



**Village of Rycroft
Request for Decision**

Council Meeting Date: January 17, 2023

TOPIC: Water Operator Contract Advertisement

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That Council direct Administration to advertise for a Water Operator contractor to start once the current agreement ends with Aquacor Water & Environmental Inc. in June 2023.

BACKGROUND: The Village currently has an "Operational Assistance" agreement with Aquacor Water & Environmental Inc. (formerly GWST) until June 30, 2023.

Under the current contract, the Water Operator (Aquacor) looks after the water treatment plant and compliance with all legislative requirements. The Village looks after the water distribution and wastewater systems.

The advantage to having a contractor look after the water system is they are responsible for the system 24 hours a day/7 days a week. As certain levels of accreditation are required, they have a number of staff to manage the system. They are responsible for their staff wages, benefits, training, vehicles, etc.

The Village has a limited budget and staff complement, so if we were to hire a certified operator and they decided to leave, we would have to find another operator with the minimum qualifications. The last time this happened to the Village, the certified Water Operator/Public Works Foreman passed away, the Village hired a contractor (Aquaterra) at an over inflated cost as they needed qualified personnel in place immediately. Contracting this service out removes this liability from the Village operations.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: We spend ~\$130,000 for the Water Operator contract annually.

POLICY AND/OR LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS: None

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. Council could hire and train more staff to run the Water Treatment Plant.

ATTACHMENTS: None

Peter Thomas
Chief Administrative Officer

January 13, 2023
Date