

## Water Metering Public Meeting Summary

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	Thursday, January 21st, 2016	<b>Time:</b>	7:00 – 9:00 pm
<b>Project:</b>	Portugal Cove – St. Phillips Water Metering		
<b>Location:</b>	Portugal Cove – St. Phillips Recreation Center		
<b>Meeting Name:</b> Water Metering Public Information Meeting			

The following notes describe the questions brought forward by the public at this meeting concerning the water metering project.

### General Questions:

- What criteria will be/has been used to determine the most appropriate water meter?
- Is there a possibility that we would be forced to tender rather than RFP and therefore settle for an inferior product?
- How will it be ensured that a reputable company will be entering residents' homes?
- Will the meter interfere with any household wireless connections?
- How much demolition, if any, is involved in installation?
- Why is Vigilant qualified to take on this project?
- How do the stats from the other provinces compare to each other? Are they comparable to PCSP?
- How likely is it that residents will pay more than they do currently? How much more? What has been the experience of other towns? Which people tend to be affected this way?
  - Overall, residents would like to see more detailed statistics indicating whose bills went up and whose went down and by how much. Would like to see the connection between these other places and PCSP and why the result may be similar.
- What is the average cost for water across Canada? Atlantic Canada?
- What will be the cost per cubic meter, per household? For businesses? How does this compare to the cost in other provinces with water metering?
- Why did St. John's discontinue their commercial water metering program?

### The Decision Process:

- Why is Portugal Cove – St. Phillips taking this on when other larger communities have not? What makes this a good fit for us as a Town?
- Why wasn't the public engaged sooner?
- Why was the decision made to skip the trial period and move straight into full implementation?
- Why was it decided to make the program mandatory rather than voluntary?
- Why is this project being implemented when the economy is so poor? Why not spend the money elsewhere?
- How will the supposed savings from this project be reinvested into the Town?

**Finances:**

- How does the water metering system compare with the current Town water system financially? Will PCSP profit from residents?
- Will the rates be flexible to account for different volumes of usage due to the number of people in a household?
- Will there be maximum and minimum fees regardless of usage?
- How will the rates be regulated to ensure residents are not overcharged? Who will control these rates?
- How will this affect local businesses? How will their rates compare to rates for the residents?
- How will people on wells be affected financially?
- How will residents be charged? How will apartments be charged?

**Logistics:**

- Will the Town have access to residence property on a regular basis? How will the meters be monitored?
- If property is damaged during installation or maintenance activities, who is financially liable?
- How will this project attract people to the Town? How will it impact real estate values in PCSP?
- If PCSP is encouraging the growth of agriculture in the Town, how can reducing water consumption agree with this goal?
- Why did you decide to involve Vigilant Management? How do their costs compare to other project management companies?
- Why did you immediately involve project managers rather than consultants?
- If the public does not support the project once more information is made available and the costs are estimated more accurately, will the project still go ahead? Will there be a vote? What factors will contribute to the overall continuation or cancellation of this project?