



Council Adopts Common and Special Services Approach for Municipal Taxation

April 22, 2014

PORT HOPE, ON . At their meeting this evening, Port Hope Council implemented a new Common and Special Services taxation approach for 2014 and future years in addition to adopting tax rates for 2014.

The Special Services By-law establishes services to be charged to all taxpayers as common services and those to be charged only to taxpayers in a benefiting area as special services. Of the total tax levy for 2014, common services comprise 59% (further allocated to each Ward by weighted assessment) with special services attributed 35% to Ward 1 and 6% to Ward 2.

Ward 1 special services include Port Hope Police Service, parking, transit, sidewalks, Christmas tree/yard waste pickup, and registered non site-specific Parks, Recreation and Culture programming administered by the Municipality. Ward 2 will pay for Ontario Provincial Police service, and a portion of the cost for the Police Services Board, Community Policing, crossing guards, streetlights, and parks is included in each Ward's special services charges.

Taking into account the 2.1% tax levy rate adopted by Council for 2014, the newly adopted Common and Special Services approach will result in a Municipal portion of the tax bill increasing in both Wards by \$15 per \$100,000 weighted assessment (2% increase for Ward 1, 3% increase for Ward 2). On a total bill basis including the County and Education components, the 2014 increase is about \$7.60 per \$100,000 weighted assessment (0% increase for Ward 1, 1% increase for Ward 2).

Mayor Linda Thompson stated, "The review of Municipal taxation was an important exercise to establish a fair and equitable tax allocation model that is compliant with the Municipal Act and acknowledges the special services available in certain areas of our community."

Councillor Rick Austin, Chair of General Government and Finance stated, "Municipal taxation review has been a comprehensive process with extensive community consultation. The input and feedback we received from the community was a vital component of the process and we thank all those who participated."

Ultimately, the new Common and Special Services approach will reallocate the Municipal portion of the property tax bill resulting in a 7% decrease for Ward 1 and a 37% increase for Ward 2, with the implementation to be transitioned over a 10 year period. A Ward 1 taxpayer would incur a decrease of approximately 1% annually and a Ward 2 taxpayer would incur an increase of approximately 4% during the implementation. Based on \$100,000 weighted assessment this would mean a \$6.86 decrease annually for a Ward 1 taxpayer and a \$18.64 increase to a Ward 2 taxpayer.

The Special Services By-law is to be reviewed each year as part of the budget process with a comprehensive review every five years including potential reconsideration of adding or removing any special services.

For more information on Municipal Taxation visit www.porthope.ca under Quick Links.

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