from time to time.

"County Treasurer" shall mean the County's Treasurer and/or their designate.

"Curb Stop Valve" shall mean the service valve used by the County to shut off or turn on the water supply from the County's drinking water system to any Property.

"Customer" shall mean any person or business who takes water from the County and/or receives water and/or wastewater related services from the County.

"Days" means business days, being Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays observed by the County.

"Director of Public Works" shall mean the County's Director of Public Works and/or their designate.

"RTD" shall mean a Remote Transmission Device approved by the County and used to record or transmit, or both, the water consumption reading of a water meter and may include a radio, cellular, or alternative transmission device.

"Forcemain" shall mean a pressurized sanitary sewer.

“Grinder pump” shall mean a mechanical device installed on a private property that grinds wastewater solids and pumps the resulting slurry under pressure into a municipal sewer system or forcemain, typically where gravity drainage is not feasible.

“Leak” means an unintentional water loss caused by broken and/or malfunctioning fixtures.

“Meter Chamber” means a pit or enclosure for the purpose of containing a meter.

“Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP)” means the Ontario provincial ministry responsible for environmental protection, conservation, parks management, and the regulation of drinking water, wastewater, and other environmental matters within the province.

“Municipal Service Line” means the pipe portion of a drinking water system that extends from the municipal Water System to a private water connection commonly located within the limits of the public road allowance or other public land interests held for water purposes.

“Occupant” includes an Owner of Premises where that Owner resides or carries on a business within the Premises and includes any Person or corporation residing or carrying on a business within the Premises either as a lessee or licensee or Tenant.

“Operator” means a licensed water or wastewater operator employed by the County, contracted by the County, or acting under a service agreement with the County.

“Owner” shall include any and all persons or any firm or corporation or partnership that is the registered Owner(s) of the Property under consideration or any agent thereof, a person entitled to a limited estate in land, a trustee in whom land is vested, a committee of the estate of a mentally incompetent person, an executor, an administrator or a guardian.

“Person” includes a natural person, a corporation, a partnership, a sole proprietorship, a trust, a joint venture, an association or any other organization or entity of any kind and their respective heirs, executors, administrators, successors, assigns or other legal representatives of a person to whom the context can apply according to law.

“Potable Water” means water that is considered satisfactory for drinking, as defined under regulation O. Reg. 170/03 of the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002, S.O. 2002, c. 32* as may be amended or replaced from time to time.

“Premise” means any house, tenement, Building, lot, or part of a lot, or both.

“Private Fire Protection System” means privately-owned piping and hydrants that are installed to convey water for the purposes of fire suppression and mitigating fire damage on private property.

“Private Hydrant” means a privately-owned fire hydrant that is located on private property as a part of a Private Fire Protection System which may be connected to the County’s municipal drinking water system.

"Private Service" means the privately-owned portion of a water or wastewater service pipe that is located on private property between the curb stop valve and the entry point of the water supply to the premises.

"Private Wastewater System" shall mean a wastewater system other than the municipal wastewater system.

"Private Water Supply" shall mean a water supply other than the municipal drinking water system.

"Property" shall mean a deeded public or private parcel of land, including any buildings or structures located thereon, within the County and which are entitled to a water and/or wastewater service.

"Water meter" means an apparatus at a property that measures and records the quantity of water passing through it and is owned, read, serviced, maintained, and supplied by the County.

2. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 2.1. This by-law applies to the construction, management, operation and maintenance of the Water and Wastewater Systems, under the jurisdiction of Oxford County.
- 2.2. The County shall manage and maintain the Water and Wastewater Systems in accordance with the provisions of this by-law and all Applicable Law.
- 2.3. The County shall use reasonable diligence to provide a regular and uninterrupted supply of water and wastewater services. However, the County does not guarantee continuous service, constant pressure, or unvaried supply.
- 2.4. Temporary interruptions or reductions in service due to maintenance, repairs, sewer blockages, water main breaks, power outages, or other operational issues shall not be construed as neglect or failure to provide service by the County.
- 2.5. The failure to supply water or wastewater services in the quantity or quality required by a customer shall not be deemed a breach of the County's obligations.
- 2.6. The County is not liable for damages or loss caused by interruption of service, or which may arise as the result of regular operation and maintenance of the water and wastewater systems, in accordance with Section 82(1) of the *Municipal Act*.
- 2.7. All work completed by the County on private property at the request of the Owners shall be considered at the Owner's risk and the Owner shall have no claim against the County by reason of such work.
- 2.8. Where damage or failure is determined to result from tampering or negligence by the Owner or Occupant, the full cost of repair or replacement shall be the responsibility of the Property Owner.

3. APPLICATION OF THE BY-LAW

- 3.1. Nothing in this by-law shall be interpreted to permit anything, which by the provision of any Applicable Law, is prohibited.
- 3.2. Where there is a conflict between the provisions of this by-law and the provisions of a federal or provincial Act or Regulation, the provisions of the applicable Act or Regulation shall prevail.
- 3.3. Where there is a conflict between provisions of this by-law and another by-law of the County, the provision that is the most restrictive by-law shall prevail.
- 3.4. All schedules, forms, tables, and diagrams attached to this by-law shall form part of this by-law, as may be amended and replaced from time to time.
- 3.5. Every such Owner, by applying for or required to connect by Applicable Law or accepting a supply of water from the County or discharging wastewater into the system, shall be deemed to have expressed his or her consent to be bound by all governing rules and regulations.

4. AUTHORIZATION OF COUNTY STAFF

- 4.1. The Director of Public Works is responsible for:
 - a) The general operation, management and supervision of the Water Systems and the Wastewater systems owned by the County;
 - b) Establishing policies, procedures, and by-laws concerning the collection and operation of water and wastewater systems, as well as the delivery of water and wastewater services;
 - c) The enforcement of the provisions of this by-law other than those dealing with the billing and collection of water and wastewater related charges; and
 - d) The performance of other duties as may from time to time be given and/or delegated to them by Council.
- 4.2. The County Treasurer is responsible for:
 - a) The enforcement of the provisions of this by-law relating to the billing and collection of water and wastewater related charges;
 - b) Establishing policies, procedures, and by-laws concerning the collection of rates, fees, and charges related to the water and wastewater services; and
 - c) The performance of such other duties as may from time to time be given to them by Council or applicable law.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PROPERTY OWNER

- 5.1. It is the Owner's responsibility to ensure that all water meters, RTDs, and building control valves are readily accessible in a clean, dry area, protected from freezing and free from obstructions and debris at all times, allowing for the repair or replacement of the water meter or RTD without the use of specialized tools or equipment.
- 5.2. It is the Owner's responsibility to maintain in proper working order and good repair at all times, at its own cost and expense, the water services, plumbing system and all its fixtures and appurtenances.
- 5.3. All water services, the water meter and the RTD, shall be properly protected from frost and any other damage at the expense and risk of the Owner of the Property being serviced.
- 5.4. Property Owners are responsible for repairs to all leaks located on private Property, from the Property line to the meter. If the leak, in the County's opinion, requires immediate attention, the County may undertake the necessary repairs or replacements or shut off the water to the Property at the Owner's expense. Any costs associated with the County being required to fix any leaks if they remain unpaid shall have priority lien status and may be collected in accordance with the *Municipal Act* and may be added to the tax roll against the Premises/Property.

6. PROHIBITIONS AND ACCESS REQUIREMENTS

- 6.1. No Person, other than an Operator, or a third-party operator under the direction of the County shall access or operate the Drinking Water System or Wastewater System and associated apparatuses.
- 6.2. No Person, other than an operator or a Person with the consent of the County shall:
 - a) Bypass, remove, test or replace a water meter;
 - b) Operate the curb stop valve to any Premises (water on or off);
 - c) Connect to a manhole or sanitary sewer;
 - d) Operate or connect to a municipal or private fire hydrant without prior authorization from the County; or
 - e) Install, alter, or permit the installation or alteration, or connect, a water or sanitary sewer main which will become the property of the County, without a permit to connect or authorization under a subdivision agreement.
- 6.3. No person shall obstruct:
 - a) Any municipal or private fire hydrant; or

- b) A shut off valve to the premise; or
 - c) A water meter or RTD.
- 6.4. Notwithstanding Sections 6.1 to 6.3, members of a fire department acting in the course of their official duties may access, operate, and connect to municipal fire hydrants without prior authorization from the County for the purpose of fire suppression or emergency response. The fire department shall notify the County as soon as reasonably practicable following such use.
- 6.5. Municipal fire hydrants may also be used by the fire department for training purposes, provided that prior approval is obtained from the County.
- 6.6. The County shall have free and unobstructed access to any building or structure connected to a water or wastewater service line, at reasonable times and with reasonable notice to the Owner or Occupant, for purposes of:
- a) Installation, inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, and removal of the municipally owned water or wastewater equipment and appurtenances, including; municipal service lines, water meters, wastewater holding tanks, and grinder pumps;
 - b) Reading of water and wastewater meters;
 - c) Verifying leaks; and
 - d) Inspections for compliance with this by-law, applicable law, or an issued notice of violation or condition to any permit.
- 6.7. The County may, at reasonable times and upon providing reasonable notice, enter upon any property containing a private water supply or wastewater system for the purpose of inspecting, or verifying compliance with this by-law and all applicable laws.
- 6.8. The County shall, where practicable, provide reasonable notice of the proposed entry or planned service interruption to the Owner or the Occupant of the Premises by:
- a) Delivering the notice in person, by prepaid mail, through interactive online tools, or by posting the notice in a conspicuous place on the Premises;
 - b) Providing, where possible, at least three (3) consecutive days' notice prior to the proposed entry or planned service interruption; and
 - c) In the case of unplanned service interruptions, which do not constitute an emergency, the County shall, to the best of its ability, provide notice to affected customers where doing so does not delay or prolong the County's response or repair activity.

- 6.9. Notwithstanding Section 6.8 of this by-law, the County may enter upon any property or carry out work without prior notice in the event of an emergency, including but not limited to a water main break, wastewater system failure, contamination event, or any condition that poses an immediate risk to public health, safety, or the environment. Notice of such entry or service interruption shall be provided to the Owner or Occupant as soon as reasonably practicable following the emergency.
- 6.10. The County shall not enter any dwelling or building unless:
- a) The consent of the Owner or Occupant is first obtained, ensuring the Owner or Occupant is first advised that entry may be denied;
 - b) A warrant issued under Section 158 of the *Provincial Offences Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. P. 33, as amended, is obtained;
 - c) A warrant issued under Section 439 of the *Municipal Act* is obtained;
 - d) A warrant issued under Subsection 386.3 of the *Municipal Act* is obtained;
 - e) An order issued under Section 438 of the *Municipal Act* is obtained; or
 - f) The delay necessary to obtain a warrant or the consent of the Owner or Occupant would result in the immediate danger to the health or safety of any Person.
- 6.11. No Person shall willfully hinder or interrupt, or cause or procure to be hindered or interrupted, the County or any of its officers, contractors, agents, servants, or workers, in the exercise of any of the powers conferred by this by-law.
- 6.12. No Person shall waste water from the Water Systems or discharge water so that it runs to waste, nor shall any Owner or Occupant lend, sell, give away, permit the use of, or otherwise dispose of water supplied to a Property without the prior written authorization of the County.
- 6.13. No person, firm or corporation shall use the pressure of the County Water Systems to power turbines or similar devices.

PART 2: CONNECTIONS AND DISCONNECTIONS

7. CONNECTIONS

- 7.1. Each property shall be serviced by a single water and single wastewater service line.
- 7.2. Notwithstanding Section 7.1 of this by-law, properties with multiple water or wastewater service lines that lawfully existed on the date of enactment of this by-law may continue to be serviced in that manner, unless otherwise directed by the County.

- 7.3. Approval must be obtained for water and/or wastewater connections prior to the installation, repair, or renewal of a watermain or water service, wastewater main or wastewater service or water meter unless otherwise authorized by the County.
- 7.4. The County shall inspect plans and specifications for any Water System, Wastewater System, water service, or wastewater service to ensure compliance with County Standards.
- 7.5. Original property service sizing is determined through a functional servicing report. Subsequent enhancements on the Property that may require upsizing are to be performed at the Owner's expense.
- 7.6. Approval for a water and/or wastewater connection shall not be issued until:
 - a) The application for connection has been completed and the appropriate forms and required drawings and information have been submitted to the satisfaction of the County;
 - b) All fees and charges related to the connection have been paid; and
 - c) All other required permits have been obtained, and the County is satisfied that the proposed works meet County Standards and do not contravene any other municipal by-law.
- 7.7. No person shall cover over or connect to any public water or wastewater service, or use any water connection or wastewater connection, without first having had it inspected by the County. All connections must be inspected by County operators, and three days' notice must be given prior to inspection.
- 7.8. Systems are designed to achieve pressures consistent with MECP Guidelines. Maximum residual pressure should not exceed 550 KPa (80 psi) and minimum residual pressure should not be below 275 kPa (40 psi). In areas where pressures exceed or are below these ranges, augmentation may be necessary. Any augmentation would be at the cost of the Property Owner.
- 7.9. Should a Property Owner elect to change the size of an existing municipal connection, all associated works shall be at the sole cost and expense of the Property Owner, and the existing connection must be disconnected in accordance with the County's disconnection procedure.
- 7.10. Where a parcel of land is not adjacent to a watermain and/or wastewater main and an application has been received for approval to connect, the applicant, at their expense, will be required to pay for the extension of the main to the furthest boundaries of the frontage of the Property in question prior to developing that parcel of land. The main extension must comply with all requirements of this by-law and any other standards or requirements of the County and all Applicable Law.

- 7.11. No service valve or box shall be placed on a municipal water connection pipe except in such a place approved by the County in its sole discretion.
- 7.12. The service valve or box shall be located, and remain, at grade level and shall be in good working condition, prior to the installation of a water meter.
- 7.13. Where the service valve or box is found not to conform to Section 7.12 of this by-law, the Operator may carry out such work as is necessary to bring the service valve or box into compliance, at the expense of the Property Owner.

8. DECOMMISSIONING PRIVATE SYSTEMS

- 8.1. Every Owner located in a mandatory connection area shall abandon and fill every existing well on the Premises in accordance with Ontario Regulation 903 made under the *Ontario Water Resources Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.40*, as may be amended or replaced from time to time, except as permitted under Section 8.2 of this by-law.
- 8.2. Notwithstanding Section 8.1 of this by-law, an Owner may retain and use an existing auxiliary water supply well, provided that:
 - a) The well is maintained in accordance with Applicable Law and in a manner that does not pose a risk to groundwater, municipal drinking water sources, or the municipal water system;
 - b) The well is not used for domestic purposes where the Premises is connected to the municipal drinking water system, unless otherwise permitted by the County; and
 - c) The well complies with all applicable municipal by-laws, including the County's Cross Connection Control By-law No. 6544-2023, as amended.
- 8.3. Where the County determines that an auxiliary water supply well is not being properly maintained, is inactive, or poses a risk to public health, safety, the environment, or municipal source water, the Owner shall decommission the well in accordance with Ontario Regulation 903.
- 8.4. Every Owner located in a mandatory connection area and connected to a piped wastewater collection system shall, forthwith after the connection has been made, abandon and fill or remove every wastewater system on the Premises in accordance with Applicable Law, including but not limited to the *Ontario Water Resources Act* and the *Building Code Act, 1992, S.O. 1992 c.23*, as may be amended or replaced from time to time.

9. DISCONNECTIONS

- 9.1. Disconnections shall only be permitted where, in the opinion of the County, such disconnection will not result in fragmentation or otherwise adversely affect the

operation, integrity, or financial sustainability of the Water System or Wastewater System.

- 9.2. When an Owner discontinues the use of a water service, the Owner shall arrange for the water meter, RTD, and any other County-owned equipment to be removed by County staff and shall ensure the water service is disconnected under the supervision of an Operator and to the satisfaction of the County. The Owner shall be responsible for all applicable fees and charges.

10. DEMOLITIONS

- 10.1. Prior to demolition or removal of a building, the Owner shall:
 - a) Obtain approval from the County;
 - b) Make arrangements with the Operator to remove the water meter and RTD; and
 - c) Disconnect the water and wastewater services to the satisfaction of the County prior to the issuance of a demolition permit.
- 10.2. All costs associated with the disconnection shall be paid by the Owner.
- 10.3. All costs to replace a water meter damaged or lost due to the building demolition or removal of a building shall be paid by the Owner.

11. RESTRICTIONS AND SUSPENSION OF SERVICE

- 11.1. The County may, acting reasonably and in accordance with Applicable Law, temporarily suspend the water supply to any Property without prior notice where it becomes aware of a substantial or potential defect, including but not limited to:
 - a) A risk of damage to persons or property;
 - b) Conditions that may adversely affect water quality, the Water System, or system integrity; or
 - c) A leak on private property or private-side plumbing that has not been repaired within a timeframe acceptable to the County, or that may result in damage, water loss, or adverse impacts to the Water System.
- 11.2. Water service shall be restored once the County is satisfied that the defect has been corrected or the potential risk eliminated.
- 11.3. A property subject to the suspension and restoration of water services under this Section shall still be subject to the Water and Wastewater Rates By-law and will be subject to the applicable fees as set out in the Fees and Charges By-law No. 4889-2007, and as may be amended or replaced from time to time.

- 11.4. As outlined in the County's External Water Use By-law No. 4193-2002, as amended, the County may temporarily restrict outdoor water use for the purpose of managing peak day demand or where aquifer conditions are affected.
- 11.5. The County reserves the right to shut off the supply of water to any premises that has unpaid fees and charges. The County shall restore the supply of water upon suitable payment to the County of such overdue amounts plus any applicable service charges, penalties, and interest.

PART 3: WATER

12. WATER METER CHAMBERS

- 12.1. If the County receives an application/permit for a new water service and determines that the water meter cannot be located inside the building or structure in accordance with the County's Standards, or where the Property has multiple buildings, the County may approve the installation of the water meter in a water meter chamber.
- 12.2. The water meter chamber shall be supplied and installed at the sole cost and expense of the Owner. The water meter chamber shall meet County Standards. The installation of the water meter shall be deemed to be a transfer of ownership of said water meter to the County. The Owner shall retain ownership of the water meter chamber and valves.
- 12.3. Water meter chambers shall be maintained by the County at the Owner's expense.
- 12.4. Water meter chambers shall be located at or near the Property line of the Premise unless the County has given written approval for a different location.
- 12.5. No Owner shall obstruct or permit the obstruction of a water meter chamber at any time. No Owner shall place or permit any structure, vegetation, landscaping, or other material, including but not limited to decks, fences, sheds, or similar improvements, within two metres of the outer perimeter of the water meter chamber.
- 12.6. No Owner or Person shall have access to a water meter chamber other than a Person authorized by the County.
- 12.7. If an Owner or Person tampers with a water meter chamber or causes damage to a water meter chamber, the Owner or Person shall be liable to pay the full cost to the County for the repair of the water meter chamber.

13. WATER METERS

- 13.1. All Properties connected to the Water System shall be equipped with a water meter and RTD, the size, type, specifications, and installation location of which shall be approved by the County.

- 13.2. The cost of installing the approved water meter and RTD shall be the sole responsibility of the Property Owner. Once installed to the acceptance of the County, the water meter and RTD become Property of the County.
- 13.3. All water meters shall be equipped with shut off valves up and downstream of the water meter. These valves shall remain the property and responsibility of the Owner.
- 13.4. The installation of the water meter and RTD must be completed prior to occupancy.
- 13.5. All water supplied to the property must pass through the water meter and is subject to the applicable rates as defined by the annual County's Water and Wastewater Rates By-law.
- 13.6. Unless otherwise approved by the County, only one (1) water meter shall be installed per Property, except where:
 - a) The subject property contains street-facing dwellings on a single property, with separate water services and no interconnected plumbing (e.g., townhomes); or
 - b) The subject property is an existing multi-metered property.
- 13.7. The County shall maintain, repair, or replace all existing water meters, as deemed necessary.
- 13.8. Secondary meters may be purchased by the Owner at the Owner's request and expense provided that:
 - a) All water supplied passes through the primary Property meter prior to passing through the secondary meter;
 - b) The secondary meters shall not be read or billed separately by the County; and
 - c) The secondary meters will not be maintained or replaced by the County.
- 13.9. If the Owner or Occupant misses any pre-approved scheduled appointments, they shall be charged a fee as specified in the Fees and Charges By-law No. 4889-2007, as may be amended or replaced from time to time.
- 13.10. The County shall be responsible for repairing leaks that develop on:
 - a) The municipal water mains;
 - b) Service lines up to the property line; and
 - c) At the water meter
- 13.11. The Property owner shall be responsible for repairing all other leaks that develop, including:

- a) Within the private plumbing; and/or
- b) On the service line beginning at the property line

14. BULK WATER

- 14.1. Bulk water services shall be provided at dedicated bulk water fill stations located throughout the County.
- 14.2. The County is responsible for maintaining the potability of the water supplied at the bulk water fill station.
- 14.3. Users of bulk water services are responsible for ensuring that any bulk water contractor or hauler they retain is appropriate for their intended use, including using a dedicated potable water hauler where the bulk water is intended for drinking water supply.

15. FIRE PROTECTION

- 15.1. All water connections supplying water from the Water Systems for fire protection must be solely used for fire protection and all other uses are strictly prohibited.
- 15.2. Maintenance of private fire protection services, including fire hydrants, is the responsibility of the Property Owner and shall be in accordance with Applicable Law, including the level defined under the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act 1997, S.O. 1997, c. 4*. Should such lack of maintenance result in a loss of water, the County reserves the right to shut off or disconnect the service at the Property line. The County will provide documentation identifying the concern together with notification of the shut-off or disconnection of the service.
- 15.3. The County does not perform testing and maintenance, as required by the Ontario Fire Code, on any private fire hydrants; this is the sole responsibility of the Owner. The County may choose to flush private hydrants for general water quality purposes. When engaging in such flushing activities, any repairs made will be the responsibility of the Owner.
- 15.4. No Person, firm or corporation shall connect to municipal or private hydrants located within the County's water system except for the following:
 - a) Members of the Fire Department;
 - b) Employees of the County and its Operating Authorities; and
 - c) Persons, firms, or corporations having written permission from the County and using the hydrants under the supervision of the County.

PART 4: WASTEWATER

16. DISCHARGE AND BLOCKAGES

- 16.1. All discharges to the Wastewater System shall be in accordance with the County's Modernized Sewer Use By-law No. 6270-2020, as amended or replaced from time to time.
- 16.2. Where a blockage, restriction, or failure occurs in a wastewater service line, private plumbing, or the private portion of a service lateral located on private property, the Owner shall be responsible for investigating, clearing, repairing, replacing, and restoring the affected infrastructure at the Owner's sole cost and expense.
- 16.3. Where a blockage or restriction occurs in the municipal wastewater system, including the municipal portion of the service lateral or a wastewater main, the County shall be responsible for the investigation and repair of the blockage.
- 16.4. Notwithstanding Section 16.3 of this by-law, if the County determines that the blockage, restriction, or failure originated from or was caused by a private wastewater service, private plumbing, discharge, misuse, negligence, or condition located on private property, the Owner shall be responsible for all costs incurred by the County to investigate, clear, repair, replace, or remediate the affected municipal infrastructure.
- 16.5. The County shall be responsible for routine inspection, maintenance, and cleaning of the municipal Wastewater System.
- 16.6. Where the County determines that an unauthorized connection to the sanitary sewer system exists, including but not limited to connections for basement dewatering, sump pumps, or similar sources, the Owner shall disconnect the unauthorized connection immediately, or within such timeframe as may be specified by the County.
- 16.7. The Owner shall be responsible for all costs associated with the investigation, disconnection, repair, and restoration resulting from an unauthorized connection. Failure to comply may result in enforcement action in accordance with this by-law and Applicable Law.

17. SEPTICS AND HOLDING TANKS

- 17.1. Any material deposited into a septic tank or holding tank that is subsequently hauled and discharged to a County wastewater treatment facility shall be subject to the County's Modernized Sewer Use By-law No. 6270-2020, as amended from time to time.

- 17.2. All septic tanks, holding tanks, and associated piping and appurtenances located on private property shall be considered private plumbing systems and shall be the sole responsibility of the Owner.
- 17.3. The Owner shall be responsible for the proper operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, and keeping free of obstructions of all privately owned septic tanks, holding tanks, and associated plumbing, at the Owner's sole cost and expense.
- 17.4. Notwithstanding Section 17.2 of this by-law, holding tanks located within the Mount Elgin Wastewater System and designated by the County as municipally owned infrastructure shall be considered part of the municipal wastewater system. Such holding tanks shall be kept free of obstructions and maintained in accordance with County standards.

18. SEWER GRINDER PUMPS

- 18.1. The County shall be solely responsible for specifying the make and model of sanitary sewer grinder pump packages acceptable for use within the municipal sanitary sewer system where a pump package is required because of the County's selected servicing method, including but not limited to low-pressure or shallow sewer systems.
- 18.2. Ownership of the grinder pump package and associated appurtenances remains with the Owner, who is responsible for the continued operation of the unit. The owner assumes all risks associated with such pump package and related infrastructure and appurtenances
- 18.3. The County shall be responsible for routine maintenance, repairs, and pump replacement as part of the operation of the wastewater system. The cost of this service shall be included in the municipal wastewater rates. The County may conduct inspections of the unit from time to time and shall provide written notice to the Owner following completion of work.
- 18.4. Where the County determines that damage to a pump package has resulted from Owner negligence, misuse, abuse, or a violation of the County's Sewer Use By-law, the Owner shall be notified in writing and shall be responsible for the cost of all related repairs or replacement.
- 18.5. Where an Owner relocates a pump package or alters plumbing to accommodate renovations or property changes, all costs associated with relocation or replacement shall be the sole responsibility of the Owner. Any such work shall be completed by an approved installer and shall require prior County approval through the applicable building and/or Public Works permit process.
- 18.6. The Owner grants the County and its contractors the right to enter upon the property to inspect, maintain, repair, or replace the pump package, as necessary. Where practicable, at least one business day's notice shall be provided for routine access.

Failure to provide reasonable access shall release the County from responsibility for damages or costs arising from the inability to maintain or repair the unit.

- 18.7. The County may register a blanket easement on properties serviced by grinder pump packages to allow access for inspection and maintenance purposes as part of a municipal servicing project.
- 18.8. The Owner should notify the County in writing of any change in property ownership, at which time the County shall provide the relevant information to the new Owner.

19. INSURANCE

- 19.1 The County shall not be liable, whether in contract, tort, negligence, nuisance, strict liability, or otherwise, for any direct, indirect, incidental, consequential, special, or punitive damage, loss, cost, expense, injury, claim, demand, action, or proceeding arising from, connected with, or in any way related to the ownership, installation, operation, maintenance, failure, malfunction, backup, overflow, improper use, misuse, negligence, condition related to any water or wastewater infrastructure located on private property. The Owner may, at their sole discretion and expense, obtain and maintain adequate insurance coverage for any applicable water and sewage risks.

PART 5: ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES

20. ENFORCEMENT

20.1. Unlawful Use of Water

All water used on a premise in the County, except for firefighting or County-approved purposes, must pass through a County-approved meter. If water is used unlawfully, the County may shut off supply without notice and issue fines as outlined below.

20.2. Damages or Impairments

Every person who willfully or maliciously damages or causes damage to any component of the water or wastewater system belonging to the County or willfully impairs or knowingly suffers the same to be altered or impaired, is guilty of an offence and upon conviction, is liable to a fine payable to the County, and for any expenses of repairing or replacing such infrastructure and double the value of the surplus water so consumed, all of which is recoverable under the *Provincial Offences Act*.

- 20.3. The Chief Administrative Officer has the authority to appoint officers for the purposes of enforcement of this by-law.

21. PENALTY

- 21.1. Every person who contravenes any of the provisions of any portion of this by-law and every Director or Officer of a Corporation who knowingly concurs in the contravention of a by-law by the Corporation is guilty of an offence under the provisions of the *Municipal Act*. The minimum fine shall not exceed \$500 and the maximum fine shall not exceed \$100,000.

22. CONTINUOUS OFFENCES

- 22.1. For the purpose of continuous offences, every person who contravenes any provision of this by-law and every Director or Officer of a Corporation who knowingly concurs in the contravention of a by-law by the Corporation is guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a penalty, for each day or part of a day that the offence continues, up to a maximum of \$10,000, exclusive of any costs under the provisions of any Applicable Law, including the *Municipal Act*. The total of all of the daily fines for the offence is not limited to \$100,000.

23. MULTIPLE OFFENCES

- 23.1. For the purpose of multiple offences, every person who contravenes any provision of this by-law and every Director or Officer of a Corporation who knowingly concurs in the contravention of a by-law by the Corporation is guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a penalty, for each offence, up to a maximum of \$10,000, exclusive of costs under the provisions of Applicable Law including but not limited to the *Municipal Act*. The total of all fines for each included offence is not limited to \$100,000.

READ a first and second time this 12th day of August, 2026.

READ a third time and finally passed this 12th day of August, 2026.

Original signed by:

MARCUS RYAN,

WARDEN

Original signed by:

LINDSEY A. MANSBRIDGE,

CLERK