To: Warden and Members of Council
From: Tara Stephen, Manager, Waste Management
Date: October 18 2017

Subject: Campground Blue Box Program 2018 Budget Impacts

Recommendation: That Council receive the report; and

That Council refer the issue of transferring the costs of the Campground Program into the Waste Management operating budget to 2018 budget discussions.

Financial Impact: Removal of $22,000 of revenue from the Waste Management operating budget.

Overview:
The County of Peterborough is legislated to provide residential Blue Box collection services to all residents in the County of Peterborough. This obligation is met both by way of curbside collection and depot collection. Where waste is collected, Blue Box diversion services are provided. By offering this level of convenience, the County prevents over 5,000 tonnes of blue box material each year from being landfilled. This is equivalent to the volume of about 2,200 garbage truck loads of space each year.

Though the County is only legislated to provide this service to residents, the service is also extended to businesses and campgrounds (trailer parks) at no additional cost to the business owner.

Businesses receive curbside collection year-round and campgrounds receive collection either at the curb or at a central location on their property during the summer season.

Funding the Campground Program:
Presently, the County coordinates the collection of materials from campgrounds. This involves arranging collections with the collection contractor, coordinating permission for property access (for sites receiving collection on-property), tracking collected tonnages and reporting to the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority (RPRA, formerly Waste Diversion Ontario).
The County then invoices a unit price per campground to participating Townships to recover the cost billed to the County by the collector. This results in an expense line in the Waste Management operating budget that has a corresponding revenue line, ultimately balancing the cost of the program to the County.

That said, there is still a cost to the tax base: the cost of the program is invoiced to the Townships who collect the funds through local property taxes. This adds administrative burden to the service for both the County and the Townships.

**Proposed Change:**
Staff propose absorbing the entire cost of the Campground program into the County’s operating budget and ceasing the practice of invoicing Townships for the service.

This would have the effect of removing the balancing revenue line from the County Waste Management budget and removing the expenditure from the individual Townships.

**Rationale:**
Providing Blue Box services to campgrounds ensures continued sound waste management practices by Campground users in the County. Much of the waste generated by these properties is ultimately transported to the Peterborough County Waste Management Facility (PCCWMF) for disposal, so the program directly reduces the requirement for landfill capacity, helping control capital expenditures for the site.

The Campground Recycling Program helps these local business owners show their clients (many of whom are permanent County residents) that they take their environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously and that the leisure spaces within the County are to be respected and protected.

Presently, campgrounds in Havelock-Belmont-Methuen do not have access to this service. Funding the program at the upper-tier level would allow the County to provide the service to these locations and deliver a consistent program across the County.

This would also remove a layer of administration from the program, simplifying it and reducing its overall impact to the Waste Management annual workplan.

Respectfully submitted

Originally signed by
Tara Stephen, Manager of Waste Management