



Municipal Council adopts a balanced budget with a focus on climate change

Chelsea, December 17, 2019 – During a special session, Municipal Council adopted a budget of \$19.8 million with a 3.4% tax increase. The tax rate is now \$0.7933 per \$100 for residential and \$1.1209 per \$100 for non-residential. Concretely, this means an increase of \$108 for a median property value of \$415,000.

This tax increase is the result of several factors, including:

- The NCC's valuation challenge, which creates more than \$560,000 of uncertainty in PILT revenues. In addition, legal and evaluation fees to be assumed by the Municipality are estimated at approximately \$54,000.
- The \$255,829 increase in the share paid to the MRC des Collines-de-l'Outaouais, mainly due to the unexpected increase in fees for the processing of recyclable materials and fees for adapted and public transit.
- An increase of more than 50% in snow removal contracts awarded throughout Quebec. The call for tenders issued last September by the Municipality showed an increase of nearly \$675,000 for the year 2019–2020. In response, Municipal Council decided to repatriate the work internally to achieve savings of approximately \$400,000 annually compared to the new market price.

Climate emergency: Concrete action as of 2020

The operating budget adopted provides for action in the fight against climate change and revision of the Master Plan, scheduled to begin in early 2020. Budget initiatives include a greenhouse gas inventory for the entire municipality followed by recommendations for reducing GHGs, investment in Transcollines to increase evening and weekend service, a tree planting project to address heat islands in the centre-village and an electric vehicle-sharing project.

“Chelsea municipal Council recently adopted a resolution to declare a climate emergency, and starting in 2020, concrete actions will be taken to address the situation. While developing a long-term action plan takes time, we can take action now that will make a difference. Revising the Master Plan will allow us to further implement our Sustainable Development Action Plan and build on what we're already doing to address climate change,” said Caryl Green, Mayor of Chelsea.

Water and sewer system cost increase inevitable

The cost of the water and sewer system for the centre-village this year is close to the forecasts made at the beginning of the infrastructure project. The variance from previous years is explained by the increase in operations and maintenance expenses, which vary according to the number of homes and businesses connected to the network. An increase for the Farm Point area is also expected due to the need to empty aerated wastewater treatment tanks, a procedure carried out every seven to eight years to ensure water quality at the tank outlets.

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For more details, go to chelsea.ca/budget-en.

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