

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Council Consideration on Potential Tax Levy Reduction

From: Viv Saunders

Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 10:59 AM

To: DL - Council Only; clerk@hamilton.ca

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Andrea, please add this correspondence on to the next Council Meeting agenda

Dear Honourable Mayor and Members of Council,

I would welcome your thoughts, comments, critique on whether the attached change in Fiscal Policy has merit.

This is an area that I don't know a lot about, but my thinking is by carving out "stormwater related expenses" & billing via the water rates, this suggested change has the potential to have citizens focus/conservate and ties into the Public Awareness campaigns already being done by the City in regards to water.

Look forward to your feedback as to whether this suggestion has merit and could also possibly result in less CSO overflows and/or a reduction in floodings.

Respectfully,

Viv Saunders

2021 CITY OF HAMILTON BUDGET

POTENTIAL NET LEVY REDUCTION

Transfer portion of Conservation Authority costs to Water/Wastewater/Stormwater (WWS) budget

ALIGNMENT TO 2016-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN - MISSION STATEMENT: Same quality public service that has the potential to positively contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a more sustainable manner

SERVICES: Hamilton Conservation Authority, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, Grand River Conservation Authority and Conservation Halton

2020 TAX LEVY IMPACT: @ \$8,000,000

CURRENT TAX LEVY %: @ 1%

POTENTIAL TAX LEVY REDUCTION: @ 4,800,000 annually (@ 0.6%)

ESTIMATED TAXPAYER IMPACT: \$ 22.13 of the \$80 municipal taxes for Boards/Agencies/City Enrichment Fund in 2020 *(based on an average assessed value of \$380,300 for a residential property)*

OVERVIEW OF POTENTIAL REDUCTION:

The proposed reduction would transfer the cost of the stormwater-related services provided by the Conservation Authorities to WWS rates. A cursory analysis of each of the conservation authority's budgets was undertaken to determine, based on publicly available budget

documents, what portion of the net levy is related to stormwater activities. The portions of the Conservation Authorities levies related to stormwater include:

- Flood Control Structures
- Flood & Erosion Control Land purchases
- Erosion Control
- Flood Forecasting & Warning
- Technical Studies
- Watershed Monitoring, Planning, & Research
- Floodplain Mapping
- GIS & Data Management

Based on this analysis, it is estimated that 60% of the Conservation Authorities levies could be funded through WWS rates.

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY:

The proposed reduction represents a Financial Policy decision to transfer stormwater-related Conservation Authority costs from the tax supported budget to user fees (WWS rates). The change would require a corresponding increase in the water rates

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON THE CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES:

There will be no impact to any priorities as the overall funding (via CAs levies) to the Conservation Authorities will not change.