



Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 16, 2022

Here are the highlights from the Special South Dundas Council meeting held December 15, 2022

2023 Water and Wastewater Budget Consider

Following a tour of the South Dundas Water Treatment Plant and Wastewater Treatment Facilities in Morrisburg, Iroquois and Williamsburg on the morning of December 15th led by Manager of Water and Wastewater, Denis Villeneuve and Operators Cameron Michels, Selena Shane and Jacob Bellefeuille, Council considered the draft 2023 Water and Wastewater Budget. “Seeing operations today, I think the expenses and capital requests are very reasonable, and we are adding to the reserves, so I look forward to our final budgeting and considering approval in the new year,” noted Mayor Jason Broad.

Water distribution and wastewater collection are fully funded by user rates. The draft budget includes costs for staffing, operations and capital (repair, rehabilitation and replacement), with reserve contributions for water at \$425K and \$390K respectively for Wastewater, which is a combined total for Morrisburg, Iroquois, and Williamsburg. These contribution totals are well below the annual targets of \$1.4 million per year for water and \$1.1 million per year for wastewater which are outlined in the Water Rate Study completed by DFA and in accordance with the Asset Management Plan. To meet these targets annual increases in the rates will need to be introduced in order to have the funds available for our infrastructure needs.

The 2023 operating expenditures, which excludes capital and reserve transfers, are up by \$144,158, or 5.84% over 2022. The proposed budget will provide for the ongoing treatment and delivery of water and wastewater, ensuring these critical systems remain safe, reliable and financially stable.

Following presentation of the draft water budget, Councillor Danielle Ward noted concerns that the taxbase has been paying interest on the water plant loan. “I did a bit of math from the information provided and note that the tax base has contributed approximately \$800K to pay the interest on the water plant loan and by 2026, my understanding is that it will be an additional \$77K. This relates to a by-law Council previously passed in 2007, so I am hoping Administration can bring that back for Council to have a discussion on, to see if that’s how this Council wants to proceed with having the tax base offset that interest payment,” explained Councillor Ward. A decision was made that staff will report back with information on this topic in early 2023.

Several questions were also raised by Deputy Mayor Marc St. Pierre, and Councillors Cole Veinotte and Tom Smyth regarding the rationale between growth considerations and user pay models, contributions to reserves, connection fees and flat rate fees for Williamsburg. In addition, a request was made to discuss fleet replacement schedules and the possibility of leasing options at a future meeting. Based on questions and comments from the meeting, staff will return in 2023 with various information reports for councils’ consideration.



As part of the budget presentation, Manager Villeneuve reviewed 2022 accomplishments which included the relining of Carman Road, Bay Street and sections of Dundas Street and Elizabeth Drive in Iroquois, an upgrade to the chlorine injection system, a rebuild to the lift station pump, the addition of a clearwell pump for more accurate chlorine residual monitoring and colour coding rings to all hydrants. Savings of approximately \$30K were achieved by staff replacing curb stops, a passing grade of 100% was received on the water audit and operator licenses were upgraded.

Mayor Broad concluded the meeting by saying, "I think it's really important that we understand, and residents understand that it is OUR duty to ensure we have safe, high quality drinking water. I really appreciate all the accomplishments that were shared by Manager Villeneuve and his staff. We were really impressed with the level of ownership by the water and wastewater staff; it is a world class facility, the appearance of standards are excellent and demonstrated throughout the facilities and I was pleasantly surprised that all staff were well educated on budgeting and spoke to us on capital items and consumables, so that was excellent by you Denis, you've trained them and talked to them about how budgeting works so that was good to see."

A by-law to consider approval of the 2023 Water and Wastewater Budget will be brought forward for consideration in the new year.

For more information, contact [Shawn Mason](#), Deputy Treasurer at 613-543-4752.

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South Dundas Council



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Looking Ahead: Upcoming Meetings

Regular Council Meeting: Monday, January 9, 2023 @ 6:00 pm

Regular Council Meeting: Monday, January 30, 2023 @ 6:00 pm

2023 Budget Meeting: Friday, February 3, 2023 @ 8:30 am

2022 Holiday Closures

South Dundas Municipal Office will be closed at 4:30 pm on Friday, December 23, 2022 and re-open on Tuesday, January 3, 2023 at 8:30 am.

Matilda Landfill will be closed Saturday, December 24 to Tuesday, December 27 and again Friday, December 30 to Monday, January 2, 2023. **The landfill will be open Wednesday, December 28 and Thursday, December 29 from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.**