

Press Release

May 25, 2023

Nova Scotia Utility & Review Board Approves Rate Increase

In a decision issued April 28th the Nova Scotia Utility & Review Board approved the Town of Mahone Bay's request for increased electrical rates, ensuring the long-term financial stability of the Town's Municipal Electric Utility.

The Board approved a 30.6% rate increase following a day-long hearing where Town staff argued the need for a rate increase in recognition of current market prices for fuel and the need for cost recovery of operational expenses that have risen since the last rate application, nearly 15 years ago.

The Board directed an immediate 20% increase in rates for all customer classes, an increase which will soon be seen by utility customers, reflected in their electrical bills. Rates will increase by a further 10.6% relative to base year in January 2024. The delay in immediately implementing the full rate increase will result in an operating deficit for the Utility in the 2023/24 fiscal year, which will be funded by a loan from the Town to the Utility and recovered from the Utility in the coming years in accordance with the Board's decision.

To prepare for the future and avoid similar exposure to market-driven fluctuations in fuel costs, the Town continues to invest in community-owned power generation. Over 40% of the community's energy needs are currently supplied by the Ellershouse Wind Farm, owned in partnership with the Towns of Berwick and Antigonish, with another 16-18% anticipated from the new community solar garden currently under construction at the Town's wastewater treatment facility. These investments ensure Mahone Bay meets the Province's renewable energy targets while helping to protect Mahone Bay Electrical Utility customers from increasing market rates for energy.

Visit the Town of Mahone Bay website at www.townofmahonebay.ca for additional information on the Board's decision.