

Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	Friday, March 27, 2009				Report Date	Tuesday, March 10, 2009			
Decision Required	x	Yes		No	Priority	X	High		Low
Direction Only		Information Only			Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed
REPORT TITLE									
Working Document Discussion and Budget 2009									

Subject: Proposed working document and budget for 2009 taxation year.

Recommendation: That Council agrees to support this proposal to meet our annual operating needs and to commit to providing a basis for future financial obligations.

#### Background/Executive Summary:

Based on the proposal submitted by the Treasurer, there is an increase of 20% of money to be raised from taxation for 2009 over 2008. This may or may not result in an increase in tax rates as we have had a substantial increase in assessed value for 2009. This means that overall, the tax rate may go down, but depending on the new assessed value for each property, it may mean that some individuals will realize an increase in total tax payable. Further, we have yet to receive the County's request or have them set the ratios for 2009.

Although the budget looks like it has increased by \$98,119 it has to be considered that \$241,000 of the total is grant money that is to be utilized for specific projects. If that money was not included, our budget would actually have decreased by \$115,913. Again, we have to consider that in 2008 \$164,000 was also grant money received for specific projects with \$95,000 in 2007. So although annually our budget has increased, a sizeable increase for each of the past three years is due to grants from the province for specific projects.

What are tax payers getting for this increase in Current Year Taxes Receivable and an overall increased budget?

- Our policing costs have increased by \$5,000
- Taxation software is a one-time expense of \$15,000
- \$15,000 of Building Canada grant for upgrades to hall insulation and water system as per energy audit by Jp2g. (may or may not be utilized; Building Canada has not released specifics.)
- We are legislated to fulfill obligations that have been downloaded from the province...
  - Accessibility planning, program and training
  - PSAB
  - Recycling and Household Hazardous Waste programs
  - Environmental monitoring and planning for future closure costs
  - Health and Safety policies and programs
  - Emergency Management Program
- Staff education, training and retention strategies
- Upgraded facilities
- Planning for future needs – vehicle replacement
- A functional library
- Municipal representation by Council members at outside boards and committees
- Automated, connected, more self sufficient office and office staff
- Competent Building Inspection services
- Competent legal and audit representation
- Safe roads

Although our budgeted amounts have increased, we are also utilizing funds that have been set aside in reserves for specific projects. These totals increase the overall budget but have already been funded to a total of \$241,038

- Succession planning \$500
- Emergency Management \$2,000
- Office Equipment (software) \$12,000
- Facility upgrades \$2,500
- Roads grant \$159,288
- Garage repair \$52,000
- IT/computers \$2,750
- Gravel crushing \$10,000

Financial Considerations/Budget Impact: Overall budget increase of \$98,119 or 11.55% again the increase due to funding for specific projects that may or may not be realized depending on success of applications.

Policy Impact: None

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk

Melinda Reith,  
Municipal Clerk

*Melinda Reith*