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**MD request for more sewer service on hold**

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Darryl Mills  
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Council didn't want to dump all over the idea, but they weren't ready to make it their number one or number two priority.

So, council instead voted to postpone a request from the MD of Rocky View to expand an agreement extending wastewater service to the Cochrane Lakes subdivision to other properties north of Cochrane.

Director of Operational Services Jim Anderson recommended denying the request, in light of two key factors -- firstly that Cochrane Lakes is part of an approved Area Structure Plan (ASP) but the Cochrane North ASP is still being reviewed and could lead to a significant increase in population densities around the Cochrane Lake plan.

Anderson also noted that with the Calgary Regional Partnership planning to release their regional servicing study sometime this year, there is a need to have more discussions about future servicing of these areas before existing agreements are amended.

Councillor andy Marshall disagreed with administration however, and moved to approve the request, noting that the request still falls within the original flow rate agreed upon by the two jurisdictions.

"There is no additional capacity required, according to Rocky View," Marshall said. "With the infrastructure in place and the cost assured, why would we reject it?"

Marshall said it was an issue of cooperation between the two neighbours and that the Town should be able to identify and sympathize with the challenges the MD is facing related to growth.

"If we don't approve this, it doesn't bode well for our future relationship with Rocky View," he warned.

Council heard that if the request was denied, the MD would likely have to look at septic systems in that area.

Councillor Truper McBride said it would be beneficial to the Town in future years if the area was connected to Town infrastructure, rather than septic tanks.

Councillor Larry Wackershauser was also on board originally, seeing the deal contributing positively to future partnerships between the two.

However, Councillor Ken Hynes pointed to Anderson's key points as major reasons why council needed to take a closer look at the request.

"We must be cautious that what we're agreeing to is doable," Hynes said, noting that he didn't think being cautious meant being uncooperative.

"A little more time might not hurt to insure that we get it right," he said, noting that it is Cochrane ratepayers who pay for that infrastructure.

Councillor Jeff Genung offered concerns about the alternatives the MD would have if council said no, but was also worried about the "maximum number of residences or buildings that could hook on."

"I'd like, as a community to say 'not yet, but...'"

Mayor Ken Bech then asked McBride to take the chair and urged council not to support the request.

"At this point in time the land uses are unknown and the Calgary Regional Partnership has a meeting this Thursday," that he said will include discussion of regional water and wastewater servicing.

"I am going to ask you to put this on hold," Bech said. "We are too early in the process to be extending anymore of our levels of service."

He said with the uncertainty of the impacts on Cochrane's social infrastructure, as more rural residents would use Town services, and other uncertainties as reasons to hold off.

"We don't have a clue what this other 12 litres per second (the amount the MD requested to fill their allotment of 48 per second) will connect to."

At that point, McBride asked Anderson if he knew what the MD's urgency was on the matter. "I'm not aware other than what's in the letter," Anderson said of the letter included in the council package.

McBride said he believed in the work of the CRP, so he suggested a better move would be to postpone considering the request until council had more information.

"I'd like to request information from the MD on the urgency of this and why they can't wait for the report from the CRP."

Council voted unanimously in favour of postponement.



# The Pink Panther Strikes Again

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