VILLAGE OF GOLD RIVER

Bylaw No. 756, 2024

A bylaw of the Village of Gold River to provide an operating funds five year financial plan pursuant to the provisions of the *Community Charter*

WHEREAS, Section 165 of the Community Charter requires Council, before the fifteenth of May in each year to cause to be prepared and adopted annually by bylaw, a Five-Year Financial Plan.

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the Village of Gold River in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

TITLE

1. This Bylaw may be cited for all purposes as "Financial Plan Bylaw No. 756, 2024".

ENACTMENT

2. THAT, the Five-Year Financial Plan hereto annexed and marked as Schedule "A", Schedule "B" and Schedule "C" is hereby approved and authorized and shall stand as the estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the years 2025 to 2029 until altered or amended by Council.

M. Lott	Mayor	M. Roy		Corporate Administrator
ADOPTED this		6 th	day of	January, 2025.
AD 007770 # 1		a th		
READ the third time this		2 nd	day of	December, 2024.
READ the second time this		2 nd	day of	December, 2024.
READ the first time this		2 nd	day of	December, 2024.

Village of Gold River Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 756, 2024 – Schedule "A"

	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
REVENUE					
Taxation	1,431,148	1,556,577	1,693,169	1,841,918	2,003,905
Payment in lieu of taxes	67,160	70,518	74,044	77,746	81,633
Utility Fees	723,025	770,186	801,058	833,323	867,045
Sale of services	813,156	792,999	815,460	838,717	865,111
Investment Income	300,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Grants	1,193,855	796,670	1,238,170	891,670	556,670
Miscellaneous	53,500	53,500	53,500	53,500	53,500
	4,581,844	4,190,450	4,825,401	4,686,874	4,577,864
EXPENDITURES					
General government	782,953	872,271	904,963	912,288	933,285
Protective services	330,433	328,714	327,847	334,806	338,558
Transportation services	850,973	750,588	753,671	764,115	775,038
Solid waste and recycling	435,779	433,402	448,594	461,808	471,232
Community development services	487,164	249,939	149,179	127,970	129,676
Parks, recreation and cultural services	1,264,624	1,255,541	1,307,799	1,320,519	1,330,910
Water utility	348,638	343,178	360,157	358,520	365,057
Sewer utility	550,147	539,811	588,858	554,974	563,267
	5,050,711	4,773,444	4,841,068	4,835,000	4,907,023
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(468,867)	(582,994)	(15,667)	(148,126)	(329,159)
RESERVE AND CAPITAL					
Amortization and disposals	555,250	555,250	555,250	555,250	555,250
Tangible Capital Asset acquisition	(1,083,500)	(705,000)	(1,395,500)	(660,000)	(293,000)
Reserves used for operations	100,000	-	-	-	-
Reserves used for capital funding	718,465	515,000	730,500	325,000	293,000
Transfer to reserves	(76,786)	(67,135)	(67,497)	(67,874)	(68,241)
Appropriation (from)/to Surplus	(255,438)	(284,879)	(192,914)	4,250	157,850

Village of Gold River Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 756, 2024 – Schedule "B"

Tangible Capital Asset acquisition	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
FUNDING SOURCE					
Grants	365,035	190,000	665,000	335,000	-
Reserves	718,465	515,000	730,500	325,000	293,000
	1,083,500	705,000	1,395,500	660,000	293,000
EXPENDITURE					
General government	130,000	-	-	-	-
Protective services	-	-	-	120,000	-
Transportation services	371,500	255,000	-	205,000	258,000
Solid waste and recycling	304,000	-	-	-	-
Community development services	-	-	-	-	-
Parks, recreation and cultural services	103,000	180,000	43,000	-	35,000
Water utility	35,000	120,000	342,500	-	-
Sewer utility	140,000	150,000	1,010,000	335,000	-
	1,083,500	705,000	1,395,500	660,000	293,000

Village of Gold River Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 752, 2024 – Schedule "C"

	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Reserve funding source					
General capital reserve	493,950	300,000	43,000	205,000	293,000
Restart Reserve	30,000	20,000	-	-	-
Municipal dock maintenance reserve	159,515	75,000	-	-	-
Growing Communities fund	100,000	-	-	-	-
Water capital reserve	35,000	120,000	342,500	-	-
Sewer capital reserve	-	20,000	345,000	-	-
	818,465	535,000	730,500	205,000	293,000

Village of Gold River Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 752, 2024 – Schedule "D"

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES & POLICIES

In accordance with Section 165(3.1) of the Community Charter, the Municipal Council of the Village of Gold River is required to include in the Five Year Financial Plan, objectives and policies regarding each of the following:

- a) The proportion of total revenue that is proposed to come from each of the funding sources described in Section 165(7) of the Community Charter;
- b) The distribution of property taxes among the property classes; and
- c) The use of permissive tax exemptions.

FUNDING SOURCES

Table (1) shows the proportion of total revenue proposed to be raised from each funding source in 2025. Property value taxes and utility fees normally form the greatest portion of the revenues for most municipalities but in Gold River we receive significant revenue from other sources such as Interest, Sales of Service and Grants, which can fluctuate and negatively or positively affect the Village financial situation. The system of property taxation and utility fees is relatively easy to administer and understand. Property taxes provide a stable and consistent source of revenue for many services that are difficult or undesirable to fund on a user pay basis. These include services such as Roads, Fire Protection, Bylaw Enforcement, the Library, Administration, etc. For these reasons, property value taxation will continue to be a significant source of municipal revenue.

User fees and charges form a significant portion of planned revenue. Many municipal services such as water, sewer and solid waste services can be measured and charged for on a user pay basis. This basis attempts to fairly apportion the value of a municipal service to those who make use of it. Currently in Gold River for residential properties the fees are a flat rate rather than a measured or metered fee.

Other sources include a variety of revenues such as grants, investment income, sales of service etc. In Gold River these provide a higher than normal proportion of our revenues compared to many other small communities. Over 50% of Village revenues come from these non-property tax and utility fees which introduces a risk to our annual revenue forecast. These sources are very beneficial but often these revenues fluctuate with economic conditions, are less predictable, less stable and uncertain. The fluctuation of these revenues is often beyond the control of Village Council (i.e. interest rates) yet can have significant impact on the Village Budget and Services and expose our budget to a revenue risk should these revenues not materialize. Infrastructure Grants are tied to expenditures and communities require sufficient available funding to ensure they can meet their proportionate share of the infrastructure project. Approval of Grant Funding can significantly affect the proportionate distribution of Revenue Sources in any given year resulting in large fluctuations from year to year in Revenue Sources.

Policy:

Council reviews the source of revenues for the Village annually during the Five-Year Plan planning process. Through this process Council considers the tax burden, user fees, and other sources of funding in proportion to the planned services and expenditure program for the Village. Council determines the appropriateness of the level of services and expenditures in relation to the available funding sources and the impact or the burden of costs for these services and expenditures between property taxes, user fees and other sources of funding and considers if changes to the allocation of funding sources should be implemented.

Objective:

To review the appropriateness of total revenue proposed to come from each funding source for the planned services and expenditures and to ensure the sustainability of the funding sources to continue to provide the services in the future.

Table 1: Proportions of total revenue

Revenue Source	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Property Value Taxes	31.2%	37.1%	35.1%	39.3%	43.8%
Utility Fees	15.8%	18.4%	16.6%	17.8%	18.9%
Grants	27.5%	20.7%	27.2%	20.7%	13.9%
Investment Income	6.5%	3.6%	3.1%	3.2%	3.3%
Sales of Service	17.7%	18.9%	16.9%	17.9%	18.9%
Other Sources	1.2%	1.3%	1.1%	1.1%	1.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

The Distribution of Property Taxes among the property classes:

Table (2) provided below, outlines the distribution of property tax revenue among the property classes. The practice of Council has been to set tax rates in order to maintain tax stability. This is accomplished by maintaining the proportionate relationship between the property classes, while taking into account for new construction values, deletions from the tax roll and changes in property classes that are considered to be significant and affect the proportionate relationship. Council reviews the proportionate relationships between classes caused by various factors and attempts to ensure a reasonable and fair allocation of taxes between classes to provide for the services identified within the Five-Year Financial Plan. This practice allows the various taxpayers in the municipality to be confident that in any year, depending on proportionate assessment changes within property tax assessment class, their property tax bill will increase proportionately to the increase in tax revenue required year over year, taking into effect greater or lesser assessment increases of their property to the assessment class average.

Policy:

The tax policy of Council in setting the distribution of property taxes over time may take into consideration factors such as significant new or lost tax base, philosophy of taxing apportionment, economic factors or initiatives to maintain, promote or encourage specific sectors with respect to investment in the community. As part of the establishment of the annual tax rates Council reviews the distribution of taxes between tax classes and the appropriateness of the allocation.

Objective:

To provide a fair and reasonable tax allocation policy between tax classes in order to provide a suitable level of community services on an affordable basis to residential and non-residential property classes.

Table 2: Distribution of 2024 Municipal Property Taxes

Property Class	Property Tax Dollars Raised	% of Property Value Tax
(1) Residential	\$755,272	58.40%
(2) Utilities	\$9,900	0.77%
(5) Light Industry	\$244,396	18.90%
(6) Business	\$283,618	21.93%
Total	\$1,293,186	100%

The use of permissive tax exemptions:

The Annual Municipal Report for 2024 contains a list of permissive exemptions granted for the taxation year and the amount of tax foregone. This list demonstrates the policy of Council those permissive exemptions are granted to not-for-profit institutions that form a valuable part of our community. These include religious institutions, historical societies, some recreational facilities, service and cultural organizations.

Policy:

Council will continue to support local not for profit organizations through permissive tax exemptions that provide beneficial services to the community. Where appropriate Council may consider utilizing its expanded power under the Community Charter to provide permissive exemptions as allowed for in the Community Charter to property owners who contribute to our community in beneficial ways. These may include investments made in greenhouse gas reduction technology or alternative energy, the provision of affordable housing, or revitalization of buildings or areas of the municipality.

Objective:

Council will examine its permissive tax exemption policy to determine if it should be expanded in the future to include new opportunities as allowed for under the *Community Charter*.