

Media Release

From: Heather Sutherland, Economic
Development & Tourism Officer

Date: January 27, 2020

City approves draft 2020 budget

After two days of deliberations, the City of Pembroke's Finance and Administration Committee approved the draft 2020 budget on Jan. 24. This budget will be brought forward to Council for formal adoption on Feb. 18.

This draft budget reflects a tax rate decrease of -0.01 per cent, and an overall levy increase of 1.9 per cent. The average residential taxpayer with a property assessment of \$188,000 can expect to pay \$21 more in property taxes in 2020. The tax rate increase for the City of Pembroke has averaged 0.63 per cent over the past three years.

Water and sewer rates will be increasing in 2020. Under Ontario's *Safe Drinking Water Act*, the City is required to prepare financial plans for water systems to ensure sufficient revenue is generated to continue to provide safe drinking water to our community. Preliminary findings of a plan prepared by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. indicate that both water and sewer rates must increase annually to support the ongoing operations and upkeep of these key city services. As a result, the average residential taxpayer can expect to pay \$62 more per year for water and sewer in 2020.

The overall impact of these changes to an average residential household is an increase of \$83 per year, or \$6.90 per month.

Just more than \$18 million has been budgeted for 2020 capital projects. New city projects expected to occur include:

- The rehabilitation of Foster Fraser Bridge on Bennett Street (\$1,023,500)
- Phase Two of road rehabilitation on Miller Street from Dominion to Munro (\$421,500)
- The continuation of downtown LED street lighting upgrades, this time on Pembroke Street East from the bridge to William Street (\$134,451)
- Road resurfacing projects on: Carmody Street (Eganville to school limits); Francis Street (McGee to Boundary); Hunter Street (Mackey to Cecelia); O'Brien Street North and the completion of Thompson Street
- Roof repairs to the PMC's east entrance (\$140,000)
- Asphalt repairs and accessibility improvements to the Kiwanis Walkway (\$20,000)
- Continued upgrades to the Riverside Park ball diamonds (\$17,040)



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In 2020, the City will undertake an active living master plan. The City will also continue to support local economic development through key initiatives such as the Community Improvement Plan, which continues to revitalize the city's downtown core and bring improvements to commercial and industrial buildings around the city.

For more information on the City's 2020 budget, please contact City Treasurer Angela Lochtie at alochtie@pembroke.ca or 613-735-6821 ext. 1328.

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