



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF **WOOD BUFFALO**

Administrative Consolidation
of
The Sanitary Sewer Utilities Bylaw

(being Bylaw No. 85/051 of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, as amended by Bylaw No. 20/029, consolidated and printed under the authority of the Chief Administrative Officer of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo)

This is certified to be a true copy of consolidated Bylaw No. 85/051 of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

Jade Brown
Chief Legislative Officer

The text shown in parentheses in various locations throughout this document identifies the corresponding amending bylaw which authorized the change. For example (BL 19/023) refers to Bylaw No. 19/023.

Bylaw No. 85/51

BEING A BYLAW OF THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WOOD BUFFALO, IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA WITH RESPECT TO SANITARY SEWERS.

(BL 20/029)

WHEREAS Section 198 of the *Municipal Government Act*, Chapter M-26, R.S.A. 1980 authorizes the Council to pass Bylaws to regulate sanitation and health in regards to sewers; and

WHEREAS Section 251 of the *Municipal Government Act*, Chapter M-26, R.S.A. 1980 provides that council may pass Bylaws for compulsory connection to the sewer utility; and

WHEREAS Section 288 of the *Municipal Government Act*, Chapter M-26 R.S.A. 1980 provides that Council may pass Bylaws for the general maintenance and management or conduct of any public utility constructed or maintained, and the Officers and others employed on connection with them; and

WHEREAS Section 316 of the *Municipal Government Act*, Chapter M-26 R.S.A. 1980 provides that Council may enact penalties for the misuse of a Public Utility:

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, in the Province of Alberta, duly assembled, enacts as follows:

(BL 20/029)

This Bylaw may be cited as “The Sanitary Sewer Utilities Bylaw”.

DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS

101. (a) “Application” shall mean the application made by the consumer to the Municipality for the collection of Sewage.

(BL 20/029)

(b) “Approved” shall mean approved by the Commissioner.

(c) “Bylaw Enforcement Officer” shall mean any Police Officer, Bylaw Officer or Special Constable for the Municipality.

(BL 20/029)

(d) “Municipality” or “RMWB” means the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

(BL 20/029)

- (e) “Commissioner” shall mean the Commissioner of Operations of the City of Fort McMurray or his designate.
- (f) “Consumer” shall mean the registered owner of the parcel to which a connection to the Municipality’s sanitary system is made and in whose name a utility billing account has been established.
(BL 20/029)
- (g) “Council” shall mean the Council of the Municipality.
(BL 20/029)
- (h) “Person” includes a partnership, firm, body incorporated or other legal representatives of person to whom the context can apply according to law.
- (i) “Plumbing Inspector” shall mean the person(s) appointed under the Municipality Building Permit Bylaw.
(BL 20/029)
- (j) “Registered Owner” means the person listed as registered owner by the Registrar of Land Titles.
- (k) “Sewer Main” shall mean those pipes installed for the collection of sewage throughout the Municipality to which service pipes may be connected.
(BL 20/029)
- (l) “Sewer Service” shall mean those pipes used to remove sewage from the building to the sewer mains.
- (m) “Sewage System” shall mean all construction for collection, transportation, pumping, treatment and final disposal of wastewater disposal.
- (n) “Sewage” shall mean any liquid waste from a plumbing fixture.
- (o) “Storm Sewer” shall mean those pipes installed for the collection of surface drainage throughout the Municipality.
(BL 20/029)
- (p) “Turn-On” shall mean the commencement and turning on of water service for a building or a property, and may include initial water meter reading.
- (q) “Wastewater” shall mean sewage.

ADMINISTRATION

201. The Municipality shall collect Sanitary Sewage from the Consumer who has a connection to the Property from City's sanitary sewage collection system on the following conditions.

(BL 20/029)

(a) No person who resides in or conducts business from a structure in the Municipality shall dispose of sewage in any manner other than through the connection to the municipal sewage system, unless written permission to do otherwise is granted by the Commissioner.

(BL 20/029)

(b) Every consumer who is served directly or indirectly from connection with the sewage system of the Municipality shall pay to the Municipality the sewage service rates as set out in Schedule "A" attached hereto.

(BL 20/029)

(c) Upon entry to a Consumer's premises, municipal employees shall provide an identification card upon request.

(BL 20/029)

(d) The Municipality shall levy and collect not more than once in any calendar month from all consumers connected to the Municipality's sewage system, sewage service rates being based on water consumption.

(BL 20/029)

(e) The utility bill with all the charges shall be mailed to the Consumer at intervals as determined by the Municipality and payment of the current amount shall be made within TWENTY (20) DAYS following the mailing date of the utility bill. Payments may be made at:

(BL 20/029)

1) City Hall, Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, except Holidays

OR

At any chartered bank or Treasury Branch that has made collecting arrangements with the City.

(BL 20/029)

(f) All payments made on the accounts shall be applied first to such arrears outstanding and any balance thereafter applied to the current billing.

In the event that any such utility bill shall remain unpaid after twenty (20) days following the date upon which the utility bill was due, a late payment penalty equal to 2% of the outstanding balance shall be added to the account and will form part of the unpaid utility bill.

(BL 19/023)

- (g) In the event that any current utility bill shall remain unpaid after FORT-FIVE (45) DAYS following the date of which the utility bill way due, the Municipality is authorized to turn off the water supply to the property concerned.

(BL 20/029)

- (h) In case of default in payment of the utility bill, the Municipality may enforce payment by action in a Court of competent jurisdiction, or alternatively by distress upon and seizure of goods and chattels of the owner or occupant, or alternatively by making the sad rates in default a charge against the property to which the sewer service was given and in that event, the charge so made shall be subject to the same penalties and shall be collectible by the same procedures as taxes levied by the Municipality.

(BL 20/029)

- (i) Any attempt, whether successful or not, to collect unpaid utility bills pursuant to Section 201 (h) shall not, in any way, affect the rights of the Municipality to prosecute an offender pursuant to section #501 of this Bylaw.

(BL 20/029)

SERVICES AND MAINS

301. When, for any reason, a temporary service is required, an applicant shall pay in advance the whole cost of its construction, together with that cost of removing it when no longer needed.

302. No person, other than authorized personnel of the Municipality shall turn on water to any premises before a certificate has been received from the Plumbing Inspector stating that the piping and plumbing is in accordance with the plumbing and drainage act and regulations thereto. This shall apply to all new construction, alterations, additions, enlargements, renewals and all piping changes of any nature whatsoever.

(BL 20/029)

303. Unless otherwise excepted by this Bylaw, no person, other than authorized employees of the Municipality, shall operate, interfere with or handle any article or thing having to do with the sewage system, mains and appurtenances.

(BL 20/029)

304. A plumber shall not be in violation of section 303 when:

- (a) Testing his own piping in the case of a new installation; or
 - (b) Replacing a valve or piping.
305. Unless otherwise excepted by this Bylaw, no person, other than authorized employees of the Municipality shall, by any means whatsoever obstruct or impede direct and free access to sewer mains and appurtenances. **(BL 20/029)**
306. If any lot contains more than one self-contained building, then at the discretion of the commissioner, a maximum of one service per self contained building may be constructed.
307. Unless otherwise approved ten days written advance notice shall be given the Commissioner prior to any construction which will affect any municipal utility or property. Work will proceed only after all permits and conditions are in order, including the Utility Installation/Street Occupation Permit. **(BL 20/029)**
308. The Commissioner may revoke or annul any permit that may have been granted to connect with the municipal sewer main or service if he shall find that any of the work is not being done in accordance with the provisions of this Bylaw and the person or persons making such connection, or their successors in interest shall have no right to demand or claim and damages in consequence of such permits being revoked or annulled. **(BL 20/029)**
309. All pipe used as a service pipe to a building shall be of approved materials and not less than 100 mm I.D. (4" Inside Diameter).
310. The Municipality is the owner of the sewer main and the sewer service to the property line. The remained of the service is the consumer's responsibility and all maintenance costs for this section shall be borne by the consumer. **(BL 20/029)**
311. The responsibility and cost of thawing a frozen service shall be borne by the consumer:
- (a) If the consumer's sewer service from the property line or plumbing connected thereto is frozen, as determined by the Commissioner;
 - (b) if the municipal service is frozen as a result of negligence or tampering by the consumer. **(BL 20/029)**
312. The Municipality shall not thaw a sewer service unless the consumer shall first have signed acknowledgement recognizing that thawing may be dangerous to life and property, including the sewer service from the property line or plumbing system, and may cause damage to electrical systems or outbreak of fire, and

waiving any claim against the Municipality for such damage and acknowledging responsibility for the payment of all costs.

(BL 20/029)

313. The Municipality is not responsible for any blockages or freezing from the sewer main to the building with the exception of a collapsed sewer service within the municipal right-of-way.

(BL 20/029)

314. The consumer shall be responsible for the unblocking or thawing of the sewer services and bear all costs thereby incurred unless the sewer service if collapsed on city property.

315. Wherever a person wishes to abandon a sewer service, he shall do so at his own cost and shall obtain approval for the method and location off abandonment from the Commissioner.

316. Unless otherwise approved by the Commissioner, weeping tile shall be connected to the sewer service. A back flow valve shall be installed in the weeping tile to prevent sewage backups into the soil.

317. No person shall enclose the sewer drains and clean-outs in partitions, walls or otherwise restrict access to same.

DISCHARGE

401. Except hereinafter provided, no person shall discharge or cause or permit to be discharged any of the following water or wastes to any sanitary system.

- (a) Any liquid or vapour having a temperature of higher than 75 degrees of a volume sufficient to cause damage to the sewer service main.
- (b) Any gasoline solvents or similar spontaneous combustion material;
- (c) Any insensitive explosive substance that is capable of producing a mass explosion;
- (d) Any tar or other viscous material of mineral origin;
- (e) Any garbage that has not been shredded so as to pass through a 6mm screen;
- (f) Any ashes, cinders, wood, wood-shavings, sawdust, rags, sand, mud, straw, metal, glass, fibreglass, plastics, eggshells, feathers and improperly shredded paper or other solids,

- (g) Any water or wastes which contain material that will solidify or become viscous at temperatures between 5 degrees Celsius and 80 degrees Celsius
- (h) Animal parts or wastes including, but not limited to:
 - 1. Any manure or intestinal contents from horses, cattle, sheep, swine or poultry
 - 2. Hooves or toenails
 - 3. Intestines or stomach casings or animal body parts
 - 4. Bones
 - 5. Bristles of hair
 - 6. Hides or parts thereof
 - 7. Fat or flesh in particles larger than that which will pass through a 6mm screen
 - 8. Fleshings and hair resulting from tanning operations.
- (i) Any wastewater having a pH lower than 6.0 or above 10.0;
- (j) Wastewater which is in two or more separate layers, or is capable of being transformed into two or more sperate layers.
- (k) Wastewater containing substances in concentration exceeding the following:
 - Antimony – 1.0 mg/L
 - Arsenic- 1.0 mg/L
 - Barium – 3.0 mg/L
 - Boron – 1.0 mg/L
 - Cadium – 0.05 mg/L
 - Chromium – 1.0 mg/L
 - Chlorinated Hydrocarbons – 0.02 mg/L
 - Copper – 0.5 mg/L
 - Cyanide – 1.0 mg/L
 - Lead – 1.0 mg/L
 - Manganese – 1.0 mg/L
 - Mercury – 0.1 mg/L
 - Nickel – 0.5 mg/L
 - Total Pesticides – 0.1 mg/L
 - Phenolic Compounds – 0.1 mg/L
 - Selenium – 1.0 mg/L
 - Silver – 1.0 mg/L
 - Sulfide – 1.0 mg/L
 - Zinc – 1.0 mg/L
- (l) Pollutants other than those listed in (j) prohibited from being discharged under Federal or Provincial legislation.

(m) Any noxious malodorous gas or substance capable of creating a public nuisance including, but not limited to hydrogen-sulphide, mercaptans (thiols) carbon disulphides, other reduced sulphur compounds, amines, and ammonia.

(n) Wastewater which contains more than:

- (1) 2000 mg/L nonfilterable residue (suspended solids), and/or
- (2) (2) 2000 mg/L B.O.D and/or
- (3) (3) 4000 mg/L chemical oxygen demand (C.O.D.) and/or
- (4) (4) 1000 mg/L grease and oils and/or
- (5) (5) 200 mg/L hydrocarbons or petroleum origin
- (6) (6) 250 mg/L phosphorus as phosphate

These items shall be reduced on 1986 01 01 to:

- (1) Non-filterable residue- 1500 mg/L
- (2) B.O.D. – 1500 mg/L
- (3) C.O.D. – 3000 mg/L
- (4) Grease and Oil – 800 mg/L
- (5) Hydrocarbons – 150 mg/L

These items shall be further reduced in 1988 01 01 to:

- (1) Non-filterable residue – 1000 mg/L
- (2) B.O.D. – 1000 mg/L
- (3) C.O.D. – 2000 mg/L
- (4) Oil and grease – 500 mg/L
- (5) Hydrocarbons – 100 mg/L
- (6) Phosphorus as phosphate – 100 mg/L

(o) Any substance which, in the opinion of the Commissioner, is or may become harmful to any recipient water course or sewer system or part thereof, may interfere with the proper operation of the sewer system, may impede or interfere with any treatment process, or may become a hazard to persons, property or animals.

402. No person shall permit to be discharged into any sewer, any liquid or liquids which would prejudicially affect the sewers, or the disposal of the sewage, or any matters of substance by which the free flow of the sewage may be interfered with, or any chemical refuse or other trade waste, or any waste steam and amendments thereto.

403. No person shall discharge that contents of any privy, vault, manure pit or cesspool, directly or indirectly into any city sewer or house drain connected therewith.

404. No person shall interfere with the free discharge of any municipal sewer or part thereof, or do any act or thing which may impede or obstruct the flow or clog up the municipal sewage system.

(BL 20/029)

405. Unpolluted water shall be discharged to the storm sewer system where approval is obtained from the Department of Environment and in accordance with the Plumbing and Drainage Act, or to natural water course. Water. Including stormwater, surface water, clearwater waste and sub-surface drainage (except foundation drainage) shall be considered to be unpolluted if:

(a) It does not contain conventional, nonconventional, or priority pollutants in measurable concentrations other than those identified below in less than or equal to the concentrations listed:

Conventional Pollutants

B.O.D. – 20 mg/L

C.O.D. – 40 mg/L

Grease and oils – 5.0 mg/L

Nitrogen (ammonia plus organic) – 1.0 mg/L

Non-Filterable Residue – 20 mg/L

Phosphorus as phosphate – 0.15 mg/L

Copper – 0.02 mg/L

Fluoride – 1.5 mg/L

Iron – 0.3 mg/L

Manganese – 0.05 mg/L

Sulfide – 0.05 mg/L

Zinc – 0.05 mg/L

Total coliform density 5,000 per 100 ml in 90% of samples

Fecal coliform density 1,000 per 100 ml in 90% of samples

Priority Pollutants

Arsenic – 0.01 mg/L

Barium – 1.00 mg/L

Boron – 0.5 mg/L

Cadium – 0.05 mg/L

Chromium – 0.05 mg/L

Cyanide – 0.01 mg/L

Lead – 0.05 mg/L

Mercury – 0.0001 mg/L

Phenolics – 0.005 mg/L

Selenium – 0.01 mg/L

Silver – 0.05 mg/L

Pesticides (total) – 0.1 mg/L

(b) its pH is greater than 6.5 and less than 9.0

- (c) it has a colour less than 30 true color units;
- (d) its temperature is lower than 65 degrees Celsius

These lists shall not be limited to the above materials. They include ant materials cited in Provincial and Federal Legislation and amendments thereto including priority pollutants listed in the Federal Environment Contaminants Act.

406. No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged any surface water, sub-surface drainage (except foundation drainage) or unpolluted clearwater waste to any sanitary sewer. The Commissioner may on application authorize such discharge where exceptional conditions prevent compliance with foregoing provisions.

407. The following regulations apply to wastewater hauled for disposal to the Municipality's sewage system:

(BL 20/029)

(a) Pursuant to the License Business Bylaw, and changes and type thereto, persons hauling wastewaters such as septic tank sludge and other water for discharge into the Municipality's sewer system shall obtain a license

(BL 20/029)

(b) The license is subject to cancellation for any violation of this Bylaw

(c) Persons hauling wastewater or other waters for treatment shall discharge the wastewater or other waters into the Municipality's sewer system only at sites designated for such disposal.

(BL 20/029)

(d) Wastewater and other waters discharged shall meet the limits established in clause #401

(e) Treatment of wastewater or other waters so discharged shall be paid for in accordance with the fee schedule in Appendice A of this Bylaw.

(f) Any person discharging water or wastewater to the sewer system including lagoons, as designated sites shall allow the material being discharged to be sampled and shall provide information on the wastewater being discharged. This information shall include, but not be limited to, source of wastewater, quantity of wastewater, trucking firm name, and truck license number.

(g) The Municipality may prescribe fees for discharging water or wastewater in the sewage system.

(BL 20/029)

408. No person shall discharge to any natural outlet within the Municipality or any area under the jurisdiction of the Municipality, any sanitary wastewater, industrial

wastewater or other polluted water except where pre-treatment has been approved in accordance with the provisions of this Bylaw and the concentration of pollutants has been reduced to or below the levels indicated in Clause #405.

(BL 20/029)

409. The commissioner shall have the right at all reasonable times to enter houses or other places which have been connected with the municipal sewage system, and facilities must be given him to ascertain whether or not any improper material or liquid is being discharged into the sewage system and he shall have the power to stop or prevent from discharging into the sewage system, any private sewer or drain through which substances are discharged which are liable to injure the sewage system or obstruct the flow of sewage.

(BL 20/029)

410. No waste discharge resulting from any trade, industrial or manufacturing process, shall be directly discharged to any main sewer without such previous treatment as may be prescribed by the Municipality for each such case, being in addition to the requirements of the *Clean Water Act* and the *Plumbing and Drainage Act* and regulations pursuant thereto. The necessary treatment works expense prior to the construction of the sewer connection, and thereafter shall be continuously maintained and operated by the applicant. Grease, oil, sand or mud, sumps or interceptors shall be provided by the owner where, in the opinion of the Commissioner, they are necessary for the proper handling of liquid wastes containing grease, oil, sand, mud or other harmful substances.

(BL 20/029)

411. Grease traps of sufficient size and approved design shall be placed on the waste pipes from all hotels, restaurants, laundries and such other place as prescribed by the Municipality under advisement may direct.

(BL 20/029)

412. All traps and sumps referred to in Section #410 and #411 shall be maintained by the consumer at his expense, to prevent discharge of undesirable material into the sewage system.

413. Any building connecting into a sewage system shall conform to the *Plumbing and Drainage Act* and Regulations.

414. The commissioner may authorize discontinuation of water service when provisions of this Bylaw are not complied with.

PENALTIES

501. A person who fails to do anything which he is required to do pursuant to the Bylaw, or who does anything which he is prohibited from doing under this Bylaw is guilty of an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a penalty provided in the General Penalty Bylaw of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo as amended from time to time.

(BL 20/029)

502. Where the person who contravenes and Section of this Bylaw is unknown, the registered owner of the property to which service is supplied is liable for the offence and deemed responsible for the malfeasances occurring on his property.
503. Notwithstanding Section #502, the registered owner is not in any event liable to imprisonment except in default of payment of said fine in charged and convicted under the provisions of section #502.
504. All previous Sewer Bylaws are hereby repealed.
505. This Bylaw shall come into force as, on and from the date of its final reading.

READ A FIRST TIME THIS 7TH DAY OF JANUARY. A.D. 1986
READ A SECOND TIME THIS 7TH DAY OF JANUARY, A.D. 1986
READ A THIRD AND FINAL TIME THIS 7TH DAY OF JANUARY, A.D. 1986

Amendments:

19/023

20/029

SCHEDULE A
DELETED (BL 19/023)