

DATE OF MEETING OCTOBER 6, 2025

AUTHORED BY KAREN ROBERTSON, DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER

**SUBJECT BYLAW NOTICE ENFORCEMENT AMENDMENT BYLAW –  
WATERWORKS RATE AND REGULATION FINES**

## **OVERVIEW**

### **Purpose of Report**

To consider amending the Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw to increase the fines associated with violations against the Waterworks Rates and Regulation Bylaw.

### **Recommendation**

1. That “Bylaw Notice Enforcement Amendment Bylaw 2025 No. 7159.25” (a bylaw to assign fines for violations against the Waterworks Rate and Regulation Bylaw 2006 No. 7004) pass first reading.
2. That “Bylaw Notice Enforcement Amendment Bylaw 2025 No. 7159.25” pass second reading.
3. That “Bylaw Notice Enforcement Amendment Bylaw 2025 No. 7159.25” pass third reading.

## **BACKGROUND**

The City has been experiencing an increase in vandalism and tampering of the City’s water assets such as turning on fire hydrants causing property damage, hooking up to fire hydrants without a permit to obtain free water, and removing parts from hydrants rendering them inoperative. While the City does have the ability to ticket for these offences, the current fines for violations against the bylaw are outdated and no longer serve as a deterrent to these activities. As such, staff recommend that the fines be increased.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Waterworks Rate and Regulation Bylaw, and the fines for violations against the bylaw, were enacted in 2006. They have not changed since that time and should be increased in order to assist with discouraging activity detrimental to the water system.

When undertaking a review of fines against bylaw violations, it is best practise to compare them with other local governments that participate in the in the Dispute Adjudication Registry System (DARS). In this case, staff reviewed the waterworks regulation fines for the District of North Cowichan, City of Duncan, City of Port Alberni, Cowichan Valley Regional District, and District of Tofino, along with the City of Kelowna and City of Victoria who participate in a separate DARS program. Most of the fines for those local governments range between \$200 and \$500 (the maximum fine allowed) for the more serious violation. The City’s current fines are between \$50 and \$200 (see Attachment 2).

The proposed fines, if supported, would be similar to the fines of other local governments that participate in the DARS program (see Attachment 1).

### **OPTIONS**

#### Option 1:

1. That “Bylaw Notice Enforcement Amendment Bylaw 2025 No. 7159.25” (a bylaw to assign fines for violations against the Waterworks Rate and Regulation Bylaw) pass first reading.
  2. That “Bylaw Notice Enforcement Amendment Bylaw 2025 No. 7159.25” pass second reading.
  3. That “Bylaw Notice Enforcement Amendment Bylaw 2025 No. 7159.25” pass third reading.
- The advantage to this option is that increasing the fines may be a stronger deterrent to those who may consider tampering with the City’s waterworks. It would also assist in keeping the City on par with the fines of other local governments.

#### Option 2:

That Council provide alternate direction to staff on proposed fines for violations against the “Waterworks Rates and Regulation Bylaw”.

- Council may wish to impose fines that are higher than the ones put forward by staff. If so, a motion from Council would be sought prior to the bylaw being given its first three readings.

#### Option 3:

That Council retain the existing fine schedule for violations against the Waterworks Rates and Regulation Bylaw.

- Council may determine that it does not wish to increase the fines at this time.

### **SUMMARY POINTS**

- The City has experienced an increase in vandalism and tampering of the City’s water assets
- The existing fines have not increased since 2006 and no longer serve as a deterrent to the vandalism activities.
- Staff recommend increasing the fines for violations against the Waterworks Rate and Regulation Bylaw to be on par with other municipalities that participate in the Dispute Adjudication Registry System.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1 – B7159.25 – BON Amendment – Proposed Waterworks Fines

Attachment 2 – Existing Fine Schedule

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**Concurrence by:**

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