

The Budget Meeting of Town Council for the Town of Mahone Bay was held on Friday, April 27, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. in Council Chambers.

Present:

Mayor D. Devenne
Deputy Mayor K. Nauss
Councillor P. Carver
Councillor J. Feeney
Councillor R. Nowe
Councillor C. O'Neill
Acting CAO, M. Hughes
Manager of Accounting, Luke Wentzell

Regrets:

Councillor J. Bain

Gallery: 0

Council Honorariums

Mr. Wentzell explained to Council how Council Honorariums were adjusted in the past. The group discussed the idea of setting honorariums according to the CPI (Consumer Price Index). Many municipalities in the province set honorariums this way and it was agreed that CPI increases would be a fair method to approach honorariums. Council referred the future setting of honorariums based on the CPI to the Bylaw and Policy Review Committee.

A motion by Deputy Mayor Nauss, seconded by Councillor Feeney, **“THAT Council’s honorarium for the 2018/19 fiscal year be set at the 2017/18 rate plus a 1.7% increase, the amount of inflation according to the CPI. Motion carried.**

List of New Budget Items and Items to be Considered in the Budgets

Mr. Wentzell explained some of the more significant line items that have been added to the budget since last year’s budget deliberations. Among the new line items was funding for a traffic authority, which is a provincial requirement. Following discussions of tasks for the traffic authority, the allocated 250 hours was reduced to 150 hours.

Pension Plan Contributions

Council was informed about the discrepancy between what the Town pays into the pension plan for the employees of the Town and what the Town pays into the pension plan for employees of the Municipal Joint Services Board. Council agreed that the Town should be paying the same amount to all employees. Council agreed to increase Town employee’s pension contributions by 1% each of the next two fiscal years.

PSAB Training

Council will pay for Public Service Accounting Board (PSAB) training for the Manager of Accounting, as part of his professional development.

Polycom Meeting Camera

Council agreed that the Town should purchase a new meeting camera for Council Chambers. This camera allows remote participation in meetings and has the potential to assist with streaming meetings.

Comparison of Tax and Utility Cost

Council was provided with a table showing tax and utility cost comparisons for Mahone Bay, Lunenburg and Bridgewater residents.

A motion by Councillor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Carver, **“THAT infrastructure charges be increased to \$265 for fiscal year 2018/19.”** **Motion carried.**

Property Tax Rebates

As the Town of Mahone Bay offers a very generous low income tax rebate, when compared to other municipalities in the province, it was decided that the tax rebate amounts remain the same for the 2018/19 fiscal year.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Nauss seconded by Councillor Nowe, **“THAT Council set the following Low Income Tax Exemption for 2018/19 as authorized under Section 69 of the Municipal Government Act”**

Family Income Level	Mahone Bay Reduction
0-18,000	\$600
18,001-21,000	\$500
21,001-24,000	\$400
24,001- 27,000	\$300
27,001- 30,000	\$200
30,001-32,000	\$100

The ratepayer must reside in the property which an exemption is being applied for. Income from all persons of the same family residing in the household shall be taken into account when granting a tax exemption. Applicant(s) shall show proof of income to be eligible for an exemption. Where a property is owned by more than one person and one of the co-owners is not eligible for an exemption, the tax exemption shall be prorated as determined by the treasurer. In addition, if the property is co-inhabited by additional adults not classified as family, and no rent or board is included in the applicant’s income for those persons, the treasurer shall add a value of \$4,800 for each such adult to the Income of the applicant before granting a tax exemption. Applications shall be received no later than September 30, 2018.

Motion Carried.

Grant Requests

Council discussed the various grant requests from organizations. The request for a tree planting budget, including a commemorative tree planting to mark the Town’s Centennial was moved to the budget line for Centennial Celebrations. Centennial Celebrations will be discussed at Council later this calendar year.

Moved by Councillor Carver seconded by Councillor O’Neill “**THAT Council approve the following grant requests for 2018/19:**

Grants to Organizations

Bayview School (Bay Boo & Yearbook)	\$100
Red Bear Healing Home Society	\$0
Curl for a Cause	\$0
Bonny Lea Farm	\$0
FCM Conference	\$0
NOW Lunenburg County	\$500
NOW Lunenburg County – Magazine Advertising	\$0
South Shore Senior Safety	\$545
Uncommitted	\$1,145
Total Grants to Organizations for 2018/19	\$3,000

Recreation – Community Grants

Bay to Bay Trail Association	\$1,000
EVENTS Lunenburg County – ESSO CUP	\$0
South Shore Fieldhouse Society.....	\$0
Uncommitted	\$0
Total Recreation – Community Grants for 2018/19	\$1,000

Other Grants & Contributions

Mahone Bay Museum	\$ 8,040
Mahone Bay Swimming Pool Society - Operational	\$10,000
Mahone Bay Swimming Pool – Capital	\$30,000
Mahone Bay Fire Department	\$10,000
Registered Heritage Property Incentive Fund	\$ 2,000
Total Other Grants and Contributions for 2018/2019	\$60,040

Environmental Development

Tourism

Operation of Visitor Information Centre	
Taxes	\$3,805
Insurance	\$ 300
Water/Electricity	\$1,000
Repairs	\$ 200
Telephone/Internet/Wi-Fi	\$1,480

Washroom Supplies	\$ 500
Miscellaneous	\$ 300
Subtotal (VIC)	\$7,585
Mahone Bay Home and Garden Tour.....	\$ 500
MBATCC Various Festivals.....	\$1,000
Various Festival Advertisements.....	\$ 450
South Shore Tourism	\$ 350
Subtotal	\$2300
Plus VIC Subtotal	\$7,585
Total	\$9,885

Motion Carried.

Request from MB Tourism and Chamber of Commerce

Council discussed the request from the MBTCC to extend the opening and closing dates of the comfort stations so that they are in line with the cruise ship season. It was decided that due to the high daily costs of operating the facilities and the risk of frozen pipes, the opening and closing dates of the comfort stations would remain the same as in previous years.

Deed Transfer Tax Rate

Council received a comparison on the Town of Mahone Bay’s deed transfer tax rate as compared to other Lunenburg County Municipalities.

A motion by Councillor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Carver, **“THAT the Town of Mahone Bay raise the deed transfer tax to 1.25% effective October 1, 2018.”** **Motion carried.**

Water Utility Budget

Council was provided with the Water Utility Budget for 2018/19.

A motion by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Nowe, **“THAT the Water Utility budget for 2018/19 in the amount of \$633,223 be approved by Town Council.”**

Motion carried.

Electric Utility Budget

Council was provided with the Electric Utility Budget for 2018/19.

A motion by Deputy Mayor Nauss, seconded by Councillor O’Neill, **“THAT the Electric Utility budget for 2018/19 in the amount of \$1,886,889 be approved by Town Council.”**

Motion carried.

Charge Out Rates

Council was provided with the proposed charge out rates that would become effective May 1, 2018.

A motion by Deputy Mayor Nauss, seconded by Councillor O'Neill "THAT the Town of Mahone Bay hourly charge out rates for 2018/19 be as follows, effective May 1, 2018:

LABOUR RATES **2018 per hour**

Director of Operations	\$60.00
Electric Light Dept.	\$53.00
Head -Public Works/Water	\$40.00
Other-Public Works/Water/Electric	\$35.00

EQUIPMENT **2018 per hr**

Backhoe	\$48.00
Truck (One Ton)	\$35.00
Truck (Five Ton)	\$38.00
Water Pump (Trash)	\$18.00
Tractor	\$30.00
Utility Line Truck	\$85.00 (riverport)
Half Ton Truck	\$25.00 (riverport)
Sidewalk Plow	\$65.00
Utility Van	\$23.00
Plate Tamper	\$60.00 per day \$9.00 hr (minimum 4 hours)
Sewer Snake	\$22.00 per day \$3.00 hr (minimum 4 hours)

MATERIALS

Materials	Individuals Cost + 15%
	Contractors Cost (Note Cost = Invoice price plus net HST 4.286%)

Notes
 Labour Charge Out rates based on actual plus 30% (15% benefits + 15% markup)
 Minimum Charge Out Rate = 1 hour
 HST will be charged as an extra

Motion carried.

Final Budget Approval

It was moved by Councillor Nowe, seconded by Councillor Feeney that it be

RESOLVED that the Council of Town of Mahone Bay estimates that the sum required for the lawful purpose of the Town for the 2018/19 year, after crediting probable revenues from all sources, other than the rates for the year and applying an amount of \$121,000 from the Operating Reserve, is the sum of **\$2,040,772**

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Council hereby authorize the levying and collection of rates for the current year of **\$3.08** per \$100 on the value of the property assessed in the Assessment Roll as Commercial Property and **\$1.22** per \$100 on the value of the property assessed in the Assessment Roll as Residential and Resource Property for the current year, these being the rates the Council deems sufficient to raise the sum to defray the expenditures for the Town for the current year.

RESOLVED that the final installment of taxes be due and payable on August 31, 2018.

FURTHER RESOLVED that an interest rate of 12% per annum be charged on the 2018/19 tax bills, as well as on other outstanding rates, outstanding after August 31, 2018.

Motion Carried.

The meeting adjourned upon motion at 5:40 p.m.

TOWN OF MAHONE BAY

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Acting CAO, Maureen Hughes

Mayor, David Devenne