

1914-1969

49 m 60 cm of textual records. - 323 photographs. - 810 cartographic items.

---

On May 4, 1910, the City of Port Arthur abolished the Electric Railway, Light and Telephone Commission. On that same date, By-Law 435 was passed appointing Joachim Antonisen, City Engineer, the Commissioner of Public Utilities. It appears that he remained in that position until the passing of By-Law 557, on June 30, 1911, which appointed J.J. Hackney, the Commissioner of Public Utilities for a term of three years commencing the first day of August, 1911.

As Commissioner of Public Utilities, Mr. Hackney's duties included the general supervision and control over all public utilities of the City of Port Arthur and over all public works therein, the expenditure for which was to be first sanctioned by Council. The Commissioner was also responsible for the City's Purchasing, Stock-keeping and Issuing Departments.

In 1914, Council passed By-Law 1300 which again appointed J.J. Hackney Commissioner of Public Utilities for a one year term. This By-Law stated that the Commissioner would have general supervision and control over the Telephone, Electric Light, Street Railway and Power Departments, as well as charge of the Utilities Store House, and all supplies of the above Departments. The Commissioner was also in charge of purchasing of all supplies for the City.

The City of Port Arthur entered into a contract with the Hydro Electric Power Commission of Ontario for the supply of electrical power. Because of this, and the provisions of the Public Utilities Act, it was necessary to establish a commission for the control and management over all the works undertaken by the City for the distribution and supply of electrical power and energy. Under By-Law 1311 the City established the Commission who's members were to be responsible for the control and management of all matters in connection with the construction, operation and maintenance of the power, light, telephone and street railway utilities.

It was necessary to provide for the election of the Public Utility Commissioners and this was obtained by the passage of By-Law 1312 on December 4, 1914, together with the passing of By-Law, 1324 on February 8, 1915 which provided for taking the votes of the electors on a proposed By-Law entitled: "By-law to entrust the control and management of the Street Railway and Telephone Systems and Current River Power to the Public Utilities Commission."

A further By-Law, No. 1346 was passed on March 22, 1915 entrusting the control and management of the Street Railway and Telephone Systems and Current River Power of the City of Port Arthur to the Public Utilities Commission.

City Council passed Resolution 2200 on March 8, 1915 allowing the Commission to reorganize the management of the Utilities and to give employees two weeks notice that their

services were no longer required and that they would have to re-apply for positions. This included the Commissioner of Utilities.

The Commission appointed a General Manager in 1916 who reported to the Commission. This position appears to have continued up to the end of 1969.

Under By-Law 1421, dated February 28, 1916, the Public Utilities Commission also took over the control and management of the waterworks of the City of Port Arthur effective April 1, 1916.

Upon amalgamation of the Cities of Fort William and Port Arthur on January 1, 1970, control of the utilities was handed over to the new City of Thunder Bay.

The series contains records generated in the offices of the Public Utilities Commission and consists of files, the bulk of which are arranged alphabetically by year (usually two years together), under the categories General Files and Special Files. The Special Files category appears to contain the more significant files and includes minutes, reports and correspondence with various city officials and outside agencies. In 1956 an additional category, Inter-Departmental Files was used, which included correspondence between the various utility departments. These files appeared previously under the Special Files category.

The 1915 files and a portion of the 1916 files are listed alphabetically and are not categorized under General or Special.

A numerical filing system was used for a portion of the 1916 files and the 1917 files.

Microfilm copies are available up to and including the year 1935.

A

A detailed file list is available.

Further accruals are not anticipated.

The photographs, maps, plans and blueprints which have been removed from the files have been replaced with a reference sheet which describes each item, and inventories of the photographs, maps, plans and blueprints are available on the reference shelf.

Other records and information relating to the Public Utilities Commission Files may be found in Series 102, Public Utilities Reference Files.