

Staff Report

Report From: Deanna Hastie, Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer

Meeting Date: November 12, 2024

Subject: 2025 Fee By-Law

Attachment(s): 1. Draft 2025 Fee By-Law

Recommendation:

That Goderich Town Council receive this report for information.

And that Goderich Town Council consider the proposed 2025 Fee and User Charges at a public meeting in December for adoption.

Report Summary:

Section 391 of the Municipal Act, 2001 authorizes a municipality to impose fees or charges. Staff review the user fees charged by the municipality on an annual basis considering fees charged by other local municipalities, the service delivery cost, demand for the service, affordability as well as whether the service itself benefits the community as a whole or just the individual user.

Many community programs and services are partially funded by user fees (what you pay to do the activity), while the rest is covered/subsidized by property taxes (homeowners). Ensuring that user fees are set at an appropriate level, assist in reducing the property tax subsidy required to fund a program or service – shifting the cost sharing from homeowners (via property taxes) to those who use the particular service (user fees).

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information regarding the Town's proposed fees and user charges for 2025. Some rates have remained the same and some new fees have been added.

The following changes to the current fees are proposed for 2025:

- Annual update by the Consumer Price Index (2%).
 - Schedule B – Building Department
 - Schedule C – Plumbing and Sewage except for the Backflow program fees which remain the same for this new program
 - Schedule E – Airport
 - Schedule F – Public Works
 - Schedule G – Maitland Cemetery

- Childcare Fees (Schedule A) are updated to reflect the fees required under the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) System. Full-day fees for all age groups offered at the Centre are now \$22.00. Half-day Childcare Fees have been removed as per the November 12, 2024, Childcare Services Manager Report, pending the approval of Council.
- Schedule D – Planning fees for 2025 are not yet available from the County. Staff are following up to obtain an expected timeline for the updated fees. Once available, the Fee By-Law can be amended.
- Schedule E – Landing fees have been revised to remove the current fee of \$100 for aircraft of 3,000 pounds and over and replace it with the following:

		2025
Landing Fee	Visiting Commercial Aircraft – 20,000 kg or less	\$100 + HST
Landing Fee	Visiting Commercial Aircraft – 20,001 kg or more	\$5/1,000 kg + HST
Landing Fee	Visiting Non-commercial Aircraft	\$5/1,000 kg + HST
Landing Fee	Military/Medevac/Hydro One/OPP	\$250.00 + HST per landing

Some additional fees are proposed

- Flight School Airfield Operating Rate \$750.00 + HST per year
- Airport Property Rental for approved municipally significant events \$500.00/day

These fee changes are based on recommendations of the Goderich Regional Airport Task Force.

- The fee for Finger Sign purchases in Schedule F has been removed, as it is no longer needed.

- Schedule F – The following updates were also made to the Machinery and Equipment section. These fees are charged when Town equipment is used to clean up debris from an accident or spill occurrences.

	2024	2025
Single Axle Dump Truck	\$60.00	\$85.00
Loader/Blower – Airport	\$100.00	\$190.00
Administration of insurance documentation related to accidents, etc.		\$55.00 flat fee

- Water and Wastewater Rates increased by 4.8% as per the 2020-2025 Water and Wastewater Plans approved by Council on March 9, 2020 (Schedules H and I)
- Marriage License Fees have been increased from \$120.00 to \$130.00 based on a comparison to other local municipalities – Schedule K
- Schedule – L – A dog reclaim fee of \$100.00 has been added to Schedule I, related to dogs taken to the pound. This fee will help the Town recover the costs of transporting the dog to the pound.
- A property clean-up administrative fee of 10% of all expenses incurred by the Town to bring a property into compliance was added to Schedule M. A minimum of \$100 for this new administrative fee has also been added. This fee will assist in promoting compliance with Property Standards orders and cover the time spent by Town staff.
- Schedule M – The Property Standards Order Appeal fee has been increased from \$125.00 to \$425.00 to better reflect the value of staff time and based on comparison to other municipalities. The Certificate of Compliance fee has also been increased from \$75.00 to \$100.00.
- Schedule N - Waterfront Parking Fees have been increased as follows:

	2024	Proposed for 2025
Hourly Rate	\$5.00	\$6.00
Daily Rate	\$25.00	\$30.00
Non-Resident Season Pass	\$60.00	\$65.00

Comparisons were made to other area waterfronts with results showing

- Sauble Beach - \$7.00 per hour and \$30.00 per day with a season pass at \$200.00
- Grand Bend - \$7.00 per hour and \$30.00 per day with a season pass at \$150.00

- Schedule O - Summer Ice Rental Rates are proposed to change as follows:

Summer ice (April 1/25 to August 30/25)	2024	Proposed 2025
Adult per hour	\$175.00 HST included	\$175.00 + HST
Youth per hour	\$160.00 HST included	\$160.00 + HST

A sponsored skate fee for a 1 ½ hour rental has been added at \$110.00 +HST, hoping to promote some public skating timeslots. This rate would be effective December 17, 2024 in order to promote sponsored ice over the Christmas season.

- Schedule O – An inflationary increase has been made to the Minor League Per Player Cost for baseball and soccer. Baseball was changed from \$25.00 to \$25.50 and Soccer from \$12.50 to \$12.75.
- Schedule O – The facility rental rates for Memorial Arena auditorium have been simplified. Hot and cold meal rates have been removed and a 20% discount for multiple consecutive day bookings has been added rather than showing the rates for each day.

Auditorium	2024	2025
Stag and Doe – now called Event rental (dances, games nights, etc.)	\$729.00 + HST	\$600.00 + HST/ NPO \$450.00+HST
With bar and kitchen (cold meals)		
1 st day	\$596.50 +HST/ NPO \$447.00 + HST	
2 nd day	\$476.00 + HST/ NPO \$357.00+ HST	
3 rd day	\$332.00/ NPO\$249.00	

	2024	2025
With bar and kitchen (hot meals)		
1 st day	\$622.00 +HST/ NPO \$466.50 + HST	
2 nd day	\$498.00 + HST/ NPO \$373.00+ HST	
3 rd day	\$347.50 + HST/ NPO \$260.25 + HST	
Bar only in conjunction with arena floor	\$124.00+ HST/ NPO \$93.00 + HST	

- Schedule Q – The tax certificate fee has been increased from \$50.00 to \$55.00 based on comparisons to other municipalities.
- Schedule R – Other fees: An increase in the pavilion rental fee from \$75.00 to \$80.00 is proposed based on comparisons to other municipalities.
- Schedule R – The Garbage and Organics annual collection fee has been increased from \$150.00 to \$165.00 based on a review of the number of properties using the service. To achieve full cost recovery the fee would need to rise to \$180.00. A phased approach over 2 years is proposed. In addition, previously under the garbage sticker process, an annual deficiency was supported by taxation of approximately \$39,500.00 The proposed phased approach results in taxation support of \$45,000.00 for this service in 2025.

Background/Analysis:

Nothing further to report.

Linkages:

- Corporate Strategic Plan Priority #4: Good Government

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

User fees allow the Town to reduce the impact on the tax levy while transferring the incremental cost burden directly to the end user. The rates and fees established for 2025 will assist in developing the budget estimates for the year.

Consulted With: Department Managers

Approved By: Janice Hallahan, Chief Administrative Officer
Andrea Fisher, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk

