
Township of West Lincoln

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release: February 25, 2020

Council Approves 2020 Budget

West Lincoln, Ont. – February 25th - At its February 25th Council meeting, the Township of West Lincoln approved a 2020 overall tax increase of 4.82%.

With an operating budget of \$16,059,500, this budget requires a tax levy of \$7,530,400 which equates to an estimated increase of \$76 or 6.04% to the West Lincoln portion of taxes for an average home assessed at \$382,397. Council also approved a Capital budget totaling \$6,890,800. The 2020 operating budget recognizes the need for an additional staff resource to take care of expanding parks, facilities and cemeteries responsibilities; a new GIS and Asset Management Coordinator who will play a key role in a cross-functional approach to the Township's Asset Management Plan and enable evidence based decision-making; and part-time administrative support for Fire Services.

Some 2020 budget highlights include:

- A 5% increase to water and wastewater rates as outlined and approved by Council in the 2016 Water and Waste Water Rate Study;
- Ongoing maintenance and replacement of our vehicles and equipment including the replacement of a Tandem truck at \$310,000 and the addition of 2 new pick-up trucks to the overall fleet.
- Township parks will be enhanced with a new playground in Caistorville, a new Pavilion at Leisureplex and a bandshell at the West Lincoln Community Center
- Just over \$1.4 million in works toward the reconstruction and resurfacing of roads;
- \$195,000 of sidewalk reconstruction;
- \$1,110,000 of Capital works related to the Township's Water and Wastewater Assets
- \$295,100 of Provincial Modernization Funds to finance various projects that will contribute to the efficiency and effectiveness of the delivery of Township services;
- Commencement of the design and project planning for the replacement of Fire Station #2 at a budgeted cost of \$1.9 million;
- \$160,000 to complete the conversion of all street lights to energy efficient LED lights; and
- Funding to commence the Rural Employment Strategy work.

Mayor Dave Bylsma stated, “This budget reflects the realities of growth, emerging operational pressures and the strong community appetite for fiscal constraint. The work leading up to the new Corporate Strategic plan guided the budget debate and an understanding of the service delivery our residents expect. I thank the public for their input and the staff and members of Council for their tenacity and team work”.

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Mayor

Township of West Lincoln

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