

## City of North Bay Report to Council

Report No: CORP-2025-073

Date: July 30, 2025

Originator: Daniel Robinson

Business Unit: Corporate Services

Department: Financial Services Department

Subject: Precommitment of 2026 Capital Budget for Water Meter & Radio Tower upgrades

Closed Session: yes ☐ no ☒

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### Recommendation

That City Council authorizes the precommitment against the 2026 General Capital Budget as outlined in Report to Council CORP 2025-073, dated July 30, 2025 from Daniel Robinson.

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### Background

Project No. 4366WS Water Meter & Radio Upgrade was initiated in 2023 to ensure the City's water billing system remains current and provides a platform for accurate data and associated billing to users. This project provides for the upgrade of the Neptune water meter data collectors from R450 to the R900 system, utilizing the LoRaWAN gateway to enhance communications between the water meters and the Neptune software. This project also provides for the replacement of the older retrofit, non-Neptune water meters that are approaching end of life.

This project was scheduled from 2023 to 2026, with an annual budget allocation of approximately \$245,000. To date, the project has remained on schedule and within budget. In 2023 and 2024, new collectors were purchased and installed, along with significant meter replacements. Work in 2025 has continued with additional meter replacements and is on track for completion this Fall. There is an opportunity to improve project efficiency by incorporating the 2026 installations into the Fall 2025 work plan.

Pre-approval of the associated expenditures is required to procure materials and ensure timely completion of the work this Fall.

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### Financial/Legal Implications

The Tax and Water department is requesting a precommitment of 2026 capital funding up to **\$245,000** Project No. 43366WS Water Meter & Radio Tower Upgrades 2023 On-going in order to expediate the upgrades and associated benefits.

This request would allow:

- Cost savings through the purchase of water meter materials and equipment at current pricing.
- Cost savings through the purchase of discounted meter interface units (discount ends December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025).

This precommitment will allow the City's Tax and Water Department to secure the necessary materials, equipment and labour in order to realize cost savings. Communication with the contractor has confirmed that they could have capacity to support early completion of the project, but would need immediate City confirmation to schedule appropriately.

The request for preapproval of the final project installment is reasonable given the anticipated benefits. Furthermore, the City's 2025 approved Capital Budget was balanced for 2026 as such there would be sufficient funding anticipated in 2026 to provide for this precommitment.

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### **Corporate Strategic Plan**

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|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Natural North and Near                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Prosperity     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affordable Balanced Growth                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Spirited Safe Community |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Responsible and Responsive Government |  |

### **Specific Objectives**

- Ensure the efficient and effective operations of the city, with consideration to the impact of decisions on the water and wastewater revenues and rates.

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### **Options Analysis**

Option 1: Authorize the precommitment of 2026 Capital Budget funds. This option will allow completion of the project up to one year earlier and realized costs savings while enhancing data and customer services.

This option is recommended.

Option 2: Not authorize the precommitment of 2026 Capital Budget funds. Without the authorization there will be potential cost increases, lost potential benefits, and a delay in mitigating current challenges within water meter and associated billing processes.

This option is not recommended.

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### **Recommended Option**

That City Council authorizes the precommitment against the 2026 General Capital Budget as outlined in Report to Council CORP 2025-073, dated July 30, 2025 from Daniel Robinson.

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Respectfully submitted,

Name: Dan Robinson

Title: Manager, Tax and Water

**I concur with this report and recommendation**

Name: Margaret Karpenko, CPA, CMA  
Title: Chief Financial Officer /Treasurer

Name: John Severino, P.Eng., MBA  
Title: Chief Administrative Officer

Personnel designated for continuance:

Name: Dan Robinson  
Title: Manager, Tax and Water