

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Council approves earliest budget in Town history

(Sharon, ON) November 22, 2017 – At the November 21, 2017 meeting, Council approved the 2018 budget. This is the earliest budget to be passed in Town history and, through early adoption, the Town is poised to leverage advanced pricing for major projects and initiatives.

“This budget allows for the continued delivery of quality programs and services, while maintaining our debt-free status for the sixth consecutive year,” said Mayor Virginia Hackson. “Council worked closely with staff to ensure the budget continues to provide growth related funding for community improvements such as new facilities, roads, parks, and trails.”

The budget provides for the construction of a new Operations Centre, which will be funded through development related charges. The Operations Centre will replace the current Works Yard, located behind the Sports Complex. The relocation of operations will result in approximately five acres of space available for community recreational purposes. With land secured in 2014, the Town is now ready to move ahead with tendering and construction in 2018.

The total tax levy increase is 2.25 per cent, which is equal to approximately \$36 per year for the average home. The approved budget focuses on two main areas:

Community Safety

One per cent of the increase, or \$16 per year, is dedicated to supporting Council’s multi-year focus on community safety. The budget will provide for a number of new initiatives including an additional full time firefighter, increased training, as well as increased community outreach and public education.

Programs and Services

1.25 per cent of the increase, or \$20 per year, will allow the Town to continue the provision of the Town’s quality programs and services. It also includes funding for two new multi-year contractual agreements for waste collection and animal control. The new waste contract will begin January 1, 2018 and will provide enhanced Customer Service, with a new dedicated website and Customer Service phone number and accountability measures for the Town’s contractor to ensure effective and efficient services for residents. The budget also includes trail improvements, new parks and park replacements, as well as improved infrastructure in the Town such as road resurfacing projects.

The water and wastewater budget will be deliberated in 2018. For more information about the 2018 budget please visit www.eastgwillimbury.ca/budget.

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