



Township of Wainfleet

"Wainfleet - find your country side!"

NEWS RELEASE

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Wainfleet Council Approves 2021 Budget

Wainfleet, ON – After two years of significant increases, Wainfleet Council last night voted for a modest tax increase of 3.5% as a blended rate, which includes Niagara Region and School Board tax levies.

"This is a balanced approach that takes into account the operational and capital needs of the Township, while being lean and building on the work we have been doing over the past couple of years," said Wainfleet Mayor Kevin Gibson. "For the average household, this will amount to an increase of about \$0.40 a day."

Faced with previous debt and looming crisis from the Township's aging capital infrastructure, Wainfleet Council took strong measures in the 2019 and 2020 budgets to begin addressing these issues and laying a solid foundation for Wainfleet's finances going into the 2021 budget cycle and beyond.

"Last night's final budget deliberations brought us to a number that we can feel good about, and which will let us to continue preparing ourselves for the years to come, while respecting the taxpayers," said Gibson. "Their support of some tough financial decisions over the past couple years is truly paying off since we can come in with a much lower tax increase and still be fiscally strong while closing the infrastructure gap."

Wainfleet CAO, William Kolasa said staff and Council had "worked very hard and collaborated closely" to make this budget process one of the best he has seen in over 30 years in municipal government. "Last night was a great example of how Council can direct the future of their municipality by using their experience and vision to guide and direct staff who are working to achieve those goals."

For over three decades, municipal governments have been responsive to public pressure to keep taxes low, often resulting in increases which don't even keep up with inflation," said Wainfleet Treasurer Mallory Luey. "These artificially low numbers can only be maintained by using reserves or deferring infrastructure costs temporarily, but reserves are finite and infrastructure continues to degrade and will need to be maintained regardless."

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