

The 75th meeting of the 12th Elected Town Council of the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay was held on Monday, November 30, 2020 at 5:00 PM and called to order by Mayor Wally Andersen.

Members Present:

Mayor Wally Andersen
Deputy Mayor Bert Pomeroy
Councillor Michelle Baikie
Councillor Jackie Compton Hobbs
Councillor Lori Dyson-Edmunds
Councillor Shawn Crann

Regrets:

Councillor Joe Tremblett
Municipal Engineer, Randy Dillon

Also Present:

Town Manager, Robert Andrews
Director of Financial Operations Nadine MacAulay
Executive Assistant Kathy Eddy
Manager of Public Relations, Waylon Williams

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE 75th MEETING

It was moved by Councillor Dyson-Edmunds and seconded by Councillor Compton Hobbs to adopt the agenda of the 75th meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay. All in favour. Motion carried unanimously.

2. BUDGET SPEECH

Your Worship Mayor Andersen, Deputy Mayor Pomeroy, Councillor Dyson-Edmunds, Councillor Compton-Hobbs, Councillor Crann, ladies and gentlemen.

As Chair of the Finance, Administration and Policy Committee, it gives me great pleasure to present to you the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay's 2021 budget.

During the 2021 Municipal Budget process, Council dealt with the challenge of balancing our fiscal realities with varying priorities and projects for the municipality during a global

pandemic. Even amidst the challenges and faced with COVID-19, Council has maintained a fiscally responsible and strategic approach.

Like all municipalities in the province, COVID-19 has had a financial impact on the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay. The Town's response and mitigation (enhanced cleaning protocols) of town facilities indoors and outdoors have created its challenges. There were increased costs related to purchasing additional PPE and cleaning supplies. In 2020, Council saw revenue losses from Municipal Landfill Tipping Fees and Recreational Facilities. These losses in revenue streams had a significant impact. The Town expects a similar trend for 2021 and has prepared for that.

Twenty-three businesses were approved for relief under the Town's COVID-19 Business Tax Relief program, with a total cost of over \$18,000.00.

Council appreciates the community participation in the 2021 pre-budget consultation. The community input into essential processes such as the municipal budget is vital in determining community needs and future growth that our residents expect. During the pre-budget public consultation process, we heard from concerned residents and community groups/organizations. The 2021 budget is well-rounded, with community priorities based on feedback received and strategic infrastructure investments for our Town's future.

Council is confident the strategic investments outlined will contribute to the future growth and development of the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay.

We have made investments in new hires, such as:

One permanent full-time Fire Protection Officer

Three permanent Seasonal Heavy Equipment Operators

Four temporary Seasonal positions in Public Works.

We continued with investments in water and sewer projects such as Pumphouse upgrades, water line upgrades, and sewage lift station upgrades. Town contribution is \$832,000.00

The fleet replacement continuing with one new vehicle for 2021.

There will be investments in new or upgraded equipment for various departments.

The Town will continue its partnership with Healthy Waters Labrador to fulfill its commitment to Environmental Stewardship in the Birch Island Conservation Area.

Council and Healthy Waters Labrador aim to promote healthy and active living by continuing to maintain the boardwalk.

This year's budget is balanced at **\$14,688,624.40**. This figure includes planned multi-year capital works and other projects, cost-shared with the Province and the Government of Canada.

Your Worship, we will continue to provide tax relief to low-income property owners, and I am pleased to say we have increased the income threshold by 2%.

There will be no increase in mil rates for residential or commercial property tax.

The business tax mil rates, minimum vacant commercial property tax, and water and sewer rates will remain constant for 2021.

I do want to highlight a couple of items, the Town Transportation study will look at residents' accessibility needs, with an intense focus on much-needed transport. The second item is the Central Labrador YMCA (Labrador Wellness Centre) Construction, which began in Spring 2019, is nearly complete. The new \$30 million Central Labrador YMCA is on track for a Spring 2021 opening.

In conclusion, Your Worship, I would like to thank Council and staff for their hard work in putting out a fiscally responsible budget for 2021.

I would like to acknowledge our residents for their contributions and suggestions during the budget consultation process through emails, telephone calls, and in person.

Given the challenges that this town has faced during this COVID-19 Global Pandemic, I am pleased to say that this 2021 budget continues to be a fiscally-conservative budget, Your Worship, one that will allow us to meet our strategic objectives while, at the same time, continuing to provide quality services to our residents.

As municipal budgets are subject to approval by the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment, no further details will be released until the Town has received written confirmation from the Department that the budget has been accepted. The Town expects to receive this confirmation in January 2021 and will prepare an additional and more detailed media release at that time. Thank you.

3. 2021 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Motion # FA2021-01-01

Be it resolved that the Town Council of the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay approve and adopt the 2021 Municipal Budget for the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay as per *Section 77 of the Municipalities Act, 1999* with total revenues of \$14,688,624.40 and total expenditures of \$14,688,624.40. Moved by Councillor Baikie and seconded by Councillor Compton Hobbs. All in favour. Motion carried unanimously.

4. 2021 MUNICIPAL TAX RATES AND FEES

Property Tax

Motion # FA2021-01-02

Be it resolved that pursuant to *Section 112 of the Municipalities Act, 1999*, the Town Council of the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay approve one uniform Property Tax Residential mil rate of 6.75 mils, Property Tax Commercial Rate of 11.00 mils and a Minimum Non-Vacant Property Tax Rate of \$50.00 as set out in the Policy and Procedures Manual, titled **Taxes and Rates**, Policy Number: **F0001** as the property tax for 2021. Moved by Councillor Compton Hobbs and seconded by Councillor Dyson-Edmunds. All in favour. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion # FA2021-01-03

Be it resolved that pursuant to *Section 112 of the Municipalities Act, 1999*, the Town Council of the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay approve the Minimum Vacant Commercial Property Tax of \$3,750.00, as set out in the Policy and Procedures Manual, titled **Taxes and Rates**, Policy Number: **F0001** as the property tax for 2021. Moved by Councillor Dyson-Edmunds and seconded by Councillor Baikie. All in favour. Motion carried unanimously.

Water and Sewer Rates

Motion # FA2021-01-04

Be it resolved that pursuant to *Section 130 of the Municipalities Act, 1999*, the Town Council of the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay approve the Sewer Tax Rate of \$300.00

per year and the Water Tax Rate of \$235.00 per year, as set out in the Policy and Procedures Manual, titled **Taxes and Rates**, Policy Number: **F0001** and **Water and Sewer Rates**, Policy Number: **F0008** as the water and sewer rates for 2021. Moved by Councillor Crann and seconded by Deputy Mayor Pomeroy. All in favour. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion # FA2021-01-05

Be it resolved that pursuant to *Section 130* of the *Municipalities Act, 1999*, the Town Council of the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay approve and adopt the Water Metered Rate of \$3.50 per 1000 gallons of water consumed and the Metered Sewer Tax Rate at \$2.00 per 1000 gallons of water consumed, for clients using water meters, as set out in the Policy and Procedures Manual titled **Taxes and Rates**, Policy Number: **F0001** and **Water and Sewer Rates**, Policy Number: **F0008** as the water meter rates and sewer meter rates for 2021. Moved by Deputy Mayor Pomeroy and seconded by Councillor Dyson-Edmunds. All in favour. Motion carried unanimously.

Business Tax

Motion # FA2021-01-06

Be it resolved that pursuant to *Section 120* of the *Municipalities Act, 1999*, the Town Council of the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay approve and adopt the **Business Tax Rates** as set out in the Policy and Procedures Manual, titled **Taxes and Rates**, Policy Number: **F0001** as the business tax rates and utility tax rate for 2021. Moved by Councillor Baikie and seconded by Councillor Crann. All in favour. Motion carried unanimously.

Town Fees for Services and Equipment Rental

Motion # FA2021-01-07

Be it resolved that the Town Council of the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay approve and adopt the Arena Fees set out in the Policy and Procedures Manual, titled **Arena Fees**, Policy Number: **F0002** for 2021. Moved by Councillor Compton Hobbs and seconded by Councillor Dyson-Edmunds. All in favour. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion # FA2021-01-08

Be it resolved that the Town Council of the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay approve and adopt the Ballfield Rental Fees set out in the Policy and Procedures Manual titled **Ballfield Rental Fees**, Policy Number: **F0003** for 2021. Moved by Councillor Dyson-Edmunds and seconded by Councillor Compton Hobbs. All in favour. Motion carried unanimously.

Miscellaneous Rates**Motion # FA2021-01-09**

Be it resolved that the Town Council of the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay approve and adopt the Miscellaneous Rates set out in the Policy and Procedures Manual, titled **Miscellaneous Rates**, Policy Number: **F0005** for 2021. Moved by Councillor Crann and seconded by Councillor Dyson-Edmunds. All in favour. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion # FA2021-01-10

Be it resolved that the Town Council of the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay approve and adopt the Municipal Rates – Equipment Rates set out in the Policy and Procedures Manual, titled **Municipal Rates – Equipment Rates**, Policy Number: **F0006** for 2021. Moved by Deputy Mayor Pomeroy and seconded by Councillor Crann. All in favour. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion # FA2021-01-11

Be it resolved that the Town Council of the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay approve and adopt the Animal Control Services Rates set out in the Policy and Procedures Manual, titled **Cost of Animal Control Services**, Policy Number: **F0007** for 2021. Moved by Councillor Baikie and seconded by Councillor Dyson-Edmunds. All in favour. Motion carried unanimously.

Property Tax (Residential and Business) and Business Tax Exemption**Motion # FA2021-01-12**

Be it resolved that the Town Council of the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay approve and adopt the Property Tax Low Income Relief Policy, Business and Property Tax Non-

Profit Organizations and Groups Exemption Policy, Doctors Property Tax Exemption, and Young Entrepreneurs Business Application and Business Tax Exemption as set out in the Policy and Procedures Manual, titled **Property Tax (Residential and Business) and Business Tax Exemption**, Policy Number: **F0009**. Moved by Councillor Compton Hobbs and seconded by Councillor Dyson-Edmunds. All in favour. Motion carried unanimously.

Recreational Property Tax Rebate Policy

Motion # FA2021-01-13

Be it resolved that the Town Council of the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay approve and adopt the Recreational Property Tax Rebate Policy as set out in the Policy and Procedures Manual, titled **Recreational Property Tax Rebate Policy**, Policy Number: **F0010**. Moved by Councillor Dyson-Edmunds and seconded by Deputy Mayor Pomeroy. All in favour. Motion carried unanimously.

All of Council were pleased that there was no increase in taxes, especially with the challenges presented by Covid-19. They thanked staff for their work in putting together a budget that is fiscally responsible with no major increases in spending and no cuts.

5. MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councillor Compton Hobbs and seconded by Councillor Dyson-Edmunds. All in favour. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:34 PM.

MAYOR WALLY ANDERSEN

TOWN MANAGER ROBERT ANDREWS