



Municipality of Port Hope

Staff Report

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Report Title: Prescribed Fees for Services Amendment

Report to: Finance Committee

Date of meeting: May 3, 2022

Report Author:

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Department responsible:

Finance

Report Number: FS-11-22

Recommendation:

That the proposed Draft Amendment to the Prescribed Fees for Services By-law 71-2021 with regard to Curb Cutting fees (Schedule 'B' – Works and Engineering), Parking Meter Fees (Schedule 'D' Building Services and Municipal By-Law Enforcement), and Taxi Fares (Schedule 'I' – Corporate Services) be posted for community consultation and staff be directed to report back with feedback received.

Highlights:

- Staff from Works and Engineering, Building Services and Municipal By-law, and Corporate Services undertook this review and are recommending that the proposed changes be posted for community consultation.
- Once feedback is received through community consultation, staff will report back with further information.

Background:

Annually, departments review the Prescribed Fees for Services and recommend changes that should be implemented for the upcoming year. This is undertaken for staff to conduct a review and comparison of their fees for services to other Municipalities and other market trends in an effort to recover costs. Throughout the year staff may review and compare their fees for services to identify additional changes mid-year. Staff from Works and Engineering, Building Services and Municipal By-law, and Corporate Services have identified changes to be implemented to the current schedules. This report consolidates all changes.

Discussion:

Works and Engineering

The curb cutting fee increase is required to reflect full cost recovery of third-party contractor work as we have been advised the current fee is increasing.

Proposed Curb Cutting Fee:

Service	Fee
Item # 5 – (U) Curb Cutting	\$250.00 >4 feet plus \$28.00 per foot thereafter

Current Curb Cutting Fee:

Service	Fee
Item # 5 – (U) Curb Cutting	\$226.60 > 4 feet plus \$20.60 per foot thereafter

Municipal By-Law Enforcement

Currently in Schedule 'D' parking meter fees there is a sentence requiring change. With regard to the Municipal Mill street Launch / Mill street parking lots it refers to a daily fee for vehicles with attached vessel trailer of \$10.00/day. Vehicles that do not have vessel trailer are able to park for free due to this wording. The proposed wording change will include all vehicles and change from daily flat rate fee to hourly parking rate up to a maximum of \$10.00 per day.

Proposed Wording and Fee:

Municipal Mill Street Boat Launch / Mill Street Parking Lots

All Vehicles

Service	Fee
Hourly Parking Rate	\$1 per hour up to a maximum of \$10.00 per day

Current Wording and Fee:

Municipal Mill Street Boat Launch / Mill Street Parking Lots

Vehicle with attached vessel trailer

Service	Fee
Daily Rate	\$10.00 per day

Corporate Services

The Municipality of Port Hope currently has two (2) taxi companies licensed to operate within the Municipality and as such they are also licensed with the Town of Cobourg to operate within their limits. Historically, Port Hope and Cobourg work closely together to ensure that taxi rates are aligned in both municipalities to ensure ease of transition between the two municipalities, and reduce the administrative burden on taxi company operators.

It has come to Staff's attention that the Town of Cobourg has updated their taxi licensing rates due to the increasing rise of costs associated with taxi companies operating their business, such as the minimum wage increase, and the rising and unpredictable rise in gas prices. This is an unexpected development and necessitates

the amendment of Port Hope's Prescribed Fees for Services to ensure that rates are consistent between Cobourg and Port Hope.

In keeping in line with the taxi fees offered by Cobourg and allowing Taxi Companies a one-time calibration of their vehicles as well as using one consistent rate schedule while operating between the two municipalities, Staff recommend that this amendment to the Fees and Charges By-law is warranted.

Within the new taxi fares implemented by Cobourg, they included a Fuel Surcharge to be added to each fare due to the increase cost of fuel prices.

It is noted that in Canada, Ontario and as a result in the Municipality of Port Hope, the cost of fuel has increased over the last few years and the current fuel prices are at an unprecedented high, and some industry analysts have suggested the price of gasoline could top \$2.00 per litre. The increase in fuel price impacts directly on the daily expenses for taxicab operators in the Municipality of Port Hope and as such recommend that a Fuel Surcharge be included in the new proposed taxi fare structure until October 2022 or when the price of fuel reaches \$1.40 or below. This would be in line with what Cobourg has done, and ensure that consistent pricing is in place between Cobourg and Port Hope, as has been the norm in the past. Cobourg has completed a rigorous consultation with taxi companies and the request for the Surcharge and the timelines associated with it have been recommended by the relevant stakeholders.

Proposed Taxi Fare Structure:

	Type of Taxi Fare	Rate
1.	Pick-Up Charge	\$4.50
2.	Meter Charge	\$2.00 per km
3.	Waiting / Running Time While Under Engagement	\$0.75 per minute. Meter activated only when vehicle is travelling below 26km per hour or stopped.
4.	Fuel Surcharge (until October 2022 or until the price of fuel reaches \$1.40 or below)	\$1.00 to be added to the pick up charge and calibrated with the taxi metre

Discount for Seniors is 10%:

- Proof of age is needed (Senior 65) at Driver's discretion
- Discount not applied on fares below \$10.00.

Current Fare Schedule:

	Type of Taxi Fare	Rate
1.	Pick-Up Charge	\$4.75
2.	Pick-Up Charge (Senior Rate)	\$4.25
3.	Meter Charge	.35cents 1/5 km (\$1.75/km)
4.	Meter Charge (Senior Rate)	.25cents 1/5 km (\$1.25/km)
5.	Stops During Trip	\$1.50 per stop
6.	Waiting Times at Stops	\$0.75 per min after 2mins
7.	Parcel Unloading Charge	\$0.75 per min after 2mins

8.	Destination Waiting Charge	\$0.75 per min for waiting at final destination
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Senior defined as 65 years of age or older.

The Municipality of Port Hope's current Taxi Fare fees have been in place since April 23, 2013.

The proposed changes clean up some of the fare charges, and the elimination of the Senior Rate to a Senior discount to help provide a lower fare from the current rate.

By removing the per stop charge and adding a revised waiting time running charge in order to help to provide an increase to the taxi fare instead of time stopping and not being charged until after two (2) minutes at the previous rate structure.

Financial Considerations:

The proposed fees are to improve cost recovery, which reduces the requirement for all taxpayers to pay for specific services directly impacting certain individuals or businesses.

Communication and Public Engagement:

Notice of the Proposed changes to the Curb Cutting fees, Parking Meter fees, and Taxi Fares is outlined in the proposed changes to Schedules 'B', 'D' and 'I' of the Fees and Charges By-law 71-2021 and will be posted on the Municipal website and Northumberland News.

Conclusion:

Increases in user fees are required to be fiscally responsible, to be used for planning future budgets, to maintain comparisons with like Municipalities and offset increasing operating costs, to provide quality services, program, and facilities.

Attachments:

None.