A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report FAF.20.042, entitled “Proposed Amendments to the Fees and Charges By-law, Solid Waste Management Fees By-law, Planning and Engineering Fees By-law and Water and Sewer Charges By-law – Public Comments” for information purposes.

B. Overview

This report outlines the comments from the Public Meeting for the proposed amendments to the Fees and Charges By-law, the Solid Waste Management Fees By-law, the Planning and Engineering Fees By-law, and the proposed amendments to the Water and Sewer Charges By-law, as well as Staff’s response to these comments.

C. Background

The proposed amendments to the Fees and Charges By-law, Solid Waste Management Fees By-law, Planning and Engineering Fees By-law, as well as the Water and Sewer Charges By-law were reviewed as part of the 2020 Draft Budget. On March 9, 2020, the Town held a Public Meeting to provide the public with the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed amendments to the Fees and Charges By-law, Solid Waste Management Fees By-law, the Planning and Engineering Fees By-law, as well as the Water and Sewer Charges By-law.

The 2020 budget process and document included the inclusion of the Fees and Charges for each Department. The draft By-laws were advertised as per the Town’s notice policy and included on the Town’s website since February 14, 2020.

Staff are proposing that these By-laws be presented for Council’s consideration at the April 6, 2020 Council Meeting.

The Town received one written comment on the Planning Fees. Comments received on the Wastewater Servicing Projects are provided in a separate report.
D. Analysis

Written Comment – Andrew Pascuzzo, Pascuzzo Planning Inc.

I understand that Council will be considering increases to the planning and engineering fees on March 9. Can you please provide me with the background info that was prepared to support the increases? Without reviewing the supporting materials I have no choice but to object to the increase in fees. Please add me to the circulation list for when a decision is made on this matter.

Staff Comments – The Town retained Watson & Associates Economists Ltd to undertake a comprehensive review of Development Engineering and Planning Division Fee Review. As part of the review, a stakeholder consultation was held on Friday, December 6, 2019 with a presentation by the consultant followed up by questions for those in attendance. As part of the 2020 Budget process, the consultant provided an overview of the proposed fees to Council and the Public. The proposed Planning and Development Fees and Charges By-law have been available on the Town’s website since February 20, 2020.

E. The Blue Mountains’ Strategic Plan

Goal #4: Promote a Culture of Organizational and Operational Excellence
Objective #4: To Be a Financially Responsible Organization

F. Environmental Impacts

None.

G. Financial Impact

The revenue generated from the increase in fees is included in the 2020 Draft Budget.

H. In consultation with

Sam Dinsmore, Deputy Treasurer/Manager of Accounting and Budgets

I. Public Engagement

The topic of this Staff Report has been the subject of a Public Information Centre and a Public Meeting which was held on March 9, 2020. Those who provided comments at the Public Meeting and/or Public Information Centre, including anyone who has asked to receive notice regarding this matter, have been provided notice of this Staff Report.
J. Attached

N/A

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth Prince  
Director of Finance and IT Services

For more information, please contact:  
Ruth Prince  
directorfit@thebluemountains.ca  
519-599-3131 extension 228