

# The Corporation of the Township of Wainfleet

## Balancing the 2019 Budget



The Township has commenced its 2019 Budget Review Process – and we want to hear from you. Provincial law requires that the Township establish balanced operating and capital budgets to govern our annual operations. In this way, Council ensures that the amount of money that the Township intends to spend balances with the money the Township collects. To do this, Council must:

- Review and prioritize the projects, programs and service levels that the Township provides;
- Manage expenses by adapting or reducing the cost of programs and services;
- Find new sources of revenue or increase existing revenues (for example: through property taxes, user fees/charges or private/public partnerships).

### What is an Operating Budget?

- Money is spent on day-to-day expenses for programs and services including the maintenance of our roads, parks, trails and facilities.
- Money is raised through property taxes and user fees. We also seek alternative revenue sources whenever possible (such as opportunities for grants or partnerships).

### What is a Capital Budget?

- Money is spent on projects to create, enhance or restore our assets including infrastructure (roads, bridges, buildings, etc.), land, equipment and vehicles.
- Money is raised through a combination of property taxes, development charges, debt (borrowing), reserves (money that the Township raised in previous years and has saved in anticipation of a project) and grants.

### Budget Drivers

#### 1. Increasing Utility and Material Costs

Similar to a household budget, the Township's budget is affected by many factors such as inflation and rising costs of materials and construction. These factors impact the total cost of our programs and services – meaning that we must raise more money to cover these increasing expenses.

#### 2. Infrastructure Gap

There is a significant gap between the amount of money Wainfleet has available each year to maintain our existing assets and the amount of money we actually need to ensure those assets remain in good repair for the long term. The Township previously invested in studies that identify how much we need to spend, and when we need to spend it, to address this gap – and we continue to work on finding and implementing affordable ways to maintain our infrastructure. However, the cost over the next 20 years is significant.

<i>Asset</i>	<i>20 Year Cost</i>	<i>Report</i>	<i>Date</i>
Buildings	\$ 1,464,470	PWSR-019/2015	15-Sep-2015
Roads	\$ 21,551,934	PWSR-018/2017	24-Oct-2017
Guide Rails	\$ 392,000	PWSR-018/2017	24-Oct-2017
Bridges & Culverts	\$ 4,784,500	PWSR-014/2018	18-Sep-2018
Total	\$ 28,192,904		

Reports may be accessed at: [www.wainfleet.ca](http://www.wainfleet.ca)

\$1.4 million dollars committed to infrastructure each year would address our existing gap. We must invest in our community to keep Wainfleet sustainable.

**We want to hear from you!**



## Balancing the 2019 Budget Have your say!

### 3. New Capital Priorities

Each year we also face choices regarding the need for new assets – ranging from vehicles and equipment to facilities. Most recently, the Township acquired a parcel of land in Chambers Corners for the construction of a new central Fire Hall as recommended by various studies (Report FSR-001/2013 [22-Jan-2013], Report FSR-005/2016 [4-Oct-2016]). A project of this size will require a real commitment to complete.

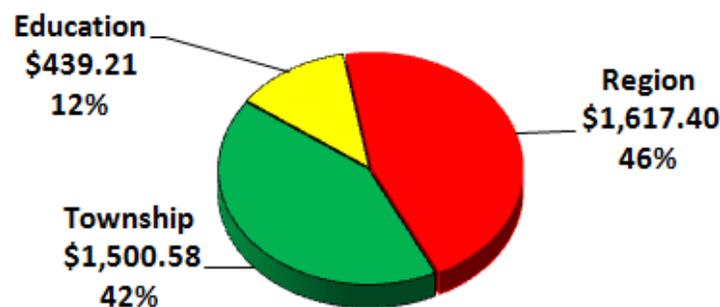
### The Economic Reality – Balancing Priorities – Managing Tax Increases

A 1% property tax increase in Wainfleet raises \$53,000 that can be directed to our operating and capital needs. With over \$28 million in identified needs over the next 20 years, additional demands for investments in new capital infrastructure and inflationary pressures on our operating budget - the Township is facing significant upward pressure on the property tax rate just to keep up. Property tax rate freezes or cuts make it impossible to keep Wainfleet a sustainable community moving forward. Council is committed to a long term vision – and the time for investing in Wainfleet is now.

### Your Tax Bill - Township, Region and Education

Wainfleet's tax requirements make up less than half of your property tax bill. Provincial law requires that we also collect money on behalf of Niagara Region and area school boards. In 2018, the average Wainfleet property had an assessed value of \$258,360 – and faced a total property tax bill of \$3,557.19. Those taxes collected were distributed as follows:

#### Where Your Property Tax Dollars Go



<https://www.niagararegion.ca/government/budget-taxes/prop-tax-calculator.aspx>

### JOIN US!

#### Wainfleet Community Meeting

Join Mayor Kevin Gibson and Council for an important community meeting to discuss your ideas for the the 2019 budget and for the future of our Township.

**Monday March 25, 2019  
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

AT

**WAINFLEET BIC CHURCH  
53007 Perry Road**

For more information, please visit our website at [www.wainfleet.ca](http://www.wainfleet.ca).