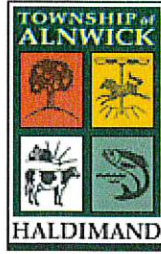


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Nicole Leach-Bihun
Treasurer

Council Report

Council Date: February 23, 2023

To: Mayor Logel and Members of Council

Prepared By: Nicole Leach-Bihun, CPA, CGA
Treasurer

Reviewed By: Pat Kemp, Clerk

Approved By: Troy Gilmour, C. Tech., rcji
CAO

Subject: **2023 Final Budget**

Recommendation:

"Be it resolved that Council of the Township of Alnwick/Haldimand receive the 2023 Final Budget; and

Further, that Council of the Township of Alnwick/Haldimand approve the levy for 2023; and

Further, that By-Law 20-2023 be passed to adopt the 2023 levy."

Background:

The Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, under Section 290(1) requires that local municipalities “prepare and adopt a budget including estimates of all sums required during the year for the purposes of the municipality”.

Council and staff met to review the first draft of the 2023 budget on January 31, February 1, February 2, & February 6, 2023. Council gave input on each department budget and gave direction to staff on each issue paper. At the conclusion of the meetings Council advised that in order to meet asset management requirements and to take into consideration the past year’s inflation rates along with other impacts highlighted in the Treasurer’s January 31st report, that they felt a 6.0% after growth increase in the levy would be an acceptable. Council requested that staff cut 1% in addition to the other changes requested by Council from the operational budget and use that 1% to contribute back to the Working Capital Reserve to allow for future use in funding capital projects.

To meet the 1% decrease in operational budget staff have reduced each of the administration and fire budgets by \$10,000. Another reduction of \$41,000 was made from the Public Works budget for a total of 0.9%. Staff have also added revenues for the Short-Term Rental By-Law licensing and fines of an estimated \$20,000 to the Building/By-Law budget. This decreased the operational budget by 1.3% overall and allowed for another \$95,500 to be put back into working capital reserves.

Council met with staff to review the second draft of the budget at 7pm on February 16th. There were no further changes to the levy at that time, however changes that did not impact the levy were made in the fire, by-law, parks & rec, and rec and culture budgets to reflect comments made by Council. This meeting was also to give the opportunity to address questions from the public. No questions were received. The Treasurer made a presentation at this meeting and provided Council a breakdown of expenditures for Capital, Operations, & Personnel costs.

Consultations:

The Treasurer has consulted with Council and each department head to finalize the budget presented. MPAC’s municipal connect site and the collector’s role have been used to calculate growth.

Actions:

Council will need to adopt the 20-2023 by-law to adopt the levy. Once the County has passed their by-law to adopt their tax rates, staff will bring back the tax rate by-law. This is projected to take place in late April.

Legislative Authority/Risk Considerations:

The Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, Section 290(1)

Financial Impact:

The proposed levy to be raised by taxation is \$7,426,580. The net effect of the draft budget is as follows:

Total Levy Increase 7.5%

Growth 1.5%

Levy Increase after Growth 6.0%

The estimated impact to the taxpayer is a municipal tax rate increase of 5.48% which equates to an estimated overall 4.72% tax rate increase. This is based on the school board rate staying the same and an estimated county tax rate increase of 5.9%. The average A/H Township home is assessed at \$306,000 and therefore will have an estimated \$182.41 increase in their 2023 taxes.

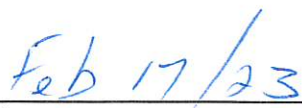
Attachments: Final 2023 Budget Papers, Final 2023 Issue Papers list, Library Notes, 2023 Budget Presentation – Feb 16, BL 20-203 Adopt 2023 Budget

Respectfully submitted,



Nicole Leach-Bihun, CPA, CGA
Treasurer


Approved by: Troy Gilmour, C. Tech., rcji, CAO


Date