

Development Charges

"The Municipality currently operates its services from two fire stations that are shared with Bluewater." Could we be a little more specific regarding sharing, as I thought it related to Dashwood station only?

"The capital program includes an expansion to the Exeter Fire Station, as well as a new expanded station to replace the Dashwood station, and a provision for outfitting additional firefighters."

The Fire Master plan identified the need for a new fire hall for Exeter, at the south end, off of #4, as the Huron Park fire hall closed. The expected growth and need for new pipes, according to the wastewater study, is also in that area. The D/C charges study allows for 4.3 million for Dashwood Station and 1 million for Exeter, for the next 10 years.

I suggest a review of the Master Fire plan and calls for service since 2021 for fire-related calls. Again, we will be expected to acquire debt for these services over the next 10 years, adding to the cost of building or buying in South Huron.

The plan identifies 1000 new residences in the next 10 years, with a population growth of 2171. Where are the residences being built in proximity to the fire halls, and where volunteer firefighters work and live?

Regarding the 4.1 million growth-related provision to add multipurpose recreational spaces, and /or additional park amenities, including 100,000 for a vehicle," more specifically a ¾ ton pick up, again, over 10 years, speaks to the small amount of "recreation" capital, should the municipality want to own a soccer field, a walkway (beyond the 530 metres) to the Morrison trail, or ball diamond, or indoor pickleball courts, and walking track, following the recreational master plan that is 10 years overdue.

Reviewing the comparison charts of South Huron with neighbouring municipalities/towns, this study provides cost comparisons for places we always hear are too expensive or that South Huron cannot afford these amenities. Take, for example, Goderich, who owns the Maitland Recreation Centre/YMCA and fields, Bannister Park, walkways, the Avon Maitland Medical Centre, and the MacKay Seniors Centre.

These studies have identified capital amenities and the choices that are being offered to those choosing to develop, build or live here. It does clarify the expectation of 1000 new residences with the biggest contribution to the cost related to fire infrastructure capital and debt.

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