

**Committee of the Whole Working Session
November 17, 2020**

Report #FIN-2020-32

Draft 2021 Budgets - Further Deliberations

Recommendation

That Report #FIN-2020-32 be received,

And further that the Draft 2021 Town Budget as prepared and presented by the Management Team be received for consideration by the Committee of the Whole.

Objective

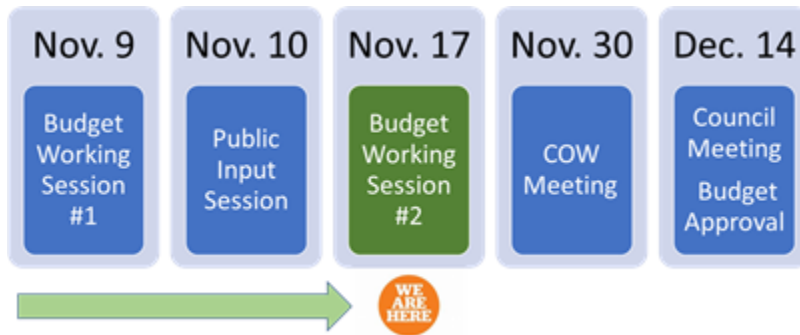
The purpose of this report is to continue the Committee's budget deliberations regarding the Draft 2021 Budget.

Background

A staff report and the Draft 2021 Budget were publicly released on November 5, 2020 for deliberation at the November 9, 2020 Committee of the Whole Working Session. During this session, presentations regarding the Corporate Overview and Department Highlights were provided by Finance. During this meeting, discussion occurred on a variety of topics, which resulted in specific amendments to the Draft 2021 Budget, which are outlined within the Financial Considerations section of the report.

As part of the budget process and integral to building the budget, opportunities for public input are available. All Committee and Council Meetings are open to the public and recognizing some community members are unable to attend scheduled day meetings, the Town scheduled a Committee of the Whole evening session on November 10, 2020. This meeting was dedicated to listening to the community's interests, so that Council could consider and explore topics of interest during future discussions on the Draft 2021 Budget. The public input session was advertised on the Town's website and local media. This session was attended by community members and interest groups providing input, such as the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority and Alliston Out of Cold.

The next stage in the budget process is to continue deliberations on the budget and finalize a proposed budget for the Committee of the Whole to recommend to Council for approval. The steps in the Budget Process are outlined below:



The Draft 2021 Budget Book is available at the following link:

<https://www.newtecumseth.ca/en/resources/1.-Draft-2021-Budget.pdf>

Additional information is available on the Town website:

www.newtecumseth.ca/en/town-hall/budget-and-finances.aspx

Comments and Considerations

The November 17, 2020 Committee of the Whole Working Session was scheduled to allow Council Members to continue to further deliberate the Draft 2021 Budget. A brief and focused corporate update will be presented to guide the discussion on topics requiring budget decisions such as a Transit Program: Tottenham LINX connection, Town Hall Direction, additional not-for-profit funding, etc.

Financial Considerations

As presented, the Town's Draft 2021 Budget has a net operating and capital levy of \$38.4M, which translates to a 1.95% general levy increase. In addition, the Town has implemented a Capital Levy to help support the renewal of aging infrastructure requiring an additional 0.5% Capital Levy. The combined Levy increase is 2.45%, which represents a property tax increase of \$56 for the average home valued at \$452,695.

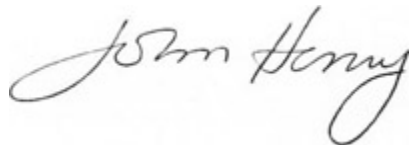
As a result of the November 9, 2020 deliberations the following amendments and recommendations were directed by the Committee:

# Topic	Adjustment (\$)	General Levy Impact (%)	Cumulative Impact (%)
Initial Draft 2020 Budget Levy Increase			1.95%
<u>Committee Direction</u>			
1 Food Bank Lease Adjustment	12,000	0.03%	1.98%
2 Dedicated Annual Gibson Centre Funding	40,000	0.11%	2.09%
3 Community Grant Prog. - Removal of Gibson Allocation	(25,000)	-0.07%	2.02%
Sub-total	27,000	0.07%	2.02%
Capital levy Increase			0.50%
Combined Levy Increase			2.52%

The above budget adjustments increased the original Draft 2021 General Levy adjustment from 1.95% to 2.02%. The combination of the General Levy and the Capital Levy results in a total adjustment of 2.52%. The revised impact on the average household local property tax bill would be approximately \$58 per year or \$4.83 per month, excluding any property levy impact associated with the County or Education Board. The committee will continue deliberations and further adjustments are anticipated.

The Draft 2021 Water and Wastewater Budget reflects a 4% user rate increase to support asset replacement. Increases in revenues are largely due to consumption adjustments offset by a similar contribution to reserves. The impact on the average home using 200 cubic meters of water is approximately \$36 or \$3 per month. A recent survey of municipalities has shown the Town's combined Water and Wastewater rates are one of the lowest in Simcoe County and comparable GTA municipalities.

Respectfully submitted:



John Henry, CPA, CMA
 Director, Financial Services / Treasurer

Approved By:

John Henry CPA, CMA,
 Director, Financial Services /
 Treasurer

Department:

Finance

Status:

Approved - 11 Nov 2020

Lori Bedford, GM of Corporate

Corporate Services Division

Approved - 12 Nov 2020

Report #FIN-2020-32, November 17, 2020

Services/CFO

Blaine Parkin, P. Eng., CAO CAO

Approved - 12 Nov 2020