



TOWN OF
WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

37 Sandiford Drive, 4th Floor, Stouffville, ON L4A 7X5

Automated Line: 905-640-1910
905-895-5299
Operator: 905-640-1900
905-895-2423
Fax: 905-640-7957
www.townofws.com

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

February 23, 2011

Town Council Approves 2011 Budgets

Council, at its February 22, 2011 Budget & Audit Committee meeting approved the 2011 Operating and the Capital budgets for the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville. The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville still maintains one of the lowest tax rates in Northern York Region.

Council approved a 3% property tax increase (net) for the fiscal year of 2011, after accounting for a 0.9% tax shift credit from the Region for the Provincial Offences Act (POA). The gross tax increase of 3.9% will be offset by an equal credit of 0.9% by the Regional tax to compensate the shift of revenue to York Region. For a home with an assessed value of \$360,000, this means an additional \$31.00 per year (Town portion).

The Town's approved 2011 operating budget of \$49.1 million provides funding for a variety of municipal services, such as road maintenance, waste collection/recycling; arena and parks maintenance; fire protection/by-law enforcement; community centres and playing fields; recreation programs; building inspections; land use planning and water/sewer. This budget is about \$3.8M higher than 2010 primarily due to additional operating costs associated with increased services provided by various departments to meet the needs of a growing population.

The 2011 Capital Budget is \$13.5 million (\$5.6M growth and \$7.9M non growth related projects). The Town's capital program is returning to near normal levels as many of the major capital projects (e.g. Twin Pad Arena, Operations Centre, Museum Expansion and Main Street Widening) have been finished or will be completed in the coming months. Council continues to follow its long term financial plan, which was updated in 2010.

While the new Capital program includes a number of planned projects, Council confirmed advancing the completion of an "accessible water feature" in Memorial Park, as part of a grant

application. Council has now added an outdoor pool component to this project, as the existing outdoor pool cannot reopen, due to the high costs to repair this 53 year old facility. Scheduling at the Town's indoor pool has been enhanced to accommodate more free swimming time in the interim.

"This was a very good budget process, where Town departments are getting the resources they need to provide essential services at a very low cost. Council worked hard to review and approve a reasonable budget for the residents and businesses," said Mayor Emmerson.

General Facts:

- Estimated 2011 Population: 38,650
- 2011 Operating Budget: approx. \$49.4 million
- 2011 Capital Budget: approx. \$13.5 million
- Expenditures by Town department/function:
 - Leisure Services: 17%
 - Arts and Culture: 2%
 - Public Works: 12%
 - Water/sewer: 11%
 - Planning and Building: 7%
 - Engineering and Capital Projects: 2%
 - Fire and Emergency Services: 9%
 - General Administration: 11%
 - Clerk's: 3%
 - Finance: 23%
 - Library Grant: 2%
 - Other (Council, Cemeteries): 1%

Key Town Projects/Initiatives for 2011:

- Completion of the new Town Hall and new Customer Service Centre
- Memorial Park (accessible water feature) – if Federal EAF Grant approved
- Neighbourhood parks construction
- Road, water and sewer projects (multi-year projects)

For detailed information on Town projects and initiatives, refer to (Draft) 2011 Business Plan, Capital and Operating Budgets, available online at www.townofws.ca or in person at the Clerk's Department, 37 Sandiford Drive, 4th floor, Stouffville.

- 30 -

For further information, please contact:

Mayor Wayne Emmerson
Tel: 905-640-1910 or 895-5299, ext. 230
E-mail: mayor.emmerson@townofws.ca

Marc J. Pourvahidi, Director of Finance/Treasurer
Tel: 905-640-1910 or 895-5299, ext. 245
E-mail: marc.pourvahidi@townofws.ca