

The 9th meeting of the 13th Elected Town Council of the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay was held on Thursday, January 27, 2022 at 4:45 PM and called to order by Mayor George Andrews.

Members Present:

Mayor George Andrews
Deputy Mayor Ella Wallace
Councillor Darrell Bennett
Councillor Hayward Broomfield
Councillor Pamela Duffett
Councillor Denise Rumbolt
Councillor Todd Winters

Also Present:

Chief Administrative Officer, Nadine MacAulay
Executive Assistant, Kathy Eddy
Municipal Engineer, Randy Dillon
Manager of Public Relations, Waylon Williams

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE 9th MEETING

It was moved by Councillor Winters and seconded by Deputy Mayor Wallace to adopt the agenda of the 9th 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 Andrews, Deputy Mayor Wallace, Councillor Bennett, Councillor Duffett, Councillor Rumbolt, Councillor Winters, ladies and gentlemen.

This year, as a result of the general municipal election held in September 2021, there was an entirely new council elected to become the 13th Council of the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay. This 13th council is still learning about how the budget process works and doing orientation on matters such as the operations portions and capital works portions of the budget. During the 2022 Municipal budget process, complex issues factored into balancing this budget.

As chair of the Finance and Administration Policy Committee, I have been tasked with the responsibility of presenting to you the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay's Budget 2022. We, the 13th council will have to be fiscally responsible during this Covid-19 Pandemic, while providing basic services to the citizens of Happy Valley-Goose Bay. We are required to implement a balanced budget, and we have a debt level that has been steadily increasing for years, and that is why we are doing very little capital works this year, restricting it to the most important, which is supplying clean and safe drinking water, and groundwater flooding recovery efforts. We did not anticipate a large amount of debt being carried forward from the spending of previous council. Imagine our surprise when we learned that we walked into a debt of \$1,449,270 in cost overruns from last years' paving project. For this reason, we are doing very little capital works this year; focusing only on the most important, which is supplying clean and safe drinking water and addressing groundwater flooding recovery measures.

The Covid-19 Pandemic has increased our expenses for necessities such as sanitary supplies and personal protective equipment being required, while at the same time reducing our total revenue. Almost all of the revenue usually collected from the recreation department was impacted by this pandemic. Covid-19 has also reduced the availability of some basic material and resulted in significantly higher than normal cost of others. We continue to address staffing challenges as well and are working to fill vacancies and recruit qualified personnel. The town now has a new facility, the YMCA, which will be its first full year of operation, and we find ourselves in uncharted territory with having to start budgeting for its annual operational costs. This is a new venture and the town's financial contribution is very significant. This facility accumulated a deficit of more than \$400,000 in its first eight months, the burden of which falls to our citizens. We, the 13th council were dismayed to learn the extent of the true cost of this commitment.

This year's budget is balanced at Fifteen million Two Hundred Eighty-Two Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy-Nine Dollars and Seventy-Three Cents. (\$15,282,879.73). Included in this is the paving cost overruns from 2021, which this council inherited and must include in their capital cost portion of the budget. The groundwater flooding study, being cost shared with the province, and a water study are the only capital works projects being budgeted for this year.

Your worship, we will continue to provide property tax relief to low-income property owners and encourage those eligible to apply to this program. The mil rates for residential property tax will increase from 6.75 to 7.25. This increase will enable us to balance the budget as required by the *Municipalities Act*.

Given the challenges that this town has faced during the Global Covid-19 Pandemic this 2022 budget continues to be a fiscally conservative budget, one that will allow the town to continue to provide necessary services to our residents.

In conclusion, your Worship, I would like to thank council and staff for their hard work for putting together this budget. This has not been an easy process for any of us.

3. 2022 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Motion # 2022-01-01

Be it resolved that the Town Council of the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay approve and adopt the 2022 Municipal Budget for the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay as per *Section 77 of the Municipalities Act, 1999* with total revenues of \$15,282,879.73 and total expenditures of \$15,282,879.73. Moved by Councillor Broomfield and seconded by Deputy Mayor Wallace. All in favour. Motion carried unanimously.

4. 2022 MUNICIPAL TAX RATES AND FEES

Property Tax

Motion # 2022-01-02

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 7.25 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 2022. Moved by Councillor Duffett and seconded by Councillor Rumbolt. All in favour. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion # 2022-01-03

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 2022. Moved by Councillor Duffett and seconded by Councillor Broomfield. All in favour. Motion carried unanimously.

Water and Sewer Rates**Motion # 2022-01-04**

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 2022. Moved by Councillor Rumbolt and seconded by Councillor Broomfield. All in favour. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion # 2022-01-05

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 2022. Moved by Councillor Rumbolt and seconded by Councillor Duffett. All in favour. Motion carried unanimously.

Business Tax**Motion # 2022-01-06**

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 2022. Moved by Deputy Mayor Wallace and seconded by Councillor Rumbolt. All in favour. Motion carried unanimously.

Town Fees for Services and Equipment Rental**Motion # 2022-01-07**

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 2022. Moved by Deputy Mayor Wallace and seconded by Councillor Bennett. All in favour. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion # 2022-01-08

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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 2022. Moved by Councillor Winters and seconded by Deputy Mayor Wallace. All in favour. Motion carried unanimously.

Miscellaneous Rates**Motion # 2022-01-09**

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 2022. Moved by Councillor Winters and seconded by Councillor Broomfield. All in favour. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion # 2022-01-10

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 2022. Moved by Councillor Bennett and seconded by Councillor Rumbolt. All in favour. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion # 2022-01-11

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 2022. Moved by Councillor Bennett and seconded by Councillor Winters. All in favour. Motion carried unanimously.

Property Tax (Residential and Business) and Business Tax Exemption**Motion # 2022-01-12**

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 Broomfield and seconded by Councillor Duffett. All in favour. Motion carried unanimously.

Recreational Property Tax Rebate Policy

Motion # 2022-01-13

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 Broomfield and seconded by Councillor Winters. All in favour. Motion carried unanimously.

Vendor Regulations

Motion # 2022-01-21

Be it resolved that the Town Council of the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay approve and adopt the Vendor Regulations as amended. Moved by Councillor Broomfield and seconded by Councillor Rumbolt. All in favour. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Deputy Mayor Wallace. Meeting adjourned at 5:11 PM.

MAYOR GEORGE ANDREWS

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER NADINE MACAULAY