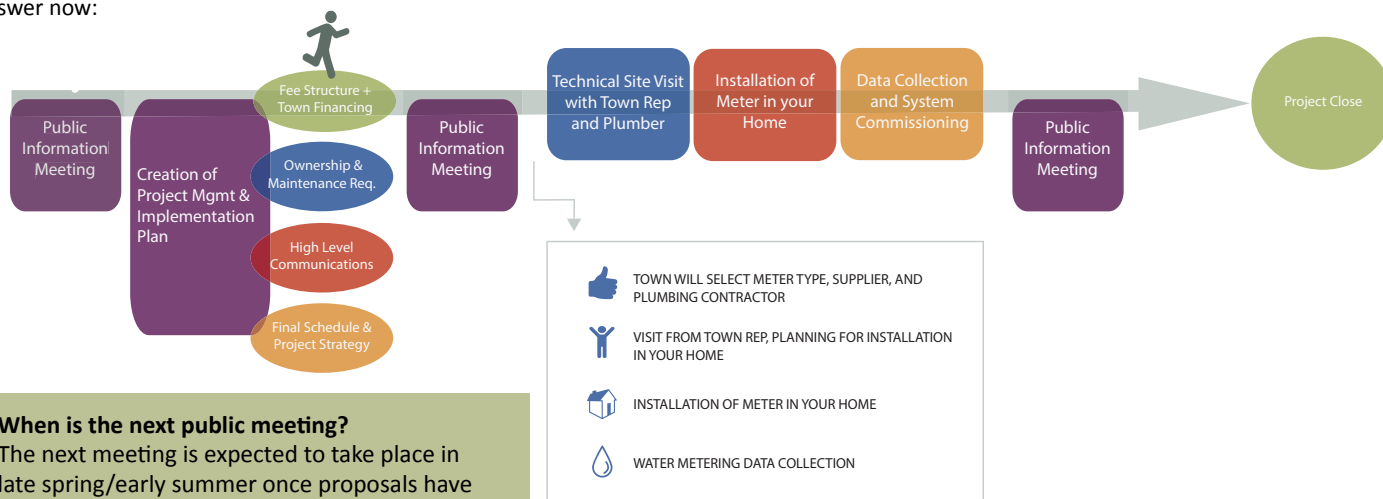


Water Metering Project

The Town continues to work towards the proposed water metering project. At this early planning stage, we are ensuring that all issues and concerns are fully understood and input into the process. On Thursday, January 21st, the first public meeting on water metering was held at the Recreation Centre to kick off the process. It was well attended and Council was able to gather great information from those in attendance. We would like to thank all those who have given input, expressed concerns and/or support for the project. All the information that is being gathered will allow Council to make the best decision for the future sustainability of Portugal Cove – St. Philip's.

At the meeting, Council committed to preparing a document for residents that answers all those questions and concerns identified. Council and staff are working on completing this document. It will be available as soon as the total costs associated with delivering water to residents are analyzed and proposed fee structures for fair distribution are evaluated. The evaluation of these fees and the numbers generated by this next step in the process will provide the information needed to answer all the questions asked by the residents. To effectively share this document and the information obtained by the analysis, we will have another public meeting with residents. If all the data shows that the metering project is a wise choice for the community as a whole and no new concerns are raised, we will prepare specifications for a tender and contract to install the meters based on the information gained in earlier stages of the project. Once the tender results come in, they can be compared to the data used in the fee analysis. If the numbers are still valid and show it is wise to move forward with the project, the tender will be awarded and the installation phase of the process will start.

While most of the questions asked must wait for the analysis to be completed, there are a few very important questions that we can answer now:



When is the next public meeting?

The next meeting is expected to take place in late spring/early summer once proposals have been received from Council.

For a full list of the questions and concerns addressed to Council you can visit pcsp.ca. There will be a mail out of a full report answering these questions in the coming weeks; however, we will do our best to answer them as information becomes available.

As always we are seeking input and feedback. Please send any comments or inquires to Jeff Lawlor, Director of Economic Development, Marketing and Communications at jeff.lawlor@pcsp.ca or 895-8000 ext 222.

1. Is this project definitely going ahead?

This is the very early stages of the process. As with all projects that are proposed and considered by Council there are decision points along the path of implementation. Currently the types of meters, installation requirements and other costs are not yet fully understood. No contract has been awarded yet to purchase or install meters.

2. How will this new fee affect our current water fee of \$475?

The water metering fee that your household will be charged will replace the current water fee of \$475. Currently the total cost of providing water is equally distributed amongst all those who receive water; this is how the current water fee is set. Charging based on use is an alternative to the current water fee.

3. Where do we get our water?

We purchase our water from a regional board and it comes from Bay Bulls Big Pond. Currently, almost 80% of our total water costs (\$380 of your current water fee) are the result of purchasing of the water. If we reduce the demand of water we reduce the cost on residents.

4. Will residents have to pay for the meter and costs of the plumber to install upfront?

No, these costs will be covered by the project itself. How those costs affect the rate will be better understand once the fee structure has been evaluated.

5. Is installation mandatory for all residents on water?

Part of the process is to do a site visit and evaluate each home. We expect that a small percentage will be too costly to install based on unique circumstances. The goal is to install as many that are feasible.

6. Why would the town consider this in financially difficult times?

The Town is doing this in an attempt to reduce the average tax burden for households in Portugal Cove – St. Philip's by reducing both overall costs of purchasing water and giving residents the ability to control their bills.

7. Where are we along the project path?

Here is the revised project path for the project.

Speed Zone Policy Public Meeting

Date: Wednesday, March 23

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Recreation Centre

PCSP Council is looking to implement a town wide Speed Zone Policy that would overhaul the existing speed zones in the community. We will be developing this in conjunction with our SafePCSP Pedestrian Safety Group as well as local authorities. We would like to invite residents to come out to a public meeting outlining the policy so that we can get lots of feedback from the community. For more information please contact Jeff Lawlor at 895-8000 ext 222.