



Corporation of the Municipality of Temagami

Memo No.
2020-M-048

Memorandum to Council

Subject:	User Charges
Agenda Date:	May 14, 2020
Attachments:	Proposed 2020 fees

RECOMMENDATION

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct Staff to prepare a By-Law to adjust user fees on the agenda for the Meeting of Council scheduled for June 25, 2020.

INFORMATION

The proposed schedules for an updated Fees and Service Charge By-Law are attached to and forms part of this report.

Based on cost, we have established a municipal-wide service fee of \$45 per person per hour. As you view the schedules you will see this rate in many areas.

With the timing of the By-Law being two meetings from now, Council will have the opportunity to review these proposed rates as well as have a more wholesome discussion at the next meeting.

Schedule A – Cemetery Fees

These fees have been approved by the Cemetery Board. The fees have been expanded to cover a different rate for residents/ratepayers from others. The fees also represent an increase due to being closer to the cost of providing the service and, especially in the non-resident/ratepayer, to be closer to what other centres are charging. There have been some instances of 'rate shopping' when determining a final resting place and it is important that all of our available plots are not consumed by those with no connection to the community at the expense of those who do.

Schedule B – Tipping Fees

These fees have been increased by the accumulated cost of living since 2016.

There is a charge added for objects containing Freon gas. Once the Freon has been removed they would be deemed 'white goods' and most often be in the class of scrap metals. There is a cost to removing Freon and it is important that these costs be paid by the consumer. If an item, say a fridge, arrived at the waste site with a Freon free tag attached, there would be no charge.

At this meeting, the proposal for the completion of the waste management master plan is also to be considered. Once this process has been completed there may be a change in the type and value of fee charged.

Schedule C – Water and Sewer

The service fees have been adjusted to be on par with costs and, in the case of connections, adjusted for the accumulated cost of living.

Also important to note is that the note to the schedule states that materials are not included. In the previous by-law it was noted that the service connection did not include materials but was not clear that if materials were required for other services that they would also be charged.

The standard rule of thumb that property owners are responsible for the service lines on their property – typically from the curb stop to the building, continues.

Schedule D – Public Works

The Province normally maintains a list of equipment rates. Rather than list out each piece of equipment in this schedule, we are proposing to use these rates.

As well, it should be noted that the standard direction is for Public Works not to perform work that should be performed by a contractor. By charging the standard service and equipment rates as well as recovering the cost of materials used, those times when work is completed by Public Works we can do what is possible to ensure our rates are relatively equal to those charged by a contractor.

Schedule E – Recreation

The proposed rates for ice rental is similar to those charged by others in our area. Using \$100 per hour as a base, the daily and weekend cost have been adjusted accordingly. Based on the cost of service, these are still being offered at a rate lower than the recovery rate but we are closer.

This report is not the time to have the discussion on the future of services. During this meeting, Council will be reviewing proposals for Service Delivery Review services and that is the process to determine what services the Municipality offers.

One change in the rate structure is found in the rate for fitness classes. Rather than a standard hourly rate, we are trying to be accommodating to those who provide these services recognizing our limited population, the idea is to charge \$1 per participant per hour with a cap being the standard rate charged. This is a way that Council could promote these activities.

We have also removed rates for tables and chairs and other equipment. Often when these are moved off site, the damage incurred increases which leads to costs greater than is recovered through a rental fee. This does not preclude Council, as a donation in kind, offering to supply some of these items in support of community programming and initiatives.

Schedule F – Dock Fee

Through a review, it was noted that Marinas are charging \$35 per foot for docking. Typically, Marinas have greater access to services than is the case with the docks operated by the Municipality. We are proposing a rate of \$25 per foot with a minimum charge of \$400 (equal to a 16 foot boat).

There would be lower amounts for monthly, weekly and daily use.

Schedule G – Parking Rates

While we continue to work on alternative solution in parts of our Municipality, it is important that rates be established for all areas. These rates would basically be the accumulated cost of living with an adjustment to ensure that all spots with access to hydro are charged the same rate.

We have also removed a late payment fee with the note that will be on future bills that once the bill is three months in arrears it will be transferred to the tax roll for collection.

Schedule H – Administration

The rate of Administrative Search has been added. In 2019, there would not have been any charge for this outside of what the Municipality is able to charge through the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

We are also proposing a tax registration file fee. While we can recover costs associated with the registration process, unless supported by by-law, we are not able to recover the cost incurred by the Municipality has. This fee would be added once at the time when the file is sent for registration.

We are proposing a duplicate tax receipt fee. As part of this, all those who participate on the Preauthorized Payment Program would automatically receive a statement of account after the December payment is made.

We are also proposing a fee for Commissioning Documents. We are proposing a lower fee for Residents/Ratepayers but there should be a fee for this service.

Schedule I – Animal Tag

The biggest change is moving from a lifetime tag to an annual one. With an annual tag there is a regular connection made which is not the case with lifetime tags. By offering a lower amount in the first quarter of the year, the charge being proposed is more than reasonable.

Schedule J – Fire Fees

The Fire Department Rates, especially the vehicle rates, have been updated to reflect the current state. The vehicle rates are based on fees established by the Ministry of Transportation and will be updated as new rates are received.

Schedule K – Building Fees

These fees have been updated to reflect what is being charged by our neighbours, more specifically, Temiskaming Shores.

Schedule L – Planning Fees

The proposed application fees are a little lower than in 2016 however all of the costs associated with the application are to be covered by the property owner. In the past, we have only covered a fraction of the cost of service provision when planning, legal, advertising and registration fees are considered.

The application forms will be adjusted to show the permit fee and the deposit required. Monthly accounting will be completed and any amounts paid on behalf of the property owner, as well as the balance of the deposit will be provided. At this time, the suggestion to top of the deposit will be made although the important part is that once funds held for the project have been used, all work would stop on until a deposit is held by the Municipality.

Probably in all of our fee and service charge area, this is the one that has ended up costing the most. It is not uncommon for costs incurred to be three times what the fee charged is.

Schedule M – By-Law Fees

These fees are for services of the By-Law department outside of any fines that may be laid. This is more based on proactive compliance rather than having things escalate to an enforcement stage. There will be an addition charge for properties outside of the urban area based on the cost to provide that service.

Respectfully Submitted:

Craig Davidson

Treasurer/Administrator