

February 18, 2025 - 2025 Fees and Charges Comments received up to 9:00 a.m. on Friday, February 14, 2025

Date	Comment	Staff Response
27-Nov-24	<p>Kimberley Stephenson commented on the new water account fee: I received a \$208.77 water bill for a vacant home in Thornbury, primarily due to a new account fee of \$105, significantly higher than typical fees elsewhere in Ontario, which range from \$35 to \$50. Kimberley urges Town Council to reconsider and reduce this excessive fee for new water accounts to align more reasonably with homeowner expectations and practices within the province.</p>	<p>Staff have reviewed similar fees at peer municipalities and recommend this fee be reduced to \$35 in the Proposed 2025 Fees and Charges, noting that the increase was to accommodate the manual reading of meters which is now completed via satellite.</p>
10-Feb-25	<p>Pickleball Comment - Paul Clements, President of The Thornbury Pickleball Club (TPC) on behalf of its Members: The Thornbury Pickleball Club, which contributes significantly to revenue and benefits seniors through exercise and social interactions, requests maintaining the 30% subsidy like youth hockey to allow continued growth and accessibility, especially as a new third court becomes available.</p>	<p>Based on the Town's 2024 Fees and Charges Pickleball costs are \$15/court/hour less a 30% subsidy provided to user groups resulting in a rate of \$10.50/court/hour. Assuming 4 participants this is a cost of \$2.63 per person per hour. The 2025 Proposed Fees and Charges for the Town is increasing the Pickleball costs to \$20/court/hour less a 10% subsidy for user groups resulting in a rate of \$18/court/hour or \$4.50 per person (based on 4 participants). This results in an increase of \$1.88 per person per hour.</p> <p>Parks and Recreation services are subsidized as it is a tax supported function. User fee charges are intended to help offset the impact to the tax levy by imposing charges to those who directly benefit from the service.</p> <p>In comparison with other municipalities the Town's user fees for Pickleball are at the average rate amongst other peer municipalities noting that no other (among those reviewed) includes a subsidy. The increase is meant to align our fees with our peers and reflect the increased cost of providing the services.</p>
10-Feb-25	<p>Pickleball Comment - Jim Oliver: The Thornbury Pickleball Club urges the Town Council to reconsider or defer these changes until 2026, emphasizing the sport's value to senior health and social engagement and the economic benefits it brings to the community.</p>	<p>See Staff comment above.</p>
11-Feb-25	<p>Pickleball Comment - Lynn Horlor: Why are these rates are being significantly increased? I do not believe as is stated in the budget that user affordability of the user is part of the calculation.</p>	<p>See Staff comment above.</p>
11-Feb-25	<p>Pickleball Comment - Christine Laskoski (nee Lasky) At this time I would recommend a more modest increase in Pickleball rental costs, and consider recouping other revenues by modest increases in other facility rentals, including non-sporting use, as well as embarking on a fully loaded cost analysis of all income generating facilities to make sure the rental costs reflect the real costs of running them.</p>	<p>See Staff comment above.</p>
11-Feb-25	<p>Pickleball Comment - Margaret Maby: I see the ice rental time is only increasing by 13.8% whereas the pickleball facility is increasing by 300%. The youth subsidy is 45%, it's only fair to keep ours at 30%.</p>	<p>See Staff comment above.</p>
11-Feb-25	<p>Pickleball Comment - Linda Howard: Linda Howard is concerned about the proposed 71% increase in pickleball rental fees due to subsidy removal, which could limit participation and impose a heavy burden on players, many of whom are seniors.</p>	<p>See Staff comment above.</p>

February 18, 2025 - 2025 Fees and Charges Comments received up to 9:00 a.m. on Friday, February 14, 2025

Date	Comment	Staff Response
11-Feb-25	<p>Pickleball Comment - Mary Greer: I find the increase in the Thornbury Pickleball Club rental rates excessive and frankly unfair. I hope council reconsiders this and is kinder to our club.</p>	See Staff comment above.
11-Feb-25	<p>Pickleball Comment - Anne Ross: I would hate to see an active and vibrant community of people not be able to play this wonderful sport because the council has approved a large fee increase for courts.</p>	See Staff comment above.
11-Feb-25	<p>Pickleball Comment - Bonnie Fox: I understand a modest increase may be necessary but the fees for a public facility supported by our taxes should not be compared to the fees paid at private clubs.</p>	See Staff comment above.
11-Feb-25	<p>Pickleball Comment - Alan Shisko: I am curious why there a proposal to drastically increase the costs associated with a sport that contributes to the health and well-being of residents, notably (but not exclusively) for our seniors, many of whom are on fixed incomes.</p>	See Staff comment above.
12-Feb-25	<p>Pickleball comment - Karen Chisholm: The proposed 71% increase in pickleball court rental fees for 2025 is seen as unjustified, particularly since the fees focus solely on pickleball and not on a general increase for all recreational activities.</p>	See Staff comment above.
12-Feb-25	<p>Overall Subsidy comment - Rob Munden - Group leader representing the Tuesday Morning Senior's Exercise Group: This group, significant community volunteers, argues the increase seems excessive and possibly intended to cover arena costs, proposing keeping the subsidy at 30% to support their physical and social well-being activities.</p>	See Staff comment above.
13-Feb-25	<p>Pickleball comment - Jo Ann MacLaren: I am very disappointed that the cost for playing Pickleball is going to increase to this high amount. I've been a member for seven years and it's about the only club available to this group of people looking to keep themselves fit.</p>	See Staff comment above.
13-Feb-25	<p>Pickleball comment - Joyce Bell: The proposed 71% increase in pickleball fees, without changes to other facility rates, is seen as short-sighted given the rise of new, superior pickleball facilities in nearby areas like Meaford and Collingwood. There are risks of losing players unless it maintains competitive pricing, as charging rates similar to private facilities could lead to decreased usage, contradicting the town's mission to support residents.</p>	See Staff comment above.
13-Feb-25	<p>Pickleball comment - Susie Keast: Very disappointed in the 71 % increase for inside pickleball and 50 % increase for outdoor pickleball. You have not increased the other activities nearly as much. Why is pickleball being targeted. Confused!!</p>	See Staff comment above.

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Date	Comment	Staff Response
18-Feb-25	<p>Preregistered Speaker - Robert Ketchin - Noise By Law Relief Request</p> <p>Mr. Ketchin requested Council reconsider the new fee for Noise By Law Relief Requests. Mr. Ketchin requested clarification on the specifics of the fee and the number of events permitted to be included in one application.</p> <p>Mr. Ketchin also expressed concern that Applications for Noise Bylaw Relief requests can only be made for events in the current calendar year. NOTE: this comment is not the subject of the fees and charges bylaw update</p>	<p>The Noise By Law Relief Application fee is \$200 per application. Each application can include up to 10 event dates. Applications with more than 10 event dates will be subject to an additional \$200 fee. Municipal comparators have fees of \$250 per event with no option to apply for multiple events in one application.</p>

From: Kimberley Stephenson [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2024 1:26 PM
To: Kyra Dunlop <kdunlop@thebluemountains.ca>
Cc: Allison Kershaw <akershaw@thebluemountains.ca>; Town Clerk <townclerk@thebluemountains.ca>
Subject: RE: New Home - 1st Water Bill TBM

Hello,

Please note that I own properties in the Town of Blue Mountains and recently received the 1st water bill for a new home in Thornbury. The home was vacant with no water usage, yet the water bill came to a total of \$208.77. I was completely shocked by this amount for a water bill with no usage.

I called TBM Water Services and was advised that last year a new account charge was approved for \$105 for all new water accounts. Charging \$105 for a new account is an excessive amount to charge new homeowners, No utility company, or municipalities in Ontario charge more than \$35-\$50 for a new account fee. I believe the new account fee was \$30 in 2023 so an increase of 250% is excessive.

I would ask that you please forward my feedback and discontent regarding this fee to the Town Council and ask them to reduce this fee.

I'm certain most homeowners would be aligned that \$105 is an outrageously high new account fee and hopefully this is changed to a more reasonable fee for 2025 and beyond.

Thanks

Kimberley Stephenson

February 11, 2025

To: TBM Council

From: Paul Clements, President of The Thornbury Pickleball Club (TPC)
on behalf of its Members

Re: Proposed 2025 Budget

I read through the first draft budget. It contained a 33% fee increase with our subsidy remaining at 30%. I saw a note sent to staff to find some savings. What came back was the same increase with our subsidy adjusted to 10%. When I apply these changes to the hours we booked this past year it amounts to a 71% increase. To us this is extremely excessive.

For comparison purposes, using the latest draft budget, prime ice rental time will have gone up 13.8% since 2021. The use of the hall for pickleball will be up 300%. I am sure the cost of maintaining the arena is much more than the cost of the large hall. Intuitively, such a large difference in increases does not make sense. During the same period the youth hockey program has received and will continue to receive a 45% subsidy. I understand the need to have our youth involved in a sports program. It is exercise, it has a social element and as a former hockey player, you learn skills involving teamwork. All valuable.

Pickleball, for our members, provides the same benefits. If there is value at one end of the spectrum for youth, then that same value is there for those at the other end of the spectrum, that being seniors. Most if not all of our members are seniors. We have previously supplied articles on the benefits of exercise and social interaction for seniors. That is what we do. We have members from all walks of life and many couples within the club. For them, such an increase may jeopardize their ability to continue with us. What a shame that would be.

TPC is an inclusive club. As people move to the area or hear about pickleball, they reach out to us. Our waitlist continues to grow. We have set aside club time and provide facilitators to prepare people for membership. There is a family for them to join. With the third court coming to BVCC, our Board met to discuss how this new court will provide an opportunity to bring on more people. Our plan was to take the third court and guarantee 24 hrs of bookings. That one court will provide approx. 70 hrs per week of court time. Without doing anything the town would have over 34% of the time booked. We were going to increase our membership by 35 people. After doing the math with these new rates, I do not think we will be able to do that. There is a possibility that we may have to reduce your current guaranteed bookings. That would be a shame. Since 2014 TPC has been the largest contributor of revenue for BVCC. Using the 2024/25 operating year, TPC covered 8% of the Community Services total costs. At the new rates utilizing 2 courts we would cover 10% and if we took the 3rd court with our current subsidy we would cover 12% of the budget. Seems like a win/win situation. Yes the third court may get rented but most likely not by a senior who fits in our program. People want to join a club for the benefits it provides.

So here is our request. There is perceived value in maintaining the youth hockey subsidy at 45%. That same perception of value should apply to our membership. Please keep our subsidy at 30% which in turn will allow us to expand our practice program and include more people in our Club.

On behalf of our members I thank you for listening and hope that with our request, TPC can follow through with its mandate. If I can be of further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Tracy Nowak

From: Corrina Giles
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2025 2:22 PM
To: Jim Oliver Gmail
Cc: Council; SMT; Tracy Nowak; Michael Switzer; Kyra Dunlop; Carrie Fairley
Subject: RE: 2025 Fees for Thornbury Pickleball Club

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Good afternoon Jim,
I acknowledge receipt of your comments on behalf of the Thornbury Pickleball Club in response to the proposed 2025 Fees and Charges, and confirm that by way of copy, I have forwarded the same to Council for their information and consideration. Your comments will be included in the record of the February 18 Public Meeting, and attached to a followup staff report regarding this matter.

Kind regards,



Corrina Giles, CMO

Town Clerk

Town of The Blue Mountains, 32 Mill Street, P.O. Box 310, Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0

Tel: 519-599-3131 ext. 232 | Fax: 519-599-7723

Email: cgiles@thebluemountains.ca | Website: www.thebluemountains.ca

As part of providing [accessible customer service](#), please let me know if you have any accommodation needs or require communication supports or alternate formats.

-----Original Message-----

From: Jim Oliver Gmail [REDACTED]
Sent: February 10, 2025 10:14 AM
To: Corrina Giles <cgiles@thebluemountains.ca>
Subject: 2025 Fees for Thornbury Pickleball Club

Hello Corrina,

This email is being sent on behalf of the Thornbury Pickleball Club, of which I am a member. We have been advised by the Club that the Town proposes to increase fees to the club for our use of the community centre courts for 2025 by approx. 30% and also to reduce the fee subsidy provided to the Club down to 10%. These 2 measures combined would result in the Club paying more than 70% more in 2025 than 2024 for the same usage. This seems very excessive to me .

I know that the Town and Council realize how valuable it is for seniors to participate in recreational sports from both a physical health and wellness perspective and from a social and mental health perspective, and pickle ball meets both of those objectives very well ,and in a cost effective way (for the municipality). I strongly urge Council to reduce the proposed fee increase and/or restore the fee subsidy for the Club, given its many benefits for the senior community of the Town of the Blue Mountains. At the very least , the Town should defer such changes in fees to be paid until 2026, after the proposed reconfiguration and expansion (from 2to 3) of the community centre courts is completed .

Thanks you for receiving my comments, and I would ask that they be read in public at the upcoming budget meeting.

Sincerely,
Jim Oliver,
Thornbury

Sent from my iPhone

Tracy Nowak

From: Kyra Dunlop
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 9:57 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Council; SMT; Town Clerk; Tracy Nowak; Michael Switzer
Subject: FW: Webform submission from: Contact Council & Town Clerk

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Good morning,
I acknowledge receipt of the comments provided and by way of copy I am circulating same to Council and staff for information. Your comments will be summarized and read aloud at the February 18, 2025 Council Public Meeting as they relate to the budget, and included in the follow-up staff report.



Kyra Dunlop

Deputy Clerk, BA (Hons)

Town of The Blue Mountains, 32 Mill Street, P.O. Box 310, Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0

Tel: 519-599-3131 ext. 306 | Fax: 519-599-7723

Email: kdunlop@thebluemountains.ca | Website: www.thebluemountains.ca

As part of providing [accessible customer service](#), please let me know if you have any accommodation needs, require communication supports or alternate formats.

From: Web Committee <webcommittee@thebluemountains.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 8:54 AM
To: Council & Clerk <councilandclerk@thebluemountains.ca>
Subject: Webform submission from: Contact Council & Town Clerk

Submitted on Tue, 02/11/2025 - 08:53

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Name:
Lynn Horlor

Email:
[REDACTED]

Phone:
[REDACTED]

How can we help you?

Mayor and Members of Council, I am writing this quick note to raise my concern about the proposed rates and fees increase related which appears to be just the use of the Community Centre and Outdoor pickleball courts. As a retired municipal employee, I know that rates and fees are to be calculated for municipal services at a cost recovery basis (inclusive of direct and indirect costs). It appears that most of the rates and fees are being increased based on an inflationary factor, with the exception of pickleball court fees. I would like this explained. Why are these rates are being significantly increased? I do not believe as is stated in the budget that user affordability of the user is part of the calculation.

Municipalities provide front line introductory recreational services, any comparison to private pickleball courts in neighbourhoods surrounding Blue Mountains should not be considered if it has been. They are not comparable in any sense.

Thankyou for your consideration.

I would like a copy of my submission sent to my email address.

Yes

Any accompanying files are attached.

Tracy Nowak

From: Kyra Dunlop
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 9:58 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Council; SMT; Town Clerk; Tracy Nowak; Michael Switzer
Subject: FW: Webform submission from: Town Clerk

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Good morning,

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As part of providing [accessible customer service](#), please let me know if you have any accommodation needs, require communication supports or alternate formats.

From: Web Committee <webcommittee@thebluemountains.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 7:26 AM
To: Town Clerk <townclerk@thebluemountains.ca>
Subject: Webform submission from: Town Clerk

Submitted on Tue, 02/11/2025 - 07:26

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Name:

Christine Laskoski (nee Lasky)

Email:

[REDACTED]

Phone:

[REDACTED]

How can we help you?

I am writing the Town in regards to the proposed rate increase in PickleBall court rental fees. I would like this letter read at the upcoming council meeting in regards to the proposed 2025 town budget.

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

I am shocked at the proposed 71 percent increase in PickleBall court rental fees being considered for the 2025 Town of Blue Mountains budget.

While I understand our need to be fiscally responsible focusing on PickleBall versus looking at a general increase across all recreational and social activities and rentals would seem to make more sense. Spread a little pain over a lot of different areas.

The proposed increase may push PickleBall out of reach for some seniors who are on a fixed budget where this is their only physical and social activity. The benefits of this are well known in the medical community.

In addition, use of the courts does not require a lot of town maintenance as compared to hockey, golf etc.

While I recognize the fee has been subsidized it has also helped grow the sport in the town, a very positive outcome. I also am aware PickleBall rentals have utilized the centre in the winter when it often sat idle, and therefore I would argue contributed net position monies into the town. One should ask, "Was the community centre not built to be used by the community?!" The summer facility clearly generates income for the town as well.

I would also ask, are all the costs of running the skating rink and Tomahawk golf course fully loaded into running those facilities and then factored into your rental costs. A full analysis of this is recommended and should be made public.

At this time I would recommend a more modest increase in PickleBall rental costs, and consider recouping other revenues by modest increases in other facility rentals, including non-sporting use, as well as embarking on a fully loaded cost analysis of all income generating facilities to make sure the rental costs reflect the real costs of running them. This type of analysis and transparency would go a long way to our collective understanding.

We want a fit and healthy community.

We can all agree to that, I am sure.

Christine Laskoski (Lasky)

I would like a copy of my submission sent to my email address.

Yes

Any accompanying files are attached.

Tracy Nowak

From: Kyra Dunlop
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 9:58 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Council; SMT; Town Clerk; Tracy Nowak; Michael Switzer
Subject: FW: Webform submission from: Contact Council & Town Clerk

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Good morning,
I acknowledge receipt of the comments provided and by way of copy I am circulating same to Council and staff for information. Your comments will be summarized and read aloud at the February 18, 2025 Council Public Meeting as they relate to the budget, and included in the follow-up staff report.



Kyra Dunlop

Deputy Clerk, BA (Hons)

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Tel: 519-599-3131 ext. 306 | Fax: 519-599-7723

Email: kdunlop@thebluemountains.ca | Website: www.thebluemountains.ca

As part of providing [accessible customer service](#), please let me know if you have any accommodation needs, require communication supports or alternate formats.

From: Web Committee <webcommittee@thebluemountains.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 7:13 AM
To: Council & Clerk <councilandclerk@thebluemountains.ca>
Subject: Webform submission from: Contact Council & Town Clerk

Submitted on Tue, 02/11/2025 - 07:13


Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Name:
Margaret Maby

Email:
[REDACTED]

Phone:



How can we help you?

Thornbury Pickleball Club

I was taken aback on learning by how much the town was planning to increase the rental of the community centre for the club. I started playing pickleball 5years ago, and was immediately welcomed into the club. Not only do I enjoy the company of the great group of friendly people who play there, but it enables me to get good physical activity 4days a week. The astronomical increase in the rental is going to cause a lot of hardship for many of the clubs members.

I see the ice rental time is only increasing by 13.8% whereas the pickleball facility is increasing by 300%. This looks like ageism to me. We seniors need to stay active, this increase will definitely affect us. The youth subsidy is 45%, it's only fair to keep ours at 30%.

Sincerely

Margaret Maby

I would like a copy of my submission sent to my email address.

No

Any accompanying files are attached.

Tracy Nowak

From: Kyra Dunlop
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 9:58 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Council; SMT; Town Clerk; Tracy Nowak; Michael Switzer
Subject: FW: Fee increase for Pickleball

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Good morning,
I acknowledge receipt of the comments provided and by way of copy I am circulating same to Council and staff for information. Your comments will be summarized and read aloud at the February 18, 2025 Council Public Meeting as they relate to the budget, and included in the follow-up staff report.



Kyra Dunlop

Deputy Clerk, BA (Hons)

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From: Linda [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2025 9:58 PM
To: Town Clerk <townclerk@thebluemountains.ca>
Subject: Fee increase for Pickleball

Dear [Mayor/Council Members],

I am writing to express my concern regarding draft 2025 budget and the proposed removal of subsidies and the subsequent increase in rental fees for pickleball usage, which would result in a 71% increase in costs for players. While I understand the need for responsible fiscal management, this significant fee increase would place an undue burden on our community's pickleball players and may limit participation in a sport that has brought numerous benefits to our residents.

Pickleball is one of the fastest-growing recreational activities in our town, attracting players of all ages and abilities. It promotes physical activity, mental well-being, and social engagement, contributing to a healthier and more connected community. Many of our local players are seniors who rely on the sport for exercise and social interaction, and such a drastic increase in fees may discourage their continued participation.

Beyond personal benefits, our pickleball community has benefited the larger community in numerous ways, including organizing events, volunteering for community initiatives, and promoting active living among residents. The increase in fees could hinder these positive contributions by making participation less accessible.

I respectfully urge the Town Council to reconsider such a drastic increase and explore alternative solutions that balance budgetary concerns while maintaining affordability for recreational activities like pickleball. A more moderate fee adjustment or a phased approach would be preferable to ensure continued accessibility and growth of this beneficial sport.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your commitment to our community and hope you will take these concerns into account.

Sincerely,

Linda Howard



Sent from my iPad

Tracy Nowak

From: Kyra Dunlop
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 9:59 AM
To: Mary M Greer
Cc: Council; SMT; Town Clerk; Tracy Nowak; Michael Switzer
Subject: FW: Thornbury Pickleball Club

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Good morning,

I acknowledge receipt of the comments provided and by way of copy I am circulating same to Council and staff for information. Your comments will be summarized and read aloud at the February 18, 2025 Council Public Meeting as they relate to the budget, and included in the follow-up staff report.

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-----Original Message-----

From: Mary M Greer [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2025 9:15 PM
To: Town Clerk <townclerk@thebluemountains.ca>
Subject: Thornbury Pickleball Club

Hello

I am writing about the proposed draft budget increase to the Thornbury Pickleball Club I find the increase in the rental rates excessive and frankly unfair The information we have been given states our rent last year was approximately 28000\$. The draft budget has the new rent at 479000\$ I hope council reconsiders this and is kinder to our club Regards Mary Greer

Tracy Nowak

From: Kyra Dunlop
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 9:59 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Council; SMT; Town Clerk; Tracy Nowak; Michael Switzer
Subject: FW: Webform submission from: Contact Council & Town Clerk

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Kyra Dunlop

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As part of providing [accessible customer service](#), please let me know if you have any accommodation needs, require communication supports or alternate formats.

From: Web Committee <webcommittee@thebluemountains.ca>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2025 3:48 PM
To: Council & Clerk <councilandclerk@thebluemountains.ca>
Subject: Webform submission from: Contact Council & Town Clerk

Submitted on Mon, 02/10/2025 - 15:48

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Name:
Anne Ross

Email:
[REDACTED]

Phone:



How can we help you?

Dear Members of Council.

As an avid pickleball player in the town of Thornbury I was surprised to hear of the increase in cost that we are going to have shortly, both outside and inside.

I must write to say I don't agree with the increase, that seems to be more substantial for the pickleball players in the community. I would hate to see an active and vibrant community of people not be able to play this wonderful sport because the council has approved a large fee increase for courts.

I would like a copy of my submission sent to my email address.

No

Any accompanying files are attached.

Tracy Nowak

From: Kyra Dunlop
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:18 AM
To: Bonnie & Jim Fox; Town Clerk
Cc: Council; SMT; Tracy Nowak; Michael Switzer
Subject: RE: increase in fees for Pickleball

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Good morning,

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Kyra Dunlop

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As part of providing [accessible customer service](#), please let me know if you have any accommodation needs, require communication supports or alternate formats.

From: Bonnie & Jim Fox [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:12 AM
To: Town Clerk <townclerk@thebluemountains.ca>
Subject: increase in fees for Pickleball

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

I am so sorry to hear of your plans to impose a huge increase for fees to play pickleball in the community centre. I was thrilled to find an affordable, fun, activity that promotes physical fitness and a great social experience. I understand a modest increase may be necessary but the fees for a public facility supported by our taxes should not be compared to the fees paid at private clubs. There are many citizens in our community that cannot afford the increase and yet could benefit from the use of the facility for pickleball. I hope you will reconsider your plan.

Sincerely,
Bonnie Fox

Tracy Nowak

From: Kyra Dunlop
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 2:17 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Council; SMT; Town Clerk; Tracy Nowak; Michael Switzer
Subject: FW: Webform submission from: Contact Council & Town Clerk

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Kyra Dunlop
Deputy Clerk, BA (Hons)
Town of The Blue Mountains, 32 Mill Street, P.O. Box 310, Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0
Tel: 519-599-3131 ext. 306| Fax: 519-599-7723
Email: kdunlop@thebluemountains.ca | Website: www.thebluemountains.ca

As part of providing accessible customer service, please let me know if you have any accommodation needs, require communication supports or alternate formats.

From: Web Committee <webcommittee@thebluemountains.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:40 PM
To: Council & Clerk <councilandclerk@thebluemountains.ca>
Subject: Webform submission from: Contact Council & Town Clerk

Submitted on Tue, 02/11/2025 - 12:40

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Name:
Alan Shisko

Email:
[REDACTED]

Phone:



How can we help you?

Re: Pickleball court rental rates, I am curious why there a proposal to drastically increase the costs associated with a sport that contributes to the health and well-being of residents, notably (but not exclusively) for our seniors, many of whom are on fixed incomes. An increase to offset inflationary pressures is to be expected, but I would otherwise ask you to reconsider what is effectively a 71% increase.

Regards,

Alan Shisko



I would like a copy of my submission sent to my email address.

Yes

Any accompanying files are attached.

Tracy Nowak

From: Kyra Dunlop
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 9:48 AM
To: Karen Chisholm; Town Clerk
Cc: Council; SMT; Tracy Nowak; Michael Switzer
Subject: RE: PICKLE BALL FEES

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hello,

I acknowledge receipt of the comments provided and by way of copy I am circulating same to Council and staff for information. Your comments will be summarized and read aloud at the February 18, 2025 Council Public Meeting as they relate to the budget, and included in the follow-up staff report.



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From: Karen Chisholm
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 9:04 AM
To: Town Clerk
Subject: PICKLE BALL FEES

Dear Mayor and Councillors:

I am truly disappointed at the proposed 71 percent increase in Pickle Ball court rental fees being considered for the 2025 Town of Blue Mountains budget.

Focussing singly on Pickle Ball versus looking at a general increase across all recreational and social activities and rentals does not make any sense.

The Town should NOT be attempting to price the same as private clubs – what are community/tax funded venues for??

Most seniors are on a fixed budget and this may be their only physical and social activity. The benefits of both of these are *essential* to physical AND mental health, as I'm sure everyone on Council is aware of.

The courts require the least amount of town maintenance as compared to hockey, baseball, golf, and soccer.

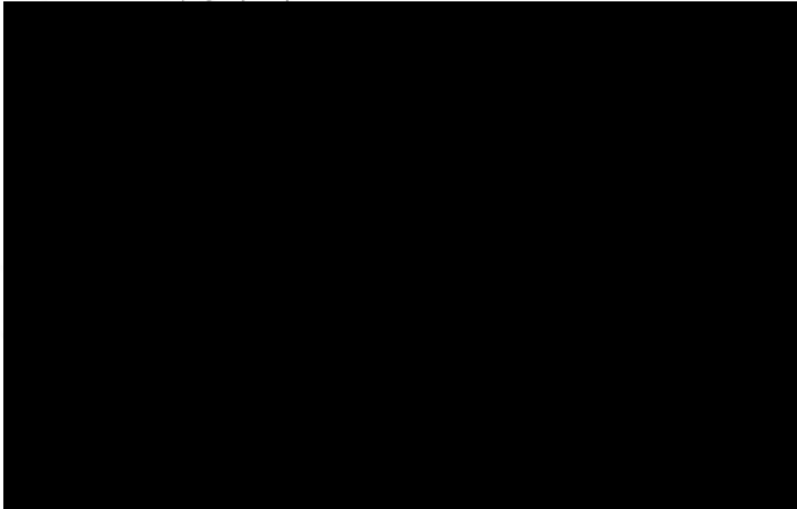
Pickle Ball rentals have utilized the centre in the winter when it often sat idle, and therefore is additional

revenue to the town. I have heard it asked many times, "Was the community centre not built to be used by the community?!". The summer facility clearly generates income for the town as well.

I feel as if the total cost of running all the programs (that require significantly more town resources/maintenance) are being downloaded onto the Pickle Ball players, which is ridiculous!! And unfair.

I do hope that Council will listen, review and reconsider this move.

KAREN CHISHOLM



The contents of this communication, including any attachment(s), are confidential and may be privileged. If you are not the intended recipient (or are not receiving this communication on behalf of the intended recipient), please notify the sender immediately and delete or destroy this communication without reading it, and without making, forwarding, or retaining any copy or record of it or its contents. Thank you. Note: We have taken precautions against viruses, but take no responsibility for loss or damage caused by any virus present.

February 12, 2025

To : TBM Council

From: Rob Munden Group Leader representing the Tuesday Morning Senior's Exercise Group
Hall #1 Beaver Valley Community Center

Re: Proposed 2025 Budget

I just familiarized myself with the first draft budget pertaining to the rental user fees for the Large Hall in the BVCC. For user fee rental per hour there is a 33% increase. Scrolling down to the subsidy rate, general users are not mentioned (only pickleball rentals), the subsidy rate is being reduced from 30% to 10% (if we are being lumped in with the Pickleball Club?). This would be a 60% to 70% increase in our rental fees. This seems very excessive and as we are all seniors on fixed limited pensions this may put the use of OUR Community Center Hall beyond our budgets.

As seniors it is critical that we maintain a regime of physical exercise and social interaction. Our group has been renters and users of the Large Hall in the Community Center for over 6 years. ALL of the members of our group are part of the army of senior volunteers in this community (BVO, Events for Life, Special Olympics Thornbury/Meaford, various church groups giving assistance to those in need in our Community) to name a few.

I don't think the costs of maintaining the Large Hall in the Community Center have increased by 70% so I suspect the excessive increase is to cover the costs of maintaining the arena (ice surface) section of the Community Center.

This feels like a 'slap in the face' to a group that puts countless volunteer hours into our Community. We need this space to stay affordable to exercise, to help maintain our Physical Health as well as Social Interaction to maintain Mental Health and Balance.

As a proposal, if the operating cost of the Large Hall have increased by 33% then so be it but please maintain the 30% subsidy rate.

Thank You for listening and considering this proposal.

Rob Munden

representing The Tuesday Morning Senior's Exercise Group

Tracy Nowak

From: Kyra Dunlop
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2025 8:54 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Council; SMT; Town Clerk; Tracy Nowak; Michael Switzer
Subject: FW: Webform submission from: General Inquiries - Finance Department & Property Taxes

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hello,

I acknowledge receipt of the comments provided and by way of copy I am circulating same to Council and staff for information. Your comments will be summarized and read aloud at the February 18, 2025 Council Public Meeting as they relate to the budget, and included in the follow-up staff report.



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From: The Blue Mountains Taxes
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2025 8:47 AM
To: Town Clerk
Subject: FW: Webform submission from: General Inquiries - Finance Department & Property Taxes

From: Web Committee <webcommittee@thebluemountains.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 4:46 PM
To: The Blue Mountains Taxes <tax@thebluemountains.ca>
Subject: Webform submission from: General Inquiries - Finance Department & Property Taxes

Submitted on Wed, 02/12/2025 - 16:46

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Name:

Josephine MacLaren

Email:

[REDACTED]

Phone:

[REDACTED]

How can we help you?

I am very disappointed that the cost for playing Pickleball is going to increase to this high amount. I've been a member for seven years and it's about the only club available to this group of people looking to keep themselves fit. Hopefully there can be a compromise with the town to some degree.

Jo Ann MacLaren

I would like a copy of my submission sent to my email address.

No

Any accompanying files are attached.

Tracy Nowak

From: Kyra Dunlop
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2025 8:33 AM
To: [REDACTED] Town Clerk
Cc: Council; SMT; Tracy Nowak; Michael Switzer
Subject: RE: Proposed increase to pickleball fees

Hello,

Thank you for your below comments relating to the February 18, 2025 Public Meeting: 2025 Draft Budget. By way of copy I am forwarding same to Council and staff for information, and confirm your comments will be summarized and read aloud by the Clerk. They will also be included in the followup staff report.



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From: JoyceandRick Bell [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2025 4:51 PM
To: Town Clerk <townclerk@thebluemountains.ca>
Subject: Proposed increase to pickleball fees

To whom it may concern:

We have been informed that you are considering increasing pickleball fees by 71% - while maintaining existing rates for all other facilities. I would like to state how short-sighted this feels. A new facility has just launched in Meaford with beautifully high ceilings and good floors. Another new facility created specifically for pickleball should be completed in Collingwood by end of 2025. There is supposed to be one coming to Clarksburg. More and more options are becoming available - offering better playing facilities than the community centre. At the moment, you have a captive audience. This will not be the situation much longer. If your facilities are poorer, but cheaper - you will continue to have players. But if you try and charge what private, custom built facilities are charging, your usage will drop dramatically. I believe this is in direct conflict with your mission to support residents.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this

Thank you
Joyce Bell

Tracy Nowak

From: Kyra Dunlop
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2025 8:33 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Council; SMT; Town Clerk; Tracy Nowak; Michael Switzer
Subject: RE: Webform submission from: Contact Council & Town Clerk

Hello,

Thank you for your below comments relating to the February 18, 2025 Public Meeting: 2025 Draft Budget. By way of copy I am forwarding same to Council and staff for information, and confirm your comments will be summarized and read aloud by the Clerk. They will also be included in the followup staff report.



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As part of providing accessible customer service, please let me know if you have any accommodation needs, require communication supports or alternate formats.

From: Web Committee <webcommittee@thebluemountains.ca>
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2025 7:49 PM
To: Council & Clerk <councilandclerk@thebluemountains.ca>
Subject: Webform submission from: Contact Council & Town Clerk

Submitted on Thu, 02/13/2025 - 19:49

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Name:
Susie Keast

Email:
[REDACTED]

Phone:
[REDACTED]

How can we help you?

Very disappointed in the 71 % increase for inside pickleball and 50 % increase for outdoor pickleball. You have not increased the other activities nearly as much. Why is pickleball being targeted. Confused!!

Susie Keast

I would like a copy of my submission sent to my email address.

No

Any accompanying files are attached.

TBM PUBLIC MEETING FEES AND CHARGES – Feb 18, 2025.

Madame mayor, Members of Council, Municipal Staff.

In reference to user fees page 11 Noise By Law Relief Request

Application (per application up to 10 Events) Fee of \$200

Firstly, it would be much appreciated if we can have some clarification on terms...

Is this \$200 fee whether it is one event, or five or ten events?

And if it is for a max ten events and is prorated then \$20 an application for ten is very reasonable.

Please note we do appreciate there is a cost and much time needed by our municipal staff to process an application to circulate the information to the community involved and to bring it to council for approval.

However, if it is \$200 per application each time we submit for an event, once the client has confirmed, this would become very expensive \$200 each equates to \$2,000 for ten events which is a mighty sum.

The next question is WHY TEN? Why not 5 or fifteen? And is this a CAP for the year?

Also, if I may add that we have recently learned from town staff that we may only apply for Noise By Law Relief in the calendar year that we are operating in, which is itself is very restrictive. So only in 2025 for 2025 events. Not all events are weddings, some are celebrations of life, corporate, touring groups, some give us just weeks' notice, some corporate groups staying at Blue Mnt resorts need to plan out as far as two years. Finally if I may again reemphasize that most couples getting married like to book out 18 months.

So to summarize my reason for being up here the \$200 fee for each an application, with a cap of ten per application or per year, as a small business in agritourism we must object and declare this process and fee to be very restrictive and costly.

UNFORTUNALTEY I AM NOT QUITE FINISHED.

TO MAKE MY POINT I NEED TO BE EVEN MORE POIGNANT:

If I may bring to everyone's attention **The town of Blue Mountains current Economic Strategy** approved in 2020 on Page 16 under the SWOT Analysis.

UNDER STRENGTHS:

- Internationally recognized Apple growing and Vineyard region with unique microclimate.
- Strong economic and industry growth within tourism, service sector, agriculture and residential development

UNDER OPPORTUNITIES:

- Increase partnership with agriculture community and growth of agri-tourism.

UNDER THREATS

- Market reliance in agriculture sector

I have asked for one slide to be made available to share with you on how we at Georgian Hills see the situation as a small business. Which hopefully says it all.

Our business like many other agri tourism business (centered in the middle) is dependent on a solid robust Town of Blue Mountain Economic Strategy tied in with a creative and also robust Agri tourism strategy supported by flexible by laws and procedures to go about our business.

Unfortunately, WE see this Noise By Law Relief Request Application Fee of \$200 being proposed as being restrictive, costly and further seen as RED TAPE and not being supportive to future of Agri-tourism.

SO In closing it begs the question is the Noise By Law Relief Request application process for small businesses is out of date and needs to be reviewed as part of the Official Plan.

Should businesses that have multiple events every year that have a proven track record, that have been compliant and not incurred noise complaints in the past 12 months be not considered differently. Is it not time to include us as par of the community events best practices that are expected of ski clubs, restaurant and bars, conference centres anywhere there are group events.

No different than having a Liquor License, we must be compliant at all times and are subject to a warning and if repeated to possibly losing your license.

If I may propose that the Town and the Council reconsider the Noise By Law relief application process for businesses in events to be reviewed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

RK

Economic
Development
Strategy

Georgian Hills Winery

Noise By-
law Red
Tape

Agri-
Tourism
