



Media Release

February 27, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Whitchurch-Stouffville Council Approves the 2019 Operating and Capital Budget

WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE, ON – Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Council approved the 2019 Operating and Capital Budget, of a combined total of \$88.9 million, at the February 26 Council Meeting.

Residents will see an estimated average 3.12% blended tax increase on their residential taxes. Just over 33% of the taxes Whitchurch-Stouffville residents pay go towards the Town, with 44.6% going to the Regional Municipality of York and 21.7% going to the Ontario Ministry of Education.

“The 2019 Budget is focused on the Town’s commitment to living within our means while maintaining the utmost service excellence for our great community.” said Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Iain Lovatt. “It is our responsibility to be fiscally responsible. Our residents deserve the best management and spending practices they can get. I feel this budget achieves that.”

The tax increase translates to an estimated increase in total property taxes of approximately \$62 per year for an average detached, single-family residential house with an assessed value of \$625,000.

“I am very proud of Council and staff for coming together and working hard to ensure that taxes remain reasonable for residents. They made many tough decisions” Mayor Lovatt said. “The upcoming year will bring an improvement to services to help Whitchurch-Stouffville be the best municipality in York Region.”

Highlights of the 2019 Operating Budget include:

- Increased funding to enhance “19 on the Park” and the Library’s marketing initiatives;
- Increased funding to help the Town manage and service new developments being built throughout the municipality;
- Increased funding to help maintain our cemeteries;

- Improvements to the 24-hour fire protection services in Ballantrae with the hiring of 4 new firefighters and enhanced service levels;
- Enhanced special events programming including new staff;
- Increased internal efficiencies including the enhancement of Town computer systems; and
- Over \$1.3 million in operational savings used to defray costs all while continuing to bring residents exceptional service.

Highlights of the 2019 Capital Budget include:

- Over \$6.3 million in funding of Public Works projects and initiatives, including the reconstruction or repair of over 10.4 km of roads. These include:
 - Lloyd Street, Commercial Street, Mill Street, Library Lane, Raeview Drive, Thicketwood Drive, Blair Road, Aintree Drive, Cam Fella Blvd., and Service Road in the Community of Stouffville; and
 - Bethesda Road, Vandorf Road, St. John's Sideroad and Lakeshore Road in rural Whitchurch-Stouffville.
- Over \$4.4 million in funding for water/wastewater investments, including
 - sewer replacement on Vanzant Court; and
 - the continuation of the water meter replacement program;
- Over \$1.7 million in funding for Leisure Service initiatives, including
 - the relocation of the Lawn Bowling facilities;
 - building of the new Tresstown Parkette, and
 - funding for a St. Jean Batiste Laine (Mantle Site) exhibition at the Museum this summer.

Approximately \$71 million was approved for the Operating Budget and \$17.9 million for the Capital Budget. The Town's portion of the tax bill includes a 4.8% tax levy increase. This levy includes a 3 percent contribution to capital reserves and 1.8 percent for day-to-day operating expenses. This translates to an average \$31 per year increase of the Town's portion of a resident's tax bill.

The 2019 Operating and Capital Budget report and other supporting documents are available online at townofws.ca/budgets.

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