



Media Contact:  
Corey Moore  
Communications & Economic  
Development Specialist  
cmoore@muskokalakes.ca  
(705) 765-3156 Ext 215  
www.muskokalakes.ca

---

## Media Release

For Immediate Release  
May 27, 2020

### **Township Approves 2020 Budget and Extends Waiving of Penalties for Non-Payment of 2020 Interim Taxes**

MUSKOKA LAKES – On Wednesday, May 13, 2020 the Council of the Township of Muskoka Lakes approved the 2020 Operating Budget and Capital Budget and Forecast, and extended the waiving of penalties for non-payment of 2020 interim taxes.

The 2020 budget has a net levy of \$12,285,251, which represents a 2.14% tax levy increase over the prior year. The estimated impact to a typical residential property valued at \$500,000 is an annual increase in taxes of \$4.34. The 2020 budget includes a reduction in operating costs and increases contributions to capital reserves to fund the rehabilitation and replacement of infrastructure. The goal is to steadily increase reserve contributions in the operating budget to reflect the expenditure needs in the capital budget and forecast.

“During unprecedented times, I am pleased that Council considered all options put forth by staff and achieved an extremely responsible budget that recognizes both the long-term infrastructure deficits across the Township, while respecting the short-term economic implications of Covid-19 and its impact on the economy,” says Mayor Harding.

The Township of Muskoka Lakes funding requirement continues to be the smallest portion of the total property tax bill (20%). The District Municipality of Muskoka (52%) and the School Boards (28%) retain the larger components of the total amount levied.

Notable projects slated for 2020 include the rehabilitation of the Beaumaris Bridge, reconstruction of Moon River Road, purchase of a good used grader and sweeper, purchase of a fire pumper truck for Windermere, new fire master plan and new community engagement platform. In addition, as approved previously by Council, a new Manager of Taxation position was established.

Additionally, Council has adopted a motion to extend the waiving of penalties that would otherwise be charged for the non-payment of 2020 interim taxes that were due on March 27, 2020. Council’s decision removes any penalties charged on non-payment of 2020 interim taxes until July 31, 2020.

The penalty waiving decision has been taken to support those most in need. Payments will continue to be accepted and processed by the Township. Property owners that have the means to make their payment are encouraged to do so, as property taxes fund the many municipal services that must continue to be provided.

Please visit [www.muskokalakes.ca](http://www.muskokalakes.ca) to view a copy of the 2020 budget.

-30-

For more information, please contact:

Derrick Hammond  
Chief Administrative Officer  
[dhammond@muskokalakes.ca](mailto:dhammond@muskokalakes.ca)  
(705) 765-3156  
[www.muskokalakes.ca](http://www.muskokalakes.ca)