



## Information Release

**From:** Jodi MacArthur, Treasurer

**Date:** March 20, 2017

**Subject:** 2017 Budget

## Introduction

Township of Huron-Kinloss Council approved the 2017 Budget on March 20, 2017.

The 2017 budget contains \$7.52 million in operating expenditures and \$3.85 million in capital expenditures. After revenues and transfers from reserves are applied, the Township must levy \$7,235,395; an increase of \$230,953 or 3.3% over the 2016 levy. In order to raise these funds, the residential tax rate will be set at 0.00588157; a 2.9% increase over the 2016 tax rate.

The budget was developed with every attempt to meet the needs of the community while maintaining affordability. There is a significant increase in the 2017 capital budget to allow some large projects to proceed. With a combination of grant funding, transfer from reserves and a surplus from 2016 projects that came in under budget, the Township is able to complete these projects with only minimal tax impact.

2017 is the first year of the new four year assessment cycle. The current market value property assessment as of January 1, 2016 will be used to calculate property taxes for 2017 to 2020, inclusive. Any increases from the previous assessment cycle (market value at January 1, 2012) are phased in over the four year period. Any decreases to property assessments are fully implemented in 2017.

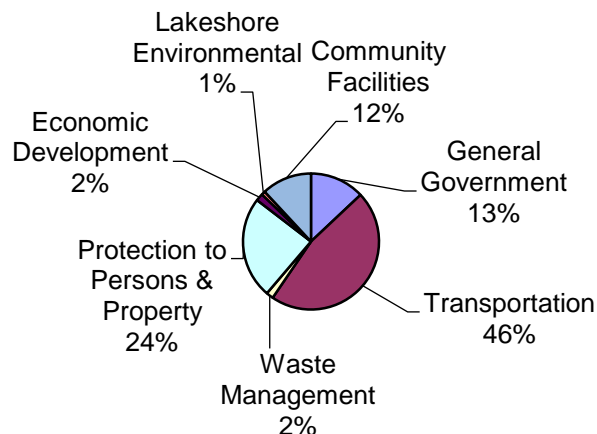
Reassessment has resulted in a shifting between classes. For this assessment cycle, the major increases are in the farmland class. The total taxable residential assessment for 2017 has increased by only 1%, compared to 20% in the farmland class. According to the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) the average value of a residential single family home is 238,306.

The average\* residential single family home paid \$2,771.28 in property tax for 2016. Based on the municipal, County and education (estimated) tax rates for 2017, that amount would increase by \$2.36 to \$2,773.64; an overall increase of 0.9%.

\* Based on reassessment data from MPAC, your assessment may be more or less than the average.

## Summary

### Allocation of Municipal Tax Dollars by Department



## Report:

### **General Government – Total Budget \$1,114,742.00**

This budget includes the costs of Council and the municipal administration building and services. During 2017, staff will be introducing a new electronic agenda management system and working on an asset management plan implementation strategy. Other items include continued support for the Saugeen Mobility and Regional Transit service and grants to local community organizations.

### **Transportation – Total Budget \$3,995,696.00**

This budget includes the costs for maintenance of all buildings, equipment and activities related to roads, bridges, roadside grass cutting, shoulder maintenance, ditching, gravel resurfacing, dust control, catch basins & culverts, streetlights, sidewalks, regulatory and street signage, civic addressing, littering, street sweeping, snow removal, sanding, hard top surface patching and tree planting and trimming. Proposed asphalt paving will take place on Statter's Lake Ave, east and just west of Bruce Road 1 and Whitechurch Street from the hamlet limit to either South Kinloss Ave or Grey Ox Ave. Based on contract pricing, paving may also include sections of Concession 12, west of Hwy 21 and Concession 6. Reconstruction projects include Whitechurch Street, Lurgan Area and a share of the County of Bruce's Campbell Street in Lucknow. As part of the County's reconstruction the storm drainage in the west end of Lucknow will be improved. 2017 marks the final payment on the Township's loan to build the extension of Lake Range Drive. Two culvert replacements are planned in conjunction with the construction of the Royal Oak municipal drain. Equipment purchases include a zero turn mower, new tractor and trackless machine. Alternatives for a replacement sweeper will also be explored.

### **Waste Management – Total Budget \$146,945.00**

This budget includes the costs for operation of the landfill sites, garbage collection and recycling. User fees play a significant role in lowering the total budget. Financial consideration for the closure and post closure liability of the landfills are included.

### **Protection to Persons and Property – Total Budget \$2,076,496.00**

This category contains the costs for many services including, by-law enforcement, emergency management, physician recruitment and crossing guard. It also accounts for fire protection services provided by the Ripley-Huron Fire Department and Lucknow & District Fire Department; the latter is jointly managed with the Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh. More than half of the total budget is allocated to providing police services by the OPP. The Township also provides space in both Ripley and Lucknow for community policing offices. Property protection services include building and planning and municipal drains. New for 2017 is the establishment of a Police Service Board and the introduction of permits for open air burning and beach fires.

### **Economic Development & Tourism – Total Budget \$151,692.00**

The economic development budget funds a variety of initiatives to support local businesses and increase tourism opportunities in the Township of Huron-Kinloss. 2017 will see the continuation of the holiday shopping pass, the award winning Ice Cream Trail™, publication of the Huron-Kinloss Discovery Guide and development of a trails brochure. After being closed for repairs for several seasons, the Point Clark Lighthouse was re-opened in 2015 and has welcomed a record number of tourists to the redeveloped site and expanded Lighthouse Festival. The Township will be partnering on initiatives to recognize Canada, Ontario and Bruce County's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Work will begin on a concept for an outdoor plaza and to replace the gateway signage for Ripley. The Township is establishing a downtown revitalization program to

implement recommendations contained in the Community Improvement Program. The Township continues to be involved in other long term economic development initiatives such as the South Bruce Natural Gas and the site selection process for Canada's used nuclear fuel which could have significant impacts on the community's future.

**Lakeshore Environmental - Total Budget \$77,800.00**

The lakeshore environmental budget highlights activities that Council has undertaken specifically to improve our natural environment. In 2017 the Township will continue with beach cleaning, management of invasive species and membership in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Cities Initiative; a binational coalition working to advance the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River. A review of the water quality monitoring programs will occur and the Township will continue to support the efforts of the Pine River Watershed Initiative Network in achieving their vision of clean water and a healthy ecosystem within the Pine River watershed.

**Community Facilities – Total Budget \$1,022,588.00**

This budget contains a variety of recreation and community services, including 18 different parks and sports fields that the Township maintains as well as beach accesses, trails and facilities that are owned and/or maintained by the Township. These facilities include; the Ripley and Lucknow libraries (occupied by County of Bruce), Lucknow Town Hall, Whitechurch Hall, Lucknow Medical Centre (managed jointly with A-C-W), Ripley Medical Centre/Family Y Childcare Centre, Point Clark Community Centre, Lucknow & District Sports Complex (managed jointly with A-C-W) and the Ripley-Huron Community Centre. The Township also contributes to the Municipality of Kincardine for recreation services and supports the Lucknow Community Centre. A new roof is proposed for the Lucknow Town Hall. Staff will work with the community on dog park development. New swings will be installed at Victoria Park in Lucknow and the paths in Ripley's Lewis Park will be paved. Improvements will be made to both the Lucknow and Ripley walking trails. Many of these projects are made possible by generous donations from community groups and individuals. The Ripley-Huron Community Centre will undergo a variety of upgrades including; conversion of baseboards heaters, a refurbishment of the elevator, ice surface truss maintenance and installation of LED ice surface lighting. Proposed projects at the Lucknow & District Sports Complex include; new ice plant compressors, drainage relocation and paving of the parking lot.

**Drinking Water and Waste Water Management – User Pay**

The Township is responsible for the operation of four drinking water systems and two sanitary sewer systems within the municipality. At the north end of the Township, a number of households also receive water and sewer services from the Municipality of Kincardine. The supply and operation of these systems is funded by the water service rate that is charged to each user of the service. Upgrades and replacement of the distribution system are funded either by payment of an annual waterworks distribution rate or by recovery from each benefitting property in the project area at the time of construction. In 2017, the Township will be replacing the distribution systems in the Whitechurch and Lurgan areas. The Township will continue planning for the replacement of the Lucknow Standpipe and construction of an elevated tank in Ripley. Decisions regarding the construction schedule for these projects will be made based on available funds, state of current infrastructure and community need.