



Report to Council

Department: Infrastructure Services
Division: Environmental Services
Date: October 6, 2025
Prepared by: Rob Mackie, C.E.T, Manager, Environmental Services
Report Number: Environmental Services-2025-03
Subject: 2025 Water Financial Plan
Number of Pages: 4 (plus 42 attached)

Recommendation(s)

That Environmental Services-2025-03 entitled 2025 Water Financial Plan prepared by Rob Mackie dated October 6, 2025, be received, and

That Council adopt the 2025 Water Financial Plan as prepared by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. dated August 28, 2025, as required by Ontario Regulation 453/07.

Purpose

Council adoption of the Water Financial Plan is required under O.Reg 453/07.

Background and Discussion

In 2007, the Ministry of Environment Climate Change and Parks (MECP) released regulation 453/07 requiring all municipalities to complete a Financial Plan for

their drinking water systems as “a key step in the long-term stability for municipal residential drinking water systems.” The Town engaged Watson and Associates Economists Ltd. to assist in completion of the Water Financial Plan. A summary of the key elements required of the financial plan is as follows:

1. All municipal drinking water systems are required to prepare and submit financial plans in order to prove financial viability. The regulations set out the minimum required content but allow municipalities to vary their approach to preparing their plans to suit local needs while also achieve full cost recovery.
2. Financial plans must be developed for a minimum six-year period and must contain details of the financial position, financial operations and cash flow. The plans are required to be approved by a resolution of municipal council.
3. The financial plans are required as a condition of the system’s drinking water license and must exhibit the ability to provide safe drinking water in the short term and long term.
4. The financial plans must be made available to users of the water system and updated in conjunction with every application to renew a system’s drinking water license.

Appended to this report, is the 2025 Water Financial Plan completed in accordance with Ontario Regulation 453/07. It is recommended that Council adopt this plan in order to renew the Town’s Municipal Drinking Water License. The resolution of Council approving the Financial Plan will be submitted to the

MECP, satisfying the requirements under the Safe Drinking Water Act (S.D.W.A. Section 32(5)2.ii.)

Financial Impact

Council received the 2024 water/wastewater rate study on June 17th 2024, which sets out the rates to be implemented year over year. Council will consider the rates annually at budget deliberations. Therefore, there is no direct financial impact as a result of this report.

Consultations

Keving Girard, Director, Infrastructure Services

Kate Rowe, Director, Corporate Services/Treasurer

Kate Giurissevich, Chief Administrative Officer

Link to Strategic Priorities

- Embrace asset management best practices to build, maintain, and continuously improve our municipally owned infrastructure.
- Leverage our Town's competitive advantages to promote jobs and economic investment.
- Take care of our natural environment and strengthen the sense of belonging to everyone who makes Essex "home".
- Deliver friendly customer service in an efficient, effective, and transparent manner while providing an exceptional working environment for our employees.
- Build corporate-level and community-level climate resilience through community engagement and partnership and corporate objectives.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	2025 Water Financial Plan - Environmental Services-2025-03.docx
Attachments:	- Essex 2025 Water Financial Plan 453-07.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Sep 25, 2025

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:



Kevin Girard, Director, Infrastructure Services - Sep 24, 2025 - 9:25 AM



Kate Rowe, Director, Corporate Services - Sep 25, 2025 - 9:58 AM



Kate Giurissevich, Chief Administrative Officer - Sep 25, 2025 - 11:26 AM