



**Municipality of Port Hope**

56 Queen Street  
Port Hope, ON  
L1A 3Z9

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Dir of CS	<input type="checkbox"/>
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REPORT TO: Budget Committee  
FROM: David Baxter, Director of Finance  
SUBJECT: Area Rating Next Steps  
DATE: October 3, 2013

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Budget Committee receive this report as information and direct staff regarding the Budget Committee's preferred option(s) (e.g. confirm open house date and event features).

**BACKGROUND:**

An Area Rating Working Group was created in 2012 and met 22 times between June 2012 and July 2013. They looked at two potential methodologies for establishing the tax policy for the Municipality of Port Hope. The first methodology would be a single tax rate across the entire Municipality. The working group discussed this option and decided against it. The second option considered was to use a common plus area specific tax rate. The working group supported this approach, as it does recognize differentiation of service, and agreed on components that would comprise this methodology but did not ultimately come to a consensus on a specific methodology for future tax calculations. The Working Group conclusions were outlined in minutes included in previous Council agendas.

Next steps involve the establishment of potential tax methodologies and the process required to ultimately determine which one to move forward with. A presentation and more information will be presented at the October 8<sup>th</sup> Budget Committee Meeting. Due to the potential significant scope and impact of any of the options on the community the method of community consultation must be determined and staff advised accordingly.

In addition to a potential public notice and a 14 day review period with information posted on website, the Council members of the Working Group have suggested a public open house be held at the Town Park Recreation Center in the Gymnasium on October 21<sup>st</sup>.

If this is supported by the Budget Committee, staff request direction on whether the event will feature:

- A) Display Boards and Comment Sheets, or
- B) Display Boards and Comment Sheets with Presentation, or
- C) Display Boards and Comment Sheets with Presentation and Question and Answer Session

**CONCLUSION:**

The steps following the work of the Area Rating Working Group need to be established so the process can move forward. Additional information will be provided by staff at the October 8<sup>th</sup> Budget Committee Meeting

Original Signed By

David Baxter  
Director of Finance