

TOWN COUNCIL PASSES 2017 INTERIM BUDGET

December 14th, 2016

DRAYTON VALLEY- The 2017 Interim Budget reflects deliberate efforts to decrease expenditures, improve efficiencies and identify new ways of offering services to our residents. Town Council instructed Administration to ensure a balanced approach to Town operations while minimizing the impact to residents.

During a 2016 program and efficiencies review, service levels and provision of services were analyzed from a policy and service perspective. Town Council directed Administration to identify significant in-year savings which resulted in decreased expenditures for the organization. These decisions, although difficult ones to make, reflect an overarching approach to managing operational expenditures, and this approach will guide future work.

Mayor Glenn McLean shared, *“The 2017 Interim Budget for Drayton Valley is a balance between setting clear priorities based on input received from the community through discussions and consultation and realizing cost reductions within a time of significant fiscal constraints. Council has been focused and aware of the immediate needs of the community and our responsibility to appropriate long-term planning. Town Council recognizes service levels are changing, however, we will endeavor to keep services at a high level of quality.”*

For the 2017 Interim Budget the Town of Drayton Valley’s capital expenditures will focus on a long-term, comprehensive planning approach for life-cycle repair and replacement of facilities. Our assets are critical to our quality of life, and there will be dedicated investment in: High Lift Pump Station at the Water Treatment Facility, Pool Restoration Work for the Park Valley Pool and a focus on our park spaces throughout Drayton Valley. There will be continued appropriate expenditures on our surface and sub-surface infrastructure, which includes our roadways, water lines, sewer lines, and storm water substructures.

The tax increase for the 2017 Interim Budget is 3.99% which results in an average tax increase of \$65.31 per year or an average monthly increase of \$5.44 per property owner. The tax increase for industrial or commercial property owners is 3.99% or an average of \$464.88 per year or \$38.74 per month.

There will be adjustments to some seasonal services. Spring Clean-Up will take on a new look and residents will be able to use the landfill to directly discard their items directly at a predetermined time in the new year at no charge. In addition, modifications have been made to the seasonal work hours dedicated to aesthetic maintenance and the timeliness of residential snow removal.

“Our residents have been directly or indirectly impacted by the downturn in the economy. Our community has seen friends and family lose the ability to provide for their loved ones and for some that includes their homes. Drayton Valley is resilient. We have seen tough times before and Town Council is committed to being fiscally responsible to the individuals, families and businesses in our community,” said McLean.

See Attached Backgrounders on Capital Plan and Projects and Staffing and Services Levels

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