

District of Barriere

REPORT TO COUNCIL

Request for Decision

Date: May 5, 2025	File: 530.20/Rpts
To: Council	From: Public Works Manager Chief Administrative Officer
Re: Unauthorized Wastewater Connection Works – 4639 Barriere Town Rd.	
Recommendation: THAT Council instruct Staff to deny the request by the owners of 4639 Barriere Town Road to connect to the wastewater utility through the 4629 Barriere Town Road (Old Chamber building) lot to tie into the Barkley Road wastewater main, AND THAT the owner be directed to work with Staff on a connection permit to a dedicated connection on Barriere Town Road.	

Purpose

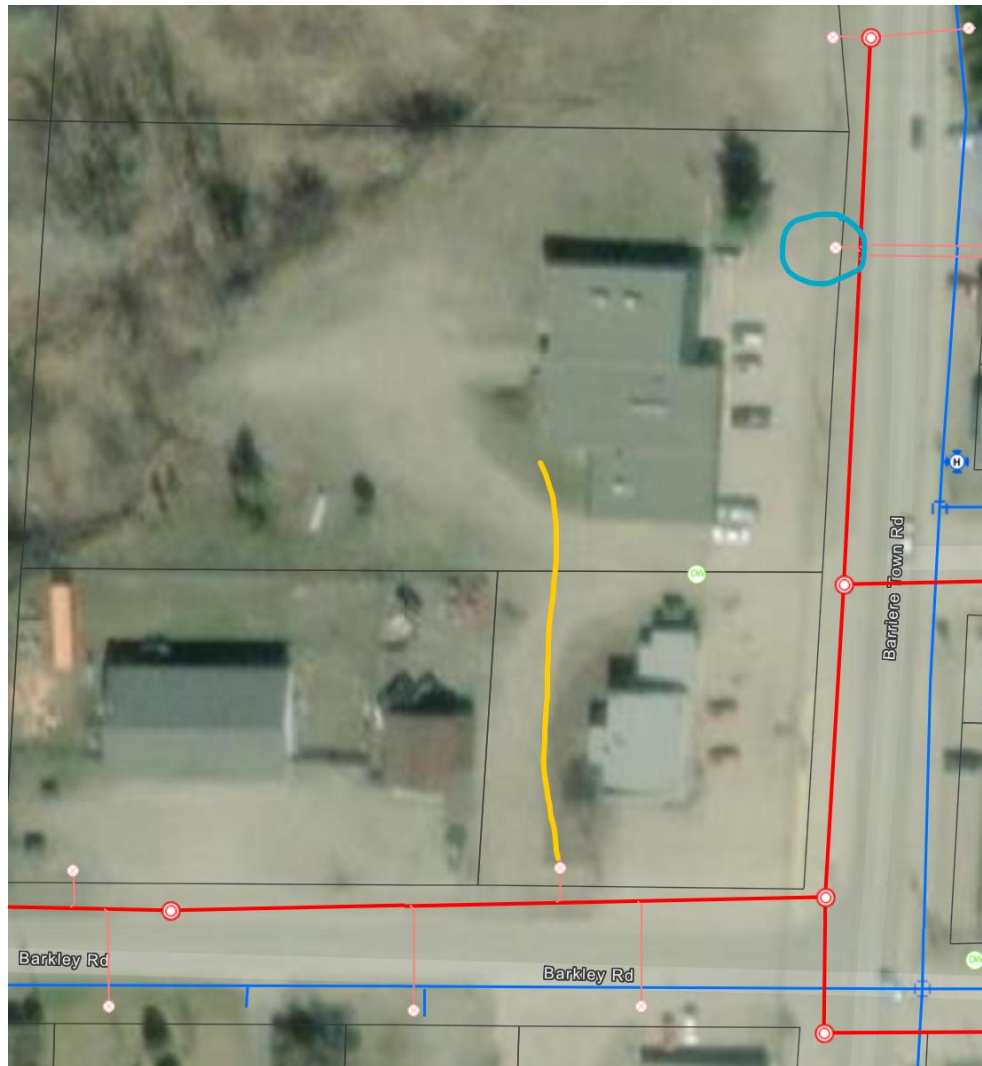
To inform Council of an attempted unauthorized wastewater connection from a neighboring private business to a municipally-owned wastewater infrastructure through a District-owned lot.

Background

On April 15th, 2025, staff became aware of some earth works happening behind the Barriere Liquor Store that may be encroaching onto the Old Chamber Building lot that we own. Upon investigation, it was discovered that the property owner of 4639 Barriere Town Road and their contractor were in the process of installing a wastewater line intended to connect into the existing sanitary sewer associated with the old Chamber Building (see picture to the right). The connection was made without municipal authorization, inspection, or any other form of approval. Fortunately, the tie-in to the complex itself was and has not been made.

At that stage, Staff directed the owner to cover up the installed line until a decision can be made by Council.





The above map shows the District's utilities in regard to the lots in question. The **yellow** line shows the approximate location of where the unauthorized line was run. The **red** lines show the District's wastewater utility. The **blue/turquoise** circle shows the connection chamber that already exists for the 4639 property which is already in use by one of the parties in the building. It is Staff's understanding, that the owner chose the path to Barkley Road as it would not require any pavement to be disturbed and needing to be replaced.

In addition, Council has previously released an Expression of Interest for a redevelopment of the Old Chamber building and its lot that has good development potential as it has water and wastewater services available. A wastewater service running through the property may have significant impact on what could be built on the Old Chamber lot in the future.

Technical Recommendation

Given the above, Staff's recommendation would be to deny the connection to Barkley Road for the wastewater utility through the District-owned lot and instead advise the owner of 4639 Barriere Town Road to connect to the wastewater main on Barriere Town Road.

Benefits or Impact

General

Unauthorized work was stopped by District staff.

Permitting the connection may set a precedent for future unauthorized access if not properly managed.

Finances

Cost recovery for system use, inspection, and potential infrastructure upgrades may be necessary. Potential legal costs if enforcement action is pursued.

Mr. Bakey would ultimately be responsible for any related costs for upsizing the line from the connection point to the sewer main.

Strategic Impact

N/A

Risk Assessment

Compliance: Municipal bylaws prohibit unauthorized works on District right-of ways or property.

Risk Impact:

The connection may not meet technical standards.

It may require upgrades to be brought into compliance.

There may be insufficient capacity in the system to support this additional load.

Internal Control Process: Staff is following standard processes to rectify the issue by bringing it to Council for a decision.

Next Steps / Communication

- Inform property owner of Council's decision
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Attachments

- N/A

Recommendation

THAT Council instruct Staff to deny the request by the owners of 4639 Barriere Town Road to connect to the wastewater utility through the 4629 Barriere Town Road (Old Chamber building) lot to tie into the Barkley Road wastewater main, AND THAT the owner be directed to work with Staff on a connection permit to a dedicated connection on Barriere Town Road.

Options

1. Council could allow a connection to Barkley Road for the Wastewater service. This is not recommended as it will almost certainly impact a future re-development of the old chamber lot. If Council chose to allow this connection, there will be other legal processes that must occur first (easements etc.) including Council approval.

Prepared by: C. Matthews, Public Works Manager

Reviewed by: D. Drexler, CAO