

FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

(To be read at COW Meeting December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025)

Re: OPS.25.049 Request for Budget Increase

Dear Mayor & Councilors,

We request that you not accept the Staff Report referenced above. A \$19 million (54%) increase in this budget is not acceptable to the taxpayers and is a sign of a project out of control or not thought through properly in the first place.

This project has been a challenge since its inception and the Council has heard from many of their constituents that there could be better options which could be more cost effective. We are now being told that there were many things that were not thought about or missed when the original budget for \$34.8 was put together which was supported by a \$25.4 million HEWS funding program. In the HEWS application the town submitted the budget included \$7.5 million for the Mill St Pumping Station. The application also had a \$6.9 million contingency for unknowns. How can we be so far off budget?

We request that Council be fiscally responsible in this Capital project and put it on hold until a deeper dive into cost saving measures can be reviewed.

We appreciate you taking a serious look at this option.

Regards

Ted Squires

Bay St E Resident