2011 Tax Supported User Fees

General Issues Committee
December 14th, 2010
• The following Council guideline was approved in June, 2010:

  • “That user fees (excluding golf, transit and ice fees) be increased by inflation and that any user fee adjustments, other than inflationary, be forwarded for consideration with appropriate explanation”

• Internal guideline for inflation is 2%
• Revenue generating: $2.0 - $2.5 million in additional funding (excluding transit, building permits = separate report)
  – Equates to approximately 1.4% - 1.8% increase when compared to 2010
• Revenue estimates for 2011 budget are based on the proposed fees contained in report
• For the most part, proposed fees will be effective Jan 1, 2011 (some may require an implementation period after approval, therefore will be effective sometime during 2011)
User Fees not included

• The following fees are not included in the user fee report (FCS10093):
  • **Transit fares**: separate report
  • **Building Permit Fees**: separate report; legislative requirement to hold public meeting
  • **Planning/Development Engineering fees**: already have approval through the “Tariff of Fees” by-law to be indexed annually
  • **Farmers’ Market Stall fees**: already approved by Council for Jan 1, 2011
Recreation (program fees) and Animal Control are proposing changes to their fees in an effort to better streamline the fee structure:

- Results in previous fees/categories being eliminated and replaced with new ones
- Simplified fee structure
- Removal of fees no longer in use
- May result in some deviation from the guideline
For the most part, the majority of fees (80% of the fees within this report) are increasing by the approved guideline.

- Some deviation for rounding = customer convenience and easier cash handling.
Some fees are proposed to remain unchanged or increase less than the guideline:

- Already at full cost recovery
- Existing fee at current market value (i.e. recreation admission fees, museum admission and group fees, user group ice fees\(^1\), golf)
- Legislated fee set by the Province
- As per previously approved agreement / report
- Fee under review (museum memberships)

\(^1\) excludes Prime Time Subsidized
User Fees: Increases > Guideline

• Some fees are proposed to increase greater than the guideline:
  • To ensure full cost recovery
  • To act as a deterrent (vicious dog)
  • To reflect current market value (i.e. animal control, museum rental rates)
  • Council approval (i.e. prime time subsidized ice fee; permanent road closure application)
User Fees: New Fees

• New fees proposed for 2011:
  
  • Planning & Economic Development:
    
    • Sign permit fee for any new or changes to existing sign that requires a building permit – to recover review costs required to ensure compliance
    
    • Annual taxicab inspection fee and daily fee for spare taxicabs – to recover cost of providing service

  • Public Health:
    
    • Food Handler Training Challenge Exam – cost recovery for exam only (without course)
User Fees: New Fees cont’d

• Community Services:
  • Summer Ice Affiliate fee set at market rate (replaces previous subsidized fee)
  • Admission fees and group rates for Griffin House
  • Joint site group rate for Dundurn and Hamilton Military Museum

• Public Works:
  • Municipal Consent Permit fee (long stream) – cost recovery for required in-depth processing and review
  • Road Occupancy Permit fee – cost recovery for processing and inspection
User Fees: New Fees cont’d

• Public Works (cont’d)
  • Temporary Parks Access Permit Security Deposit – to coincide with newly developed permit process

• Corporate Services:
  • Commissioner of Oaths (Clerks)
  • On-line tenders and RFPs (introducing a lower fee where documents are obtained on-line)
  • Fee for changes in banking information (where more than one request per year by the vendor)
  • Fees for consideration of assignment / corporate change requests – recovery of legal costs incurred for changes to contract (i.e. vendor name change)