

Utilities 2021 OPS Budget

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Utility department maintains and manages the County's water and wastewater systems as well as a solid waste management program. The water systems include water treatment and distribution within the Hamlets of Winfield, Mulhurst Bay and Gwynne as well as the subdivisions of Dorchester Developments, Village Lane Condos and Sunset Harbour. Wastewater systems are comprised of wastewater collection and treatment with respect to County owned systems in Alder Flats, Falun, Winfield, Mulhurst Bay, Village at Pigeon Lake and Gwynne. The County also manages and operates two large Regional Wastewater systems for the Commission's of the North East Pigeon Lake Regional Wastewater system and the South Pigeon Lake Regional Wastewater system. Solid Waste management includes residential garbage collection in select communities and the ownership and operation of 9 Solid Waste Transfer Stations.

FINANCIAL

	Budget 2020	Budget 2021	% Variance
Total Expenses	\$7,463,344	\$9,330,134	
Total Revenues	\$6,286,095	\$8,222,192	
Total Tax Support	-\$1,177,249	-\$1,107,942	-5.9

Required Tax Support by Department:

Department	Budget 2020	Budget 2021	% Variance
4100 – Water Services	-\$19,307	--	--
4200 – Wastewater Services	-\$50,000	--	--
4300 – Solid Waste Services	-\$1,107,942	-\$1,107,942	--

The overall reduction of -5.9% variance from 2020 reflects a static budget with respect operational costs and a slight increase in service fee revenues.

KEY OBJECTIVES

A key objective is to fully allocate the true costs of operating the solid waste, water, and wastewater systems. The goal for the water and wastewater systems is to be self sufficient and thereby all associated costs should be allocated appropriately. This will help establish proper rates to fairly charge customers receiving the service and not have it supported by the general taxpayer who does not receive the benefit. This includes a monthly fee that reflects the need to place money into reserves for future infrastructure capital replacement and repairs.

CHALLENGES

Meeting the daily requirements of maintaining and monitoring complex systems. Dealing with an aging infrastructure and developing a plan to raise revenues to build reserves for future capital upgrades.

Utilities 2021

4100 – Water Services OPS Budget

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The County owns and operates three water treatment and distribution systems in the Hamlets of Winfield, Mulhurst Bay and Gwynne. The Utilities department also provides contract services for water system management in the subdivisions of Village Lane Condos, Sunset Harbour and Dorchester Development Inc. Work involves daily checks of the water quality and system operations. Maintenance includes distribution flushing, pump repair and replacement, control systems, raw water supply and reservoir cleaning. The department also provides 24-hour emergency response.

FINANCIAL

Revenues include service fees, contract service fees and a transfer from reserves for the Gwynne truck fill upgrades. Ongoing efforts involve upgrades to key components of an aging infrastructure and implementing comprehensive preventative maintenance programs. Expenses include salaries, equipment costs, chemicals, supplies and contracted third party costs.

Capital projects include the construction of a new water 1.5-million-dollar water treatment plant at the Dorchester Development as well as significant upgrades to the Winfield and Mulhurst water treatment plants as part of a provincial grant received under the AMWWP.

	Budget 2020	Budget 2021	Year over Year Variance
Total Expenses	\$1,899,157	\$2,368,120	24.7%
Total Revenues	\$1,879,850	\$2,368,120	26.0%
Net Tax Support	-\$19,307	- -	

Budget balanced with total operations supported by adjustments to transfers (to and from) reserves.

KEY OBJECTIVES

The key objective for this department is to maintain a high-quality provision of potable water to the customers. New initiatives include upgrades to water systems, developing a comprehensive maintenance program, enhance monitoring and reporting procedures, development of a capital replacement program and revision of the Water and Wastewater Bylaw.

CHALLENGES

The challenges are many as legislative requirements regarding potable water standards are increasing. This means upgrades to raw water quality, and tighter tolerances in overall potable water quality, testing and reporting requirements.