Report of the Finance Department

2020 Budget

Report No.: F-016-2019
Meeting Date: November 27, 2019
Subject

2020 Budget

Preamble

Following the presentation of the preliminary draft during the regular Council meeting on October 23, 2019, and its revisions during the Committee of the Whole meeting on November 13, 2019, we recommend the adoption of the 2020 Budget.

Purpose

This report intends to consolidate the changes made to the budget and recommend its approval.

Report

During the regular meeting held on October 23, 2019, the preliminary budget amounted to $126,661,500, and the tax levy totalled $46,560,700, excluding growth. The preliminary draft proposed an increase of the residential tax rate of 3.33%. At that meeting, it was decided to maintain the exclusions presented during the preliminary budget presentation, with the exception of the insurance premium increase following the last bid received from Jardine Lloyd Thompson. In addition, Council decided to reduce the proposed residential tax rate increase to 3%.

During the Committee of the Whole meeting held on November 13, 2019, it was recommended that the proposed changes be approved, while also adding a $0.50 increase per day per resident with respect to the per diem for subsidized residents in hostels, as well as an increase due to a change in method for calculating the Council Members’ salaries, resulting in an increase of $0.10 per Prescott and Russell resident. Council also reiterated their wish to maintain the residential tax rate increase at 3%.

Following Council direction, the final 2020 Budget amounts to $126,668,400, and the final tax levy, excluding tax growth, totals $46,409,800. The tax levy represents an increase of $1,334,900 when compared to that of 2019. As a result of this change, the residential tax rate increase equals 3%. Although the residential tax rate increase was reduced, it should be noted that our tax growth is now greater than what was initially presented, as per the most recent changes to the 2019 tax roll, increasing from $800,000 to $982,800. This change allowed for the added expenses as previously mentioned, explaining the total budget increase.

Impact

Adopting the budget at this time will allow each Department to begin planning for the new year and coordinate accordingly. The 2020 tax rates will be adopted in March or April 2020, once property assessments, regulations, and calculations are available.
Option

N/A

Supporting Documentation

Appendix A – 2020 Budget

Recommendation

Whereas the purpose of Report F-016-2019 is to consolidate the changes made to the budget as a result of budget meetings and discussions and to submit a recommendation for its approval;

And whereas the 2020 Budget estimates total $126,668,400;

And whereas the property tax levy for our local municipalities totals $47,392,600 (including growth);

And whereas the 2020 tax rates will only be approved once property assessments, regulations, and calculations are available.

Be it resolved that the 2020 Budget and By-Law be adopted as presented.

This report was prepared and submitted by:

Valérie Parisien, Treasurer - November 20, 2019
Report Approval Details

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<tr>
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| Attachments:        | - Appendix A - Budget 2020 COUNCIL.pdf  
|                     | - Appendix A - Budget 2020 PUBLIC.pdf |
| Final Approval Date:| Nov 20, 2019      |

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Mélissa Cadieux

Stéphane P. Parisien