

STAFF REPORT: Financial & Information Services



REPORT TO: Finance and Administration
MEETING DATE: September 22, 2009
REPORT NO.: FIS.09.39
SUBJECT: Fire False Alarm Fees and Charges
PREPARED BY: Ruth Prince, Manager of Revenue
A.J. Lake, Fire Prevention Officer

A. Recommendations

THAT Council does receive Staff Report FIS.09.39, "Fire False Alarm Fees and Charges" for information purposes;

AND THAT a Public Meeting to review proposed Amendments to By-law 2008-113 "Fees & Charges By-law", Schedule "D" – Fire Department Services, be held October 14, 2009.

B. Background

The current False Alarm Fee is \$300.00 for Non-emergency activation of a fire alarm system resulting in Fire Department response. This fee includes (but is not limited to) malicious activation, accidental discharge of nuisance smoke into common areas, system malfunctions, non-notification of work on system, poor maintenance, human error, etc.

The Fire Prevention/Public Education Department is actively promoting smoke alarm installation/maintenance and escape planning for both commercial and residential properties. Occupants are trained that when an early warning alarm is activated, they are to leave the building and call 911. Commercial properties are complying with Fire Code and Fire Department direction regarding fire system installation and maintenance relevant to their property. The Prevention Department is closely monitoring requirements for annual fire alarm testing, and requesting immediate repairs to deficiencies as noted on test reports. The majority of properties are prompt in complying. Occasional malfunctions within these systems are beyond the owner's control and the current fee structure of \$300 per false alarm is straining working relationships between building owners and the Fire Prevention Department.

Staff is proposing to change the term "false alarm" to "non-emergency activation of a fire alarm/early warning system". Fire alarm refers to monitored systems required by the Ontario Building Code in commercial buildings and early warning refers to monitored security systems in dwelling units.

The proposed changes to Schedule "D" of By-law 2008-113 "Fees & Charges By-law" are as follows:

- 1st occurrence - no charge (in a 12 month period)
- 2nd occurrence - \$300 fee - \$200 refunded if proof of repairs or a solution to the identified problem is provided (in a 12 month period)
- 3rd occurrence - \$300 fee (in a 12 month period)
- 4th and subsequent occurrence - \$450 fee (in a 12 month period)

The change to false alarms fees will become effective at the time of the passing of the By-law.

Letters will be issued to owners by the Fire Prevention Department identifying each occurrence and further action, should any be required.

The proposed changes will ensure residential and commercial owners are aware of potential problems with their fire alarm/early warning systems through communication with the Fire Prevention Officer. This will provide the Fire Prevention Officer an opportunity to mitigate a potential problem with a system in the early stages, ensure that the system is installed and/or repaired in accordance with applicable Codes and Standards and ensure that the system operation and supervisory procedures will provide adequate life safety for all building occupants in the event of a fire.

The proposed changes will help to promote and maintain co-operative working relationships between owners and the Fire Prevention Department.

Municipal Comparisons

A comparison of similar-type fees in other municipalities is attached to this report where possible.

C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

Providing a strong, well managed municipal government by developing clear and effective policies.

D. Environmental Impacts

None

E. Budget Impact

The revenue received from False Alarm charges to the end of August is \$8,150. (2009 Budget \$5,000) The 2010 budget will reflect the change in fees and charges revenue from False Alarms.

F. Attached

1. Draft By-law Amending 2008-113
2. Municipal Comparison

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Prince, Manager of Revenue

A.J. Lake, Fire Prevention Officer

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

BY-LAW NO. 2009 -

BEING A BY-LAW TO AMEND BY-LAW 2008-113, BEING A BY-LAW FOR THE IMPOSITION AND COLLECTION OF FEES AND CHARGES FOR CERTAIN MUNICIPAL SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

WHEREAS in accordance with Sections 391 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25, *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.56 as amended, the Council of The Corporation of the Town of The Blue Mountains considers it necessary to impose fees for services rendered under these Acts;

AND WHEREAS the Council of The Corporation of the Town of The Blue Mountains has enacted By-law 2008-113 respecting Fees & Charges;

AND WHEREAS the Council of The Corporation of the Town of The Blue Mountains deems it necessary and expedient to amend By-law No. 2008-113 respecting Fees and Charges related to Fire Department Services;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of The Corporation of the Town of The Blue Mountains hereby enacts as follows:

1. THAT Schedule "D" of By-law 2008-113 be amended as per Schedule "D" attached hereto which is hereby declared to form part of By-law 2008-113, effective upon the enactment of this By-law.
2. THAT Schedule "H" of By-law 2008-113 be amended as per Schedule "H" attached hereto which is hereby declared to form part of By-law 2008-113, effective January 1, 2010.
3. THAT Schedule "I" of By-law 2008-113 be amended as per Schedule "I" attached hereto which is hereby declared to form part of By-law 2008-113, effective January 1, 2010.
4. THAT Schedule "J" attached hereto are hereby adopted and declared to form part of By-law 2008-113, effective January 1, 2010.
5. THAT Schedule "K" attached hereto are hereby adopted and declared to form part of By-law 2008-113, effective September 1, 2009.

AND FURTHER, THAT this By-law shall come into force and take effect upon the enactment thereof.

Enacted and passed this ____ day of _____, 2009.

Ellen Anderson, Mayor

Stephen Keast, Clerk

By-law No. 2009-

SCHEDULE "D"

FIRE DEPARTMENT SERVICES:

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	FEE OR CHARGE
1.	Request for Fire Report	\$50.00
2.	Request for Property Information Letter	\$50.00
3.	Inspection of all Premises or Buildings:	
	* up to 2,500 square feet	\$75.00
	* 2,500 to 5,000 square feet	\$100.00
	* 5,000 to 10,000 square feet	\$150.00
	* 10,000 to 20,000 square feet	\$200.00
	* over 20,000 square feet	\$300.00
	* additional inspection – per call back	\$25.00
	<i>Not including initial inspection resulting from a building permit application or inspections required by legislation</i>	
4.	Inspection required by L.L.B.O. **	\$50.00
	<i>** Inspection of public hall facilities, restaurants and licensed facilities that are requested by owner</i>	
5.	Apparatus Standby ** – per hour	\$150.00
	<i>** Includes use of Fire Department Apparatus and 2 firefighters</i>	
6.	Standby for suspicious fire – per hour, per man	\$50.00
7.	Fire Alarm/Early Warning System:	
	1 st occurrence (in a 12 month period)	No charge
	2 nd occurrence (in 12 month period)	\$300.00
	<i>(\$200.00 will be refunded if proof of repairs or a solution to the identified problem is provided to the satisfaction of the Fire Prevention Officer)</i>	
	3 rd occurrence (in a 12 month period)	\$300.00
	4 th occurrence and subsequent	\$450.00
8.	Fire Prevention Officer & Inspector – per hour (for commercial, industrial, condominium and association groups)	\$50.00
9.	Fire Safety Plan Review	\$50.00 per hour
10.	Special Occasion Permit Inspections	
	* Initial Inspection	\$50.00
	* Additional Inspection – per call back	\$25.00
11.	Fireworks	
	* Approval	\$50.00
	* Inspection	\$75.00

EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERVICES:

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	FEE OR CHARGE
1.	Vehicle Extrication on Municipal Streets, non-residents	
	a) Labour	\$35.00 / man / hour
	b) plus machine time	\$50.00 / truck / hour
2.	Vehicle Extrication on Provincial Highways	Current MTO Rates
3.	Out of Control Brush / Grass Fire or other (started by owner or tenant of property)	
	a) Labour	\$35.00 / man / hour
	b) plus machine time	\$50.00 / truck / hour
4.	Rescue, High Angle Rescue, Cold Water Rescue	
	a) Labour	\$35.00 / man / hour
	b) plus machine time	\$50.00 / truck / hour
5.	Illegal Burning	
	a) Labour	\$35.00 / man / hour
	b) plus machine time	\$50.00 / truck / hour

**By-law No. 2009-
SCHEDULE "H"**

RECREATION SERVICES:

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	FEE OR CHARGE
1.	MOREAU PARK	
	Ball Field	\$9.00/game
	Ball Field "Dragged & Lined"	\$33.70/game
	Ball Field "Tournament"	\$7.00/hour
	Additional Washroom facility	\$150.00/each
	Hydro	\$7.00/outlet
2.	TOMAHAWK	
	Soccer Pitch - Regulation Size "Tournament"	\$9.00/hour
	Soccer Pitch - Regulation Size "Lining"	\$45.00/lining
	Soccer Pitch - Regulation Size	\$12.00/game
	Soccer Pitch - Mini "Tournament"	\$5.00/hour
	Soccer Pitch - Mini "Lining"	\$22.00/lining
	Soccer Pitch - Mini	\$7.00/game
	Golf Course - Half Day Tournament	\$300/half day
	Golf Course - Full Day Tournament	\$500/day
	Golf Course - Not-For-Profits/Service Clubs	\$200/day
	Tee Deck Sponsor Sign	\$300/season
	Golf Course Bench Sponsorship	\$600/season
	Off Season – November thru April Use	\$500/day
	Pavilion	\$100/event
Hydro	\$7.00/outlet	
3.	ARENA	
	Lobby Rental (Non Ice Season)	\$52.50/day
	Arena Floor (Non Ice Season)	\$708/day
	Arena Floor (Non Ice Season)	\$36.75/hour
	Arena Advertise Signs Wall	
	Arena Advertise Signs Boards	\$300/season
	Public Skating - Youth (7 to 17)	\$1.50/time
Public Skating – Adults	\$2.00/time	
4.	COMMUNITY HALL	
	Hall #1 - Large Hall Weekdays (up to 3 hours and no furniture)	\$55.00/hour
	Hall #1 - Large Hall Weekdays (up to 3 hours)	\$120.00/hour
	Hall #1 - Large Hall Weekdays (over 3 hours)	\$283.50/day
	Hall #1 - Large Hall Weekends (full day)	\$451.50/day
	Hall #2 - Small Hall Weekdays (up to 3 hours and no furniture)	\$36.75/hour
	Hall #2 - Small Hall Weekdays (up to 3 hours)	\$47.25/hour
	Hall #2 - Small Hall Weekdays (over 3 hours)	\$99.75/day
	Hall #2 - Small Hall Weekends (full day)	\$178.50/day
	Hall Kitchen – Weekdays	\$75.00/day
	Hall #1 & Hall #2 Weekdays (including kitchen –full day only)	\$400.00/day
	Hall #1 & Hall #2 Weekend (including kitchen –full day only)	\$504.00/day
	Evening Set-up Fee	\$110.25/event

5.	PARKS	
	Bayview Park Pavilion	\$26.25/event
	Hydro	\$7.00/outlet
	Bayview Park	
	Soccer Pitch - Mini "Tournament"	\$5.00/hour
	Soccer Pitch - Mini "Lining"	\$22.00/lining
	Soccer Pitch - Mini	\$7.00/game
	Lions Park Pavilion & BBQ	\$26.25/event
	Memorial Tree Planting (50mm calliper & plaque)	\$472.50/tree
	Memorial Bench (cast & wood style)	\$1,500.00/bench
	Memorial Bench (composite)	\$600.00/bench
6.	COMMUNITY HALLS	
	Craighleith Community Centre (half day)	\$63.00/day
	Craighleith Community Centre (full day)	\$126.00/day

All rates are subject to the applicable GST.

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By-law No. 2009 –

SCHEDULE “I”

HARBOUR SERVICES:

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	FEE OR CHARGE
1.	Moving of boats that are in the incorrect berth and have not been moved by the owner at their own expense	\$150.00 per hour
2.	Seasonal Mooring	\$49.00 per foot plus G.S.T.
3.	Hydro Rates – per outlet	\$170.00 including G.S.T.
4.	Transient Rates – Weekly	\$7.45 per foot + G.S.T.
5.	Hydro Rates – Weekly Transient Rate	\$27.85
6.	Transient Rates – Nightly	\$1.60 per foot + G.S.T.
7.	Hydro Rates – Nightly Transient Rate	\$7.45
8.	Pump-out	\$16.00
9.	Ramp Launch	\$7.50 including G.S.T.
10.	Seasonal Launch Ramp	\$40.00 including G.S.T.
11.	Offseason Land Storage	\$8.25 per foot plus G.S.T.
12.	Waiting List Deposit	\$100.00
13.	Harbour Office Upper Lounge – weekday (office hours only)	\$50.00/event
14.	Harbour Office Upper Lounge – weekends (office hours only)	\$75.00/event
15.	Additional/Replacement Shower Cards	\$10.00/card

**By-law No. 2009-
SCHEDULE "J"**

CRAIGHLEITH HERITAGE DEPOT

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	FEE OR CHARGE
1.	ADMISSION	
	Adult	\$2.00/person
	Children (5+) and Seniors	\$1.00/person
2.	MEMBERSHIP	
	Individual	\$25.00/year
	Family	\$40.00/year
	Individual Benefactor	\$100.00/year
	Life Member	\$500.00/year
3.	PROGRAMMES	
	Lecture Series (individual)	\$7.00/person
	Lecture Series (couple)	\$10.00/couple
	Children's Day Camp –one week	\$140.00/child
4.	MISCELLANEOUS	
	Research	\$20.00/hour
	Local Fax	\$1.00/page
	Long Distance Fax	\$2.00/page
	Photocopy Black & White	\$.25/page
	Photocopy Colour	\$.50/page
	Scanning (sent electronically)	\$4.00/page
	Laminating (all sizes up to legal size paper)	\$3.00/page
	Photo Publication Fee	\$50.00/usage
5.	PHOTO REPRODUCTIONS	
	5 x 7 Black & White	\$7.00/picture
	8.5 x 11 Black & White	\$15.00/picture
	11 x 14 Black & White	\$35.00/picture
	5 x 7 Colour	\$10.00/picture
	8.5 x 11 Colour	\$20.00/picture
	11 X 14 Colour	\$40.00/picture

All rates are subject to the applicable GST.

**By-law No. 2009-
SCHEDULE "K"**

ICE RENTALS:

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. | Prime Ice (includes Christmas, March Break,
Statutory Holidays) | \$117.50 / hour |
| 2. | Non Prime (weekdays 7 am to 4 pm) | \$60.00 / hour |

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MUNICIPAL COMPARISONS					
Item	Description	Fee or Charge	Town of Collingwood	Meaford	Wasaga Beach
1	Request for Fire Report	\$ 50.00	\$ 70.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 75.00
2	Request for Property Information Letter	\$ 50.00	\$ 70.00	\$ 50.00	
3	Inspection of all Premises or Buildings a) up to 2500 square feet b) 2500 to 5000 sq. ft. c) 5000 to 10000 sq. ft. d) 10,000 to 20000 sq. ft. e) over 20000 sq. ft. f) Additional inspection per call back <i>(not including initial inspection resulting from a blding permit application or inspections required by legislation)</i>	\$ 75.00 \$ 100.00 \$ 150.00 \$ 200.00 \$ 300.00 \$ 25.00	Collingwood and Wasaga Beach base these rates on Single Occupancy, Multiple Tenant and Apartment Buildings. No comparison can be made to these fees		
4	Inspection required by LLBO <i>(inspection of public hall facilities, restaurants, and licenced facilities that are requested by owner)</i>	\$ 50.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 100.00
5	Fireworks Inspections and Approvals a) Approval only b) Inspection and approval <i>(inspection of the site from which fireworks will be ignited)</i>	\$ 50.00 \$ 75.00	\$ 100.00		\$ 75.00
6	Apparatus Standby per hour <i>(use of fire Department apparatus for standby fire protection including two firefighters)</i>	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00		\$ 175.00
7	Standby for Suspicious Fire per hour	\$ 50.00			\$ 100.00
8	False Alarms - Non-emergency activation of a fire alarm system resulting in Fire Department response. Includes (but not limited to) malicious activation, accidental discharge of nuisance smoke into common areas, system malfunctions, non-notification of work on system, poor maintenance, human error, etc.	\$ 300.00	\$ 450.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 350.00
Collingwood, Meaford & Wasaga Beach charge after 2 false alarms per 12 months					
9	Fire Prevention Officer and Inspector - per hour <i>(for commercial, industry, condominium, and association groups)</i>	\$ 50.00	\$ 85.00		\$ 75.00
10	Fire Safety Plan Review	\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00	
Emergency Response Services			Note #1		
11	Special Occasion Permit Inspections a) initial inspection b) additional inspection per call back	\$ 50.00 per man/hr \$ 25.00 per truck/hr			
12	Vehicle Extrication on Municipal Street, non-residents a) Labour b) Machine time (additional)	\$ 35.00 per man/hr \$ 50.00 per truck/hr			
13	Vehicle Extrication on Provincial Highways	MTO Rates			
14	Out of control Brush Fire/ Grass Fire or other a) Labour b) Machine time (additional) <i>started by owner or teneant of property</i>	\$ 35.00 per man/hr \$ 50.00 per truck/hr			
15	Rescue, High Angle Rescue, Cold Water Rescue a) Labour b) Machine time (additional)	\$ 35.00 per man/hr \$ 50.00 per truck/hr			
16	Illegal Burning a) Labour b) Machine time (additional)	\$ 35.00 per man/hr \$ 50.00 per truck/hr			

Note #1 For the Emergency Response Services, Collingwood, Meaford and Wasaga Beach have on charge per hour that includes both labour and machine time. It is therefore hard to compare these services. For example Collingwood is \$450 for the 1st hour (includes labour and machine) and \$225.00 every additional 1/2 hour