

October 1st, 2013

Report To: Mayor and Council

From: Doug Brown, Manager of Operations & Facilities



**SUBJECT: Request for Exception from the new \$4.00 per month Environmental Fee – Skyview Apartment building – Letter dated September 27, 2013**

As of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013 the new \$4.00 per month environmental fee was added to the water and sanitary sewer bills. Management prepared an explanation to be used by staff to ensure all water and sanitary sewer customers received the same explanation. See attached memo and email dated August 26, 2013.

Jeanne Kaun, acting landlord for the Skyview apartment building is requesting that this multi-residential apartment building be excluded from the new \$4.00 per month environmental fee per occupied apartment unit. Her reason for the exception is based on the fact that this multi-residential apartment building pays a commercial hauler to handle it's residential waste. See attached copy of her letter dated September 27, 2013.

As Council is fully aware the revenue from the \$4.00 per month environmental fee is utilized to pay for the ongoing operating costs of providing waste management services to the entire community. These services include; operating the landfill site, provides a residential blue box recycling program, includes operating the transfer station, curbside collection of waste and recyclables and hosting a MHSW event day. The Skyview apartment receives bi-weekly collection of recyclables, if placed on the curbside and Skyview apartment renters can drop off their blue box recyclables at the transfer station on 6<sup>th</sup> Street West 24 hours per day seven days per week plus the MHSW event day is available to all citizens in the community including these renters. All residential and ICI water customers in Fort Frances will be responsible for the operating costs of providing waste management system services to the entire community.

The Operations & Facilities Executive Committee recommends the following;

1) That the letter dated September 27, 2013 from Jeanne Kaun, acting landlord for the Skyview apartment building has been reviewed and her request be denied.

Respectfully Submitted  
Operations & Facilities Division,

Doug Brown, P. Eng.  
Operations & Facilities Manager

**Council approval of this report will ensure the following:**

- 1) That the letter dated September 27, 2013 from Jeanne Kaun, acting landlord for the Skyview apartment building has been reviewed and her request be denied.

2013OctoberKaunenvironmentalfee

RECOMMENDED

OCT 03 2013

DIVISION

EXECUTIVE

Day 2

R. Wiedenhaupt

2013-09-30 cc Mayor, Council  
Mark Doug Harris  
(for the October 9th C of F Exco  
meeting)

SKYVIEW APARTMENT

275 First St. E.

Fort Frances, On P9A 1K4



Sept. 27, 2013

Town of Fort Frances,

Att: Mayor Avis and Town Council cc: Water & Sewer

Re: Garbage Charges.

Attached please find a letter faxed to the town office on Apr. 29, 2013 addressing the charges to be levied to the water and sewer accounts. I've also attached a copy of the Fort Frances Times dated April 10<sup>th</sup>, with the article that prompted the letter of April 29<sup>th</sup>. This letter was never responded to.

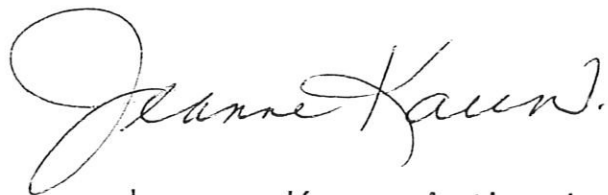
On Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>, I contacted Mr. Doug Herr and faxed him the letter as well.

Since we pay for garbage pickup at Skyview Apartments, and we do not benefit from the single bag pickup for each residence, we should be exempt of the additional \$4.00 per month increase on the Water & Sewer Charges

In order to keep our account in good standing, I am paying the full Water & Sewer charges this time. You can issue an \$8.00 credit to each account for the next 2 month's billing.

I expect you to respond this letter before the end of October so that this problem can be resolved.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeanne Kaun". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial "J" and a distinct "Kaun" ending.

Jeanne Kaun, Acting Landlord

SKYVIEW APARTMENT

275 First St. E.

Fort Frances, On P9A 1K4

Apr. 29, 2013

*FAX: 274-8479*

*FAX: 274-7360*

Town of Fort Frances,

Att: Mr. Roy Avis cc: Water & Sewer Accounts

RE: Garbage Charges

In a recent announcement, it was stated that all water and sewer billings will be increased by \$4.00 per month in order to offset the garbage pickup charges.

Since we are already pay for garbage pick- up at our establishment, we feel that we should be exempt of the extra charges. We would like to have a letter stating that the extra charges will not be levied on any of our 24 apartments.

Respectfully,  
*Jeanne Kaun*  
Jeanne Kaun, Acting Landlord



# Council nixes weekly bag tag exemption

More from A1  
taxation to the community," added Coun. Wiedenhoft, referring to the current budget deficit of \$372,000 as of yesterday's meeting.

Coun. John Albanese said he felt like council was punishing people such as himself and thousands of other residents who put out only one bag of garbage each week and recycle diligently.

"I don't believe in it," he remarked, noting the town has to clamp down on some residents who have been putting out extra bags of garbage each week without putting bag tags on them and they still get picked up.

"We have to have some con-

trol, maybe send somebody to do some policing," he stressed. "Don't punish me and the people like me—punish the guilty ones."

Operations and Facilities manager Doug Brown noted this was a good point, as it is hard to manage when the town gives one "free" bag.

"If everything's tagged, that's what gets picked up," he said. "If anything's not tagged, we're not picking it up."

"It's a lot simpler." Noting Kenora and Dryden have been using bag tags since 1996, Brown also said having bag tags on everything will encourage more recycling and less garbage going to the landfill.

As a side note, he's currently

**"If everything's tagged, that's what gets picked up," he said. "If anything's not tagged, we're not picking it up. It's a lot simpler."**

**—Doug Brown**

putting together an application to get compacting bins for the recycle depot on Sixth Street, which will save having to get every additional container.

He said everybody he's spoken to does not want to use bag tags because they are a hassle.

An environmental fee prevents this inconvenience. "You're going to pay for it anyways; no matter how you

receptacle picked up for "free," and then they would have to buy bag tags at \$2.25 each for every additional container.

Kenora and Dryden have been using bag tags since 1996, Brown also said having bag tags on everything will encourage more recycling and less garbage going to the landfill.

cut it, you're going to pay for it," Coun. Perry stressed, noting that right now, Fort Frances is not in the minority but in the majority of places that allow for at least one "free" bag.

Thunder Bay, for instance, allows residents to put out four bags for pick-up while Sault Ste. Marie allows for three.

But Brown countered an environmental fee would unfairly penalize some taxpayers, such as multi-residential owners, some of whom do not even use waste management services the town provides.

In the end, the majority of council opted for all garbage receptacles to have a bag tag on them to be picked up, starting June 3.

New bag tags of a different colour, possibly green, will be sold for \$1.25 each.

One detail that still has to be worked out is what to do with the current orange \$2.25 bag tags.

Brown advised the public to hold off on buying too many of those from now until June 3.

Due to the difficulty in giving people refunds, several members of council suggested those who still have the orange bag tags after June 3 can still use them, but they would be good for two garbage receptacles rather than just one.

Bag tags were first introduced here in 2004.



## Spring SALES EVENT

UP TO

**0%**

UP TO 72 MONTHS!

OR

UP TO

**\$12,000**

IN DISCOUNTS!

+

**NO CHARGE \$1,000 CHROME PACKAGE!**

2013 CHEVY SILVERADO EXT. CAB AVAIL

## **New Environmental Fee Charge on Water/Sewer Billings**

The Environmental Fee was established to offset the cost of the on-going waste management system services provided to the community. These services include operating the landfill site, curb side collection of waste and recycle materials, operating the blue box recycling system and hosting Municipal Hazardous Waste (MHSW) event day. This new \$4.00 per month fee is effective as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013.

All residential and Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICI) water customers in Fort Frances will be responsible for the operating costs of providing waste management system services in the community.

Doug Brown/Frances  
08/26/2013 10:18 AM

To Laurie Witherspoon/Frances@Frances, Doug  
Herr/Frances@Frances, Mark McCaig/Frances@Frances  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Re: \$ 4.00 per month Environmental Fees per Water  
Customer within the Community

Hi Laurie, further to our telephone conversation this morning, it is my understanding you want me to provide a written explanation why the \$ 4.00 per month environmental fees per water customer was implemented as of July 1st, 2013. As you are aware this was a Council initiative and not administration.

Based on my understanding Council made a decision in early April to implemented a \$4.00 per month environmental fees per water customer in the Town of Fort Frances. Approximately \$ 93, 120 in additional revenue will be realized in 2013, which will be used to pay for the on-going operating costs of providing waste management system services to the community. These services include; operating the landfill site, provide curbside collection of waste and recyclables, operating the blue box recycling system and host a MHSW event day. All residential and ICI water customers in Fort Frances will be responsible for the operating costs of providing waste management system services in the community.

Based on my understanding the reasons why Council chose implementing the \$ 4.00 monthly environmental fee is fourfold;

- 1) Provides additional revenue to balance the on-going operating budget.
- 2) Allows all homeowners and apartment buildings under 6 units to continue to receive one free receptacle or garbage container per week.
- 3) Not necessary to raise the bag tag fee of \$ 2.25 for every additional receptacle or garbage container.
- 4) More convenient for customers as not necessary to affix a bag tag to all receptacles or garbage containers on a weekly basis i.e. - Less hassles.

Maybe you want to run this by Mark as this is my understanding and maybe he wants to adjust the information communicated to all the water customers. We are breaking new grounds

Thanks

Doug Brown, P. Eng.  
Operations & Facilities Manager  
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Town of Fort Frances  
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