

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 19, 2019



Budget Update #5

Wasaga Beach – Council held a public meeting Tuesday night to present the 2019 draft operating and capital budget to the community.

Council will formally consider the budget at its regular meeting at 7 p.m. on March 26.

For 2019, the proposed tax rate increase is 2.91 percent on the municipal portion of the tax bill. The impact of the increase on the average assessed home in Wasaga Beach is \$51.92. The overall tax increase maybe less once the county and education tax rates are included.

The total operating and capital budgets is \$64 million, an increase of \$9 million when compared to the 2018 budget.

The proposed budget for operating expenditures is \$40.1 million.

Factors affecting the Operating Budget include:

- The decline in the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) grant of \$375k, of which \$94k impacts taxation;
- Ontario Community Infrastructure Grant (OCIF) of \$331k to help fund the Main Street Bridge rehabilitation project;
- New staffing positions added for a total cost of \$388k
 - Senior Accounting Clerk,
 - Seasonal Winter Driver,
 - Part-time Parks Personnel,
 - Planner/Urban Designer,
 - Economic Development Officer – Small Business Development,
 - Planner (contract for Official Plan and Zoning Bylaw Update);
- Debenture carrying costs for fire truck and main street bridge work of \$343k
- Taxation financing of the Beachfront property purchase debenture of \$221k
- Increase in Policing costs of \$125k
- Increase in Transit Operating costs \$123k.

The proposed budget for capital expenditures is \$23.8 million, with the largest portion of this going towards roads and bridges (\$10.6 million).

Highlights of the 2019 Capital Program are:

Public Works - Main Street Bridge Rehabilitation	\$3,203,500
Public Works - Veterans Way Geometrics	\$2,837,270
Public Works - Ramblewood Dr. Urbanization	\$1,494,010
Recreation, Events, Facilities - New Arena (Design)	\$1,800,000
Library - New Library (Design)	\$1,000,000
Public Works - 58th Street Sidewalk Construction	\$551,000
Fire - New rescue truck	\$550,000
Fleet - Fuel Management System	\$528,290
Parks - Pedestrian Bridges	\$235,000
Parks - Tennis Courts, reconstruction	\$150,000
Beachfront Properties - Repairs and Maintenance	\$108,000
Cemetery - Road extension & Columbarium	\$57,000

The draft budget proposes that funding for the year come from a variety of sources, starting with \$23.6 million from taxation and \$16.6 million from general reserve and reserve funds, as well as \$8.3 million from rates and fees for services. Other sources include grants, rental revenues, and debentures.

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