

The Corporation of the Township of Hamilton



REPORT TO: Mayor Cane & Members of Council

REPORT No: T 2021-01

SUBMITTED BY: Nusrat Ahmed, Treasurer

DATE: January 14, 2021

Subject: 2021 Budget Consultation Result

RECOMMENDATION: For Information Only ■

It is recommended that the Council of the Township of Hamilton enact as follows:

THAT Report T 2021-01, 2021 Budget Consultation Result, be received for information purpose.

ORIGIN/BACKGROUND:

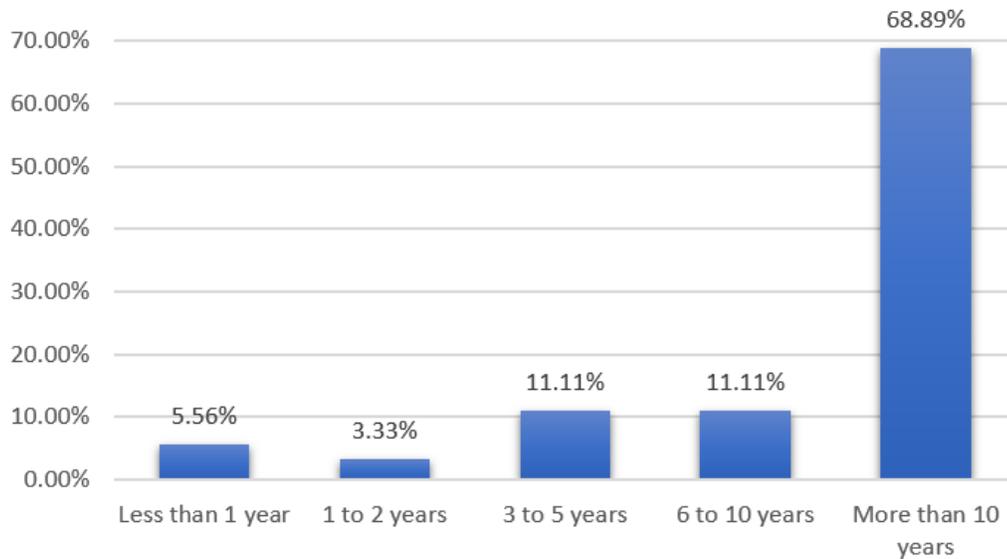
Every year, budget is established to provide a foundation for the Township of Hamilton to meet the service and infrastructure needs of residents. The Township engaged with residents to gather ideas, suggestions and feedback as it drafted the 2021 budget for Council's consideration. To provide for public engagement and input into the Township's annual budget, staff facilitated the 2021 Budget Survey. The 2021 Budget Survey was live from November 25th, 2020 to December 15th, 2020 with 90 responses received. The survey was advertised via social media and the Township's website. As part of the budgetary process, staff committed to compiling results of the survey to report to Council in consideration for the 2021 budget. This report contains a summary of the Budget consultation results.

DISCUSSION:

The survey was comprised of questions for which responses were selected based on pre-set options as well as requesting stakeholder's input through commentary to elicit detailed feedback. The results of the responses to the pre-set questions are provided below. Following are the summary of the 2021 Budget Survey results.

1. How long have you lived in Township of Hamilton?

There were 90 responses to this question. The result below indicates that most of the respondents (68.89%) lived in the Township for more than 10 years.

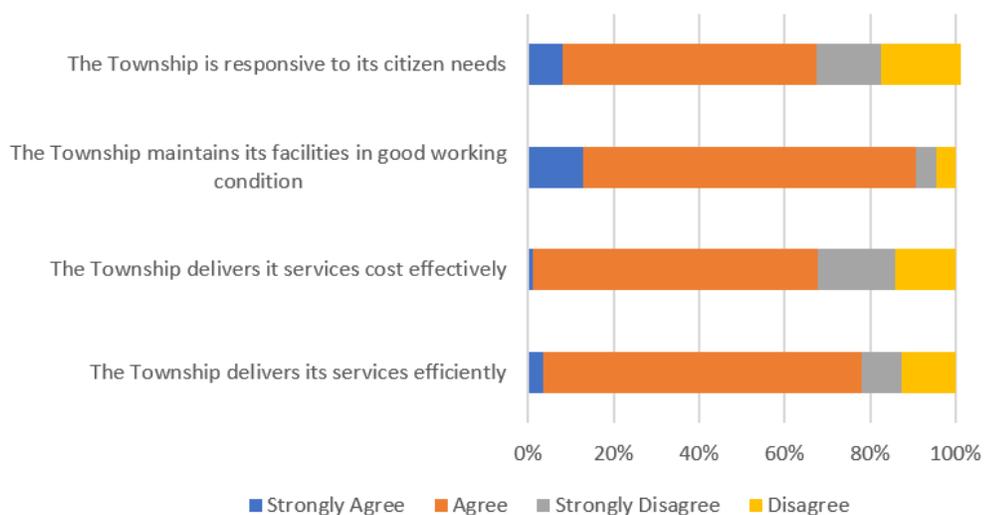


2. Residents were asked to rate the following:

- The Township delivers its services efficiently
- The Township delivers its services cost effectively
- The Township maintains its facilities in good working condition
- The Township is responsive to its citizen needs

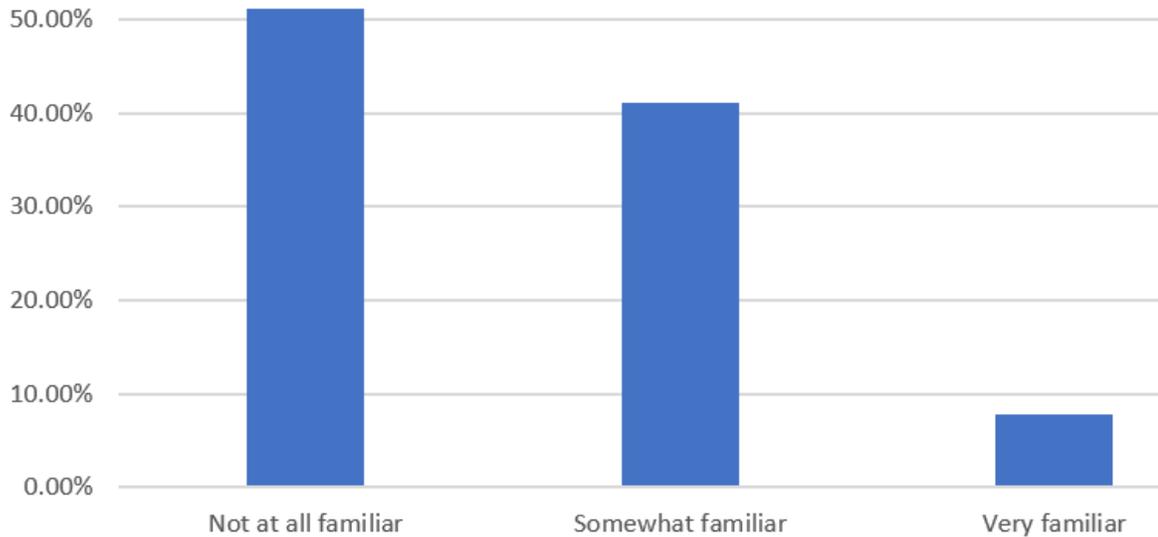
The response rate to this question was 98% with 2 participants bypassing the question.

Most of the respondents agreed that Township is responsive to its citizens' needs, maintains its facilities in good working condition, and delivers service cost effectively & efficiently.



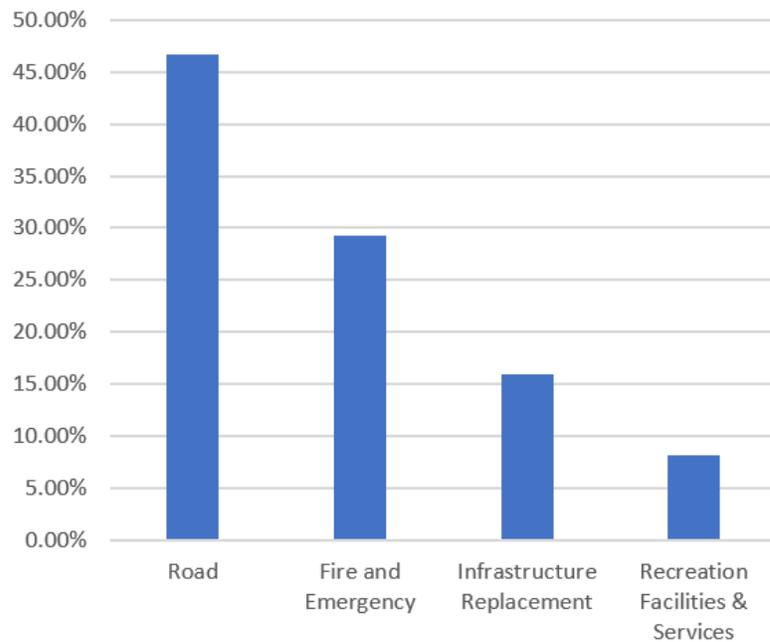
3. How familiar are you with how the Township develops its annual budget?

This question was answered by all survey participants. The result below indicates that there is marginal familiarity with how the Township develops its budget with 51% responding not at all familiar, 41% somewhat familiar and 8% very familiar.



4. Please rank your priorities that you feel that the Township should spend tax dollars on (Road, Fire & Emergency, Recreation Facilities & Services, Other).

This question required respondents to select the service areas that they deem as priority for focus for the budgeting process.

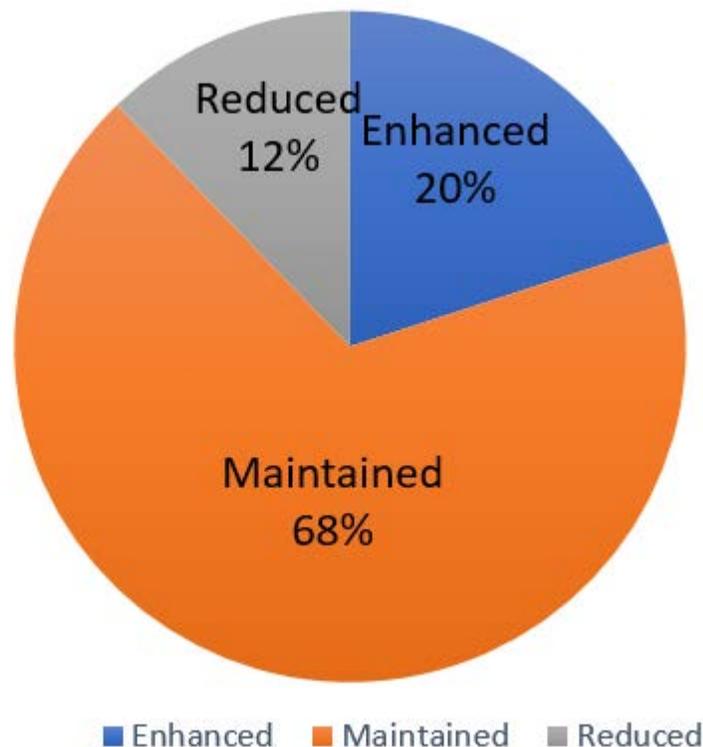


Other Comments:

- Transportation
- Lower property taxes
- Hiring knowledgeable staff
- Environmental protection/climate change mitigation; green audit
- Sidewalk cleanup
- Water system
- Waterfronts of Rice Lake
- Social services
- Shelter of Hope, office staff, elected officials expense reimbursement, building inspection, animal control; more people for property standard and up keep of properties
- Planning
- Better internet services brought in

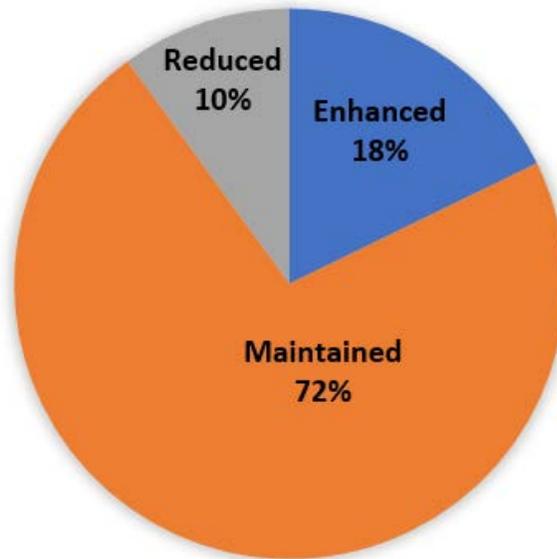
5. In 2020, the average household will pay \$505 in municipal property taxes to support programs that protect people and property. These programs include: Police Service, Fire Service, and By-law Enforcement. Should this investment be enhanced, maintained or reduced?

This question was answered by all survey participants with 68% responding maintained, 20% enhanced and 12% reduced.



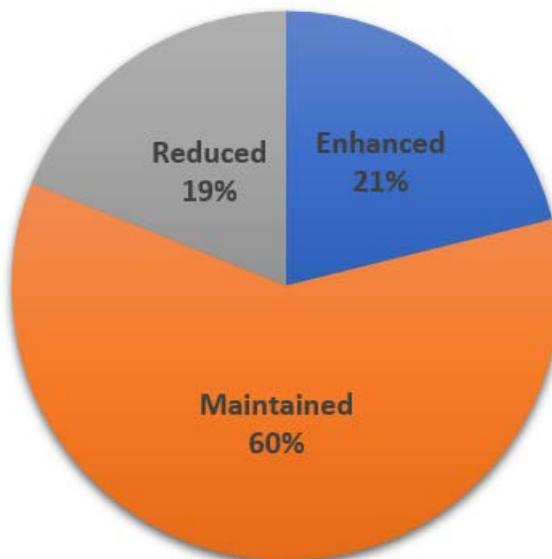
6. In 2020, the average household will pay \$691 in municipal property taxes to support public works. This includes: roads maintenance, snow clearing, and street sweeping. Should this investment be enhanced, maintained or reduced?

This question was answered by all survey participants with 72% responding maintained, 18% enhanced and 10% reduced.



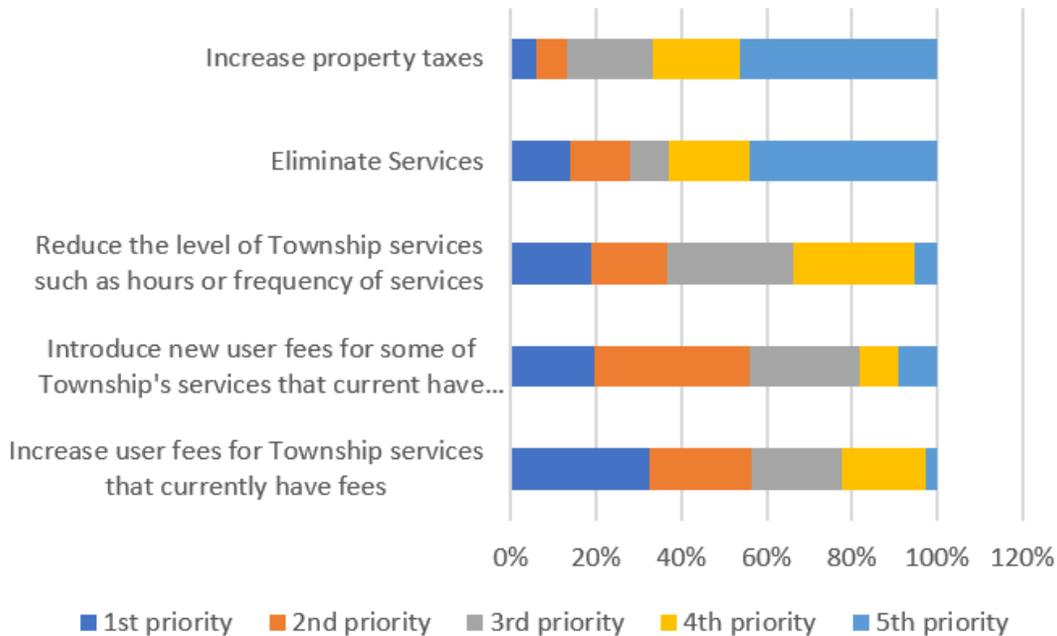
7. In 2020, the average household will pay \$185 in municipal property taxes to support the maintenance of parks, trails and recreational facilities. Should this investment be enhanced, maintained or reduced?

This question was answered by all survey participants with 60% responding maintained, 21% enhanced and 19% reduced.



8. To balance the 2021 budget, Township has a number of options to consider. Which of the following option would you prefer the Township uses to balance its budget (1 being your most important priority and 5 being your least)?

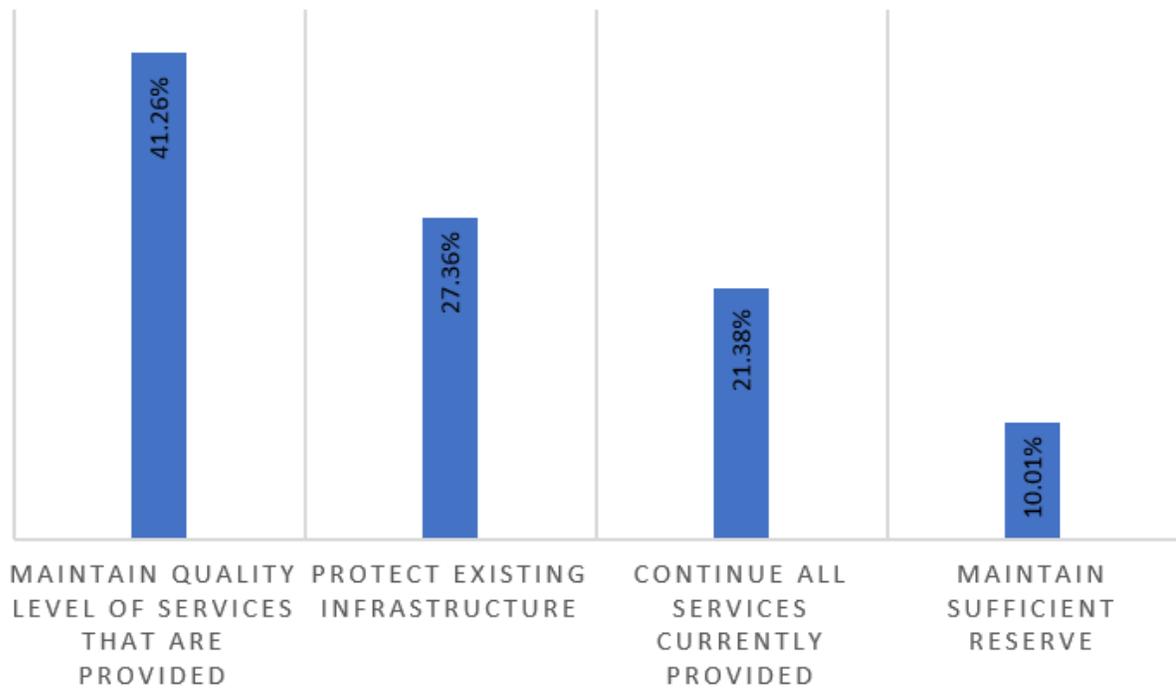
This question required respondents to rank each option based upon priority.



Other Comments:

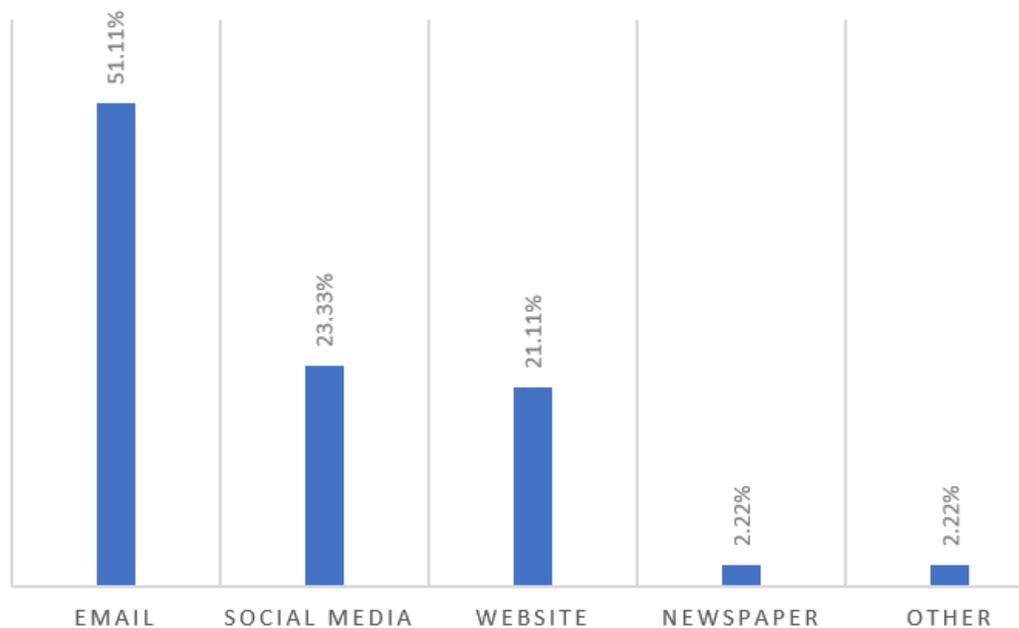
- Lower property taxes!
- I believe the Township is understaffed and training or hiring additional staff should be consider as more Township resources are required as it is a growing community
- Library, ice arena
- Reduce the number of employees
- This question is too vague. What services does the Township give? Firefighters & roads definitely a necessity.
- Not sure which services, out of the above mentioned, the Township could 'eliminate.' There may be several possibilities in cost savings re services delivered. I would need to look into that further to comment.
- Roads department has way too many trucks
- CAO/Treasurer could be a combined position
- Springtime general road-sweeping and washing (unless absolutely necessary for culverts)
- Compost pick up
- I would like to see all services maintained without a reduction in response time
- Township office space

9. Please rank the strategies below:



10. What is the best way for us to help you stay informed about the Township's annual budget process?

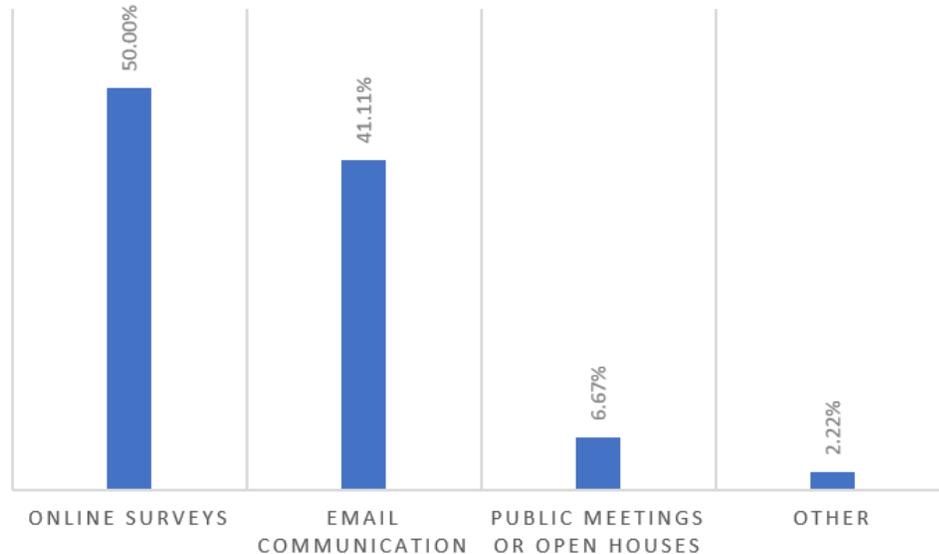
This question was answered by all survey participants.



Other:

- A variety of electronic communications channels
- All of the above

11. Thank you for taking the time to share your experience with the Township. We would like to check in on how you would prefer to interact with us. From the list below, please choose the channel you are most likely to participate in.



Other:

- Website and paper for those without a computer
- All of the above

Finally, residents were asked to give additional feedback they may have about any of the topics covered in this questionnaire. The feedbacks/comments are listed in Appendix A.

Financial Implication

Although the 2021 Budget Survey does not have a quantifiable financial impact, public input is a critical component in the budgeting process.

Strategic Plan

Fiscal Responsibilities, provide a variety of opportunities for public engagement regarding the annual budget process to encourage public consultation and feedback.

ATTACHMENTS

- Appendix "A" - Comments/Feedback

Report is electronically reviewed and approved by the Treasurer and CAO on January 4th, 2021.

Title	Official	Signature	Date
Treasurer	Nusrat Ahmed		
Chief Administrative Officer	Arthur Anderson		2021.01.04

**Appendix A
Comments/Feedback**

	Comments/Feedback from Budget Survey	Staff Comments
1	I would like to see our ample tax dollars put to efficient use in the Township. I would like to see the Council recognize the change in demographics in the Township ie: more funds invested in programs and facilities to allow our young families in the Township enjoy recreational pursuits within the Township.	<p>Parks and Recreation staff work regularly with current and potential user groups to provide active recreation opportunities.</p> <p>The Township Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee is made up of a diverse group of that represent all ages of the Township, and has been active in recent years to identify current trends and potential opportunities within the Township for recreational purposes.</p> <p>In 2021 the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee will act as the Steering Committee to create a new Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the Township of Hamilton. This Master Plan will focus on changes with the current growth and population, industry trends, leisure activities, new and future developments and make recommendations on potential marketing and communication strategies.</p>
2	I am appalled at the condition of the roads in the Township. As a rate payer and small business owner in the Township I am constantly disappointed with the level that our roads are maintained. The Township of Hamilton needs a serious overhaul of the roads department.	Staff have updated the Road Needs Study and it has been posted on our website. The roads are prioritized and presented to Council during the budget process.
3	Good survey, happy to participate. As a former association VP and MFG Exec., along with a 13-year Bewdley property owner/resident, I'm interested in learning more about the Township Council and getting involved.	<p>Thank you for your interest in becoming more involved with the Township. We offer a variety of opportunities to volunteer as part of a local Advisory Board or Committee (i.e. Heritage, Cemetery, Environment and Climate Change, Parks and Recreation, etc.). To learn more about these Boards and Committees or to become involved with these groups, please contact the Clerk's Office at 905-342-2810 or by e-mail or visit our webpage at www.hamiltontownship.ca.</p> <p>The next Municipal Election is scheduled for Fall 2022. In the months leading up to the election, information sessions will be held regarding the election process, how to run for Council, and the roles and responsibilities of Council. In the meantime, you can visit our Information Portal online to read the Agendas and Minutes of Council and Committee Meetings to learn more about the types of issues and decisions Council are involved in. You are also welcome to contact any of your Current Council Members or the Clerk's Office at 905-342-2810 or by e-mail to learn more about Municipal Government in Hamilton Township.</p>
4	Most municipalities in Ontario are struggling with infrastructure deficits. I think that the Township's highest priority should be planning for critical infrastructure replacement.	
5	I would like to see the Township open it's roads to atvs. Bring in more money to the area and help support local businesses.	Council has asked for public input on this issue later this year - information will be on our website.
6	Is the office open yet for the public?	<p>As of December 26, 2020, due to ongoing concerns related to COVID-19, the Municipal Office, Fire Halls, Arenas and Recreation Facilities are closed to the Public.</p> <p>Please contact us at (905)342-2810 or through the Township's website, as we are continuing to respond to your inquiries and requests for service, by phone, electronic or through drop off service.</p>
7	The new sign is a traffic hazard.	We have had requests to increase information and communication with the public and have received positive comments about the new sign. We are continually working to simplify messages on this board
8	Why is there no information on the website about the vehicles and equipment that our Township owns (when bought, how much we paid, how much we get when we trade in the old equipment etc.)?	<p>All capital projects including purchase of vehicles and equipments are authorized by Council. If the purchase price exceed the approved budget, a report to Council is submitted seeking authorization to proceed with the work.</p> <p>Budget documents and Council meeting minutes are posted on the Township's website.</p>
9	How much does the water system at Baltimore and Camborne cost people who do not use it and have their own wells in the Township?	Currently, Water system is borrowing funds from the Township to pay for its expenditures. The new Water Rate Study incorporates the repayment of the Water Deficit to the Township.

**Appendix A
Comments/Feedback**

	Comments/Feedback from Budget Survey	Staff Comments
10	I believe that the roads department could provide better service for the same amount of money or maybe less. We have lots of new shiny trucks.	All capital and operating spending are authorized by Council. Financial information, such as, Budget and Financial Statements, are published on the Township's website.
11	Lower property taxes!	
12	I think the Township needs to look into there 10 year plan for growth etc and start hiring or training staff so that they have knowledge of majority of issues that can come up. Unfortunately there are issues that arise and the Township does not have knowledge on how these issues should be dealt with. They either ignored or pass along the issue to another unknowledgeable staff member and until the issue is not worth the persons time to keep following up.	Over the past 3 years, we have negotiated an updated servicing agreement with Cobourg and LUSI, and commissioned Planning Studies to look at servicing in Baltimore. We have also completed an engineering assessment of the water facilities and are proposing a water servicing plan in this years budget. Our Official Plan will be reviewed and updated in the upcoming years to address these long term trends and changes.
13	As a farmer and business person it disturbs me to see the lack of progress in fixing roads in Hamilton Township. Calls to the municipal office have to be made to get pot holes fixed. I understand that due to COVID safety practices had to be in place to protect workers, but equipment sat at Coldsprings hall for days without moving. If the equipment is not being used it should not have been purchased. These decisions have to be made at management levels, and not based on wants. We no longer as tax payers can afford higher taxes to pay for more under utilized equipment. As a business owner I have learned that it is necessary to do cost benefit analysis before making purchases. I think the municipality should do the same. Question 8 in survey was disturbing because the options didn't include finding efficiencies. You always assume that tax payers will pay increases without holding the municipal to finding better ways to service the community, this has to change. Hamilton Township in the past had better roads then surrounding municipalities, this is no longer the case. The roads in some cases are no longer smooth enough for farm equipment to travel on, without damaging tires and bearings.	
14	I feel the Township needs to use their bylaw officers to enforce property standards in the Harwood area and not sit in there office and wait for complaints. It is not fair to the citizens who upkeep there property and others devalue the area by ie: excess trailers on property, junk all over there yards. This is unacceptable. Bewdley, Harwood, Goreslanding areas are on the south shores of Rice Lake, The Gem of Hamilton Township, and it seems to get ignored by Township staff.	We investigate written complaints from residents and require follow up by an owner, where it does not meet our property standards by-law. Please see the form on the website. This reflects the current Council approved policy approach.
15	Property taxes are exceptionally high for the level of services provided by the Township	
16	I am very happy to participate in this survey and appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback. I do find the actual questions somewhat limiting. Although these questions were fine, I feel the lack of any reference to climate change/ climate crisis is worrisome. It is affecting/will affect all of us.	
17	There were no options listed regarding looking at internal efficiencies and the management of Township assets regarding balancing the budget. That would be a good place to start. Is the Township functioning in a lean and effective way that gets the most out of funds spent on manpower, administration and capital Costs?	We regularly review our practices to ensure they are current and reflect new and emerging ideas. We have been updated our technology and related systems which provides internal improvements and services to taxpayers. We are planning on service reviews of each department and some major departmental reviews in the coming year to ensure we are constantly improving and functioning in an effective way.
18	Seem to spend a lot of money on new vehicles.	All capital projects including purchase of vehicles are authorized by Council.
19	As previously stated "services" is to vague. You can't have parks & recreation in the same category as roads or fire department. Thank you for listening	
20	Would like to hear some discussion in future surveys about improving environmental/land use planning.	
21	A moderate increase to the cost of a fire permit would be acceptable. Not sure how efficient/costly the use of garbage tags are. There must be a better way to manage rural garbage pickup. Have all revenue sources been explored (ex.bullfrog and/or solar power; grant programs at both federal and provincial levels)?	Township staff is continuously looking at avenues to generate additional revenues.
22	At this point in the pandemic there should be no increase in taxes. Many citizens are hurting. Also how do we ensure council is accountable?	Given the impact of the pandemic, Council was determined to provide tax payment relief to taxpayers earlier this year. The municipality also took steps to minimize or delays expenditures in a variety of projects and departments. Council remains accountable and accessible to residents in the community - by phone and email - and through our public council meetings.

**Appendix A
Comments/Feedback**

	Comments/Feedback from Budget Survey	Staff Comments
23	The Council has begun to have more opportunity for residents to speak at Council meetings. This needs to be expanded with more time for residents. The web site is not very easy to find agendas of meetings.	
24	No property tax increase, they are already too high. Start taxing all the grow ops as commercial business instead of agriculture	
25	This survey is problematic: the questions do allow for sufficient detail. Thus, people may "agree or disagree" with budget items without having full knowledge of the implications of their responses. The question wording also operates from a presumption that everything is already being done perfectly. In all spheres—business, healthcare, education and government, we can all do BETTER with the same resources if creative, thoughtful analysis and planning is demanded. Allowing for only a binary choice (yes/no or agree/disagree) makes the survey simple to execute, but ignores the complex relationships, and hence, effects, of budget decisions.	
26	There was no option to indicate that you prefer that the Township hunts for efficiencies and is incentivized to become more efficient instead of automatically adding fees or raising property taxes. We do not receive good value for our property taxes in Hamilton Township. The pandemic in 2020 has exacerbated this. MANY roads in Hamilton Township are in terrible disrepair. The Township staff were not managed effectively in 2020 and now the taxpayers must bear the brunt	
27	Thank you for this opportunity, and for trying to preserve the "small town" feel during these uncertain and scary times.	
28	Existing services provided by Township employees directly, need to be re-evaluated to increase efficiencies. For example, road maintenance currently done by Township employees could be improved by contracting these services similar to the way garbage pick up is done by third party contractors. A major priority in these Covid times is NOT INCREASING taxes, what ever that requires!!!!	
29	Maintain infrastructure by pursuing all funding from provincial and federal resources first.	Township staff is continuously looking for grant opportunity.
30	Keep skilled municipal workforce.	
31	Payn rd is one of the roads that should be considered for paving during the 2021 budget meeting. Thank you.	Payne Road has ongoing and future development. Once majority has been developed, the road maybe discussed at a future budget meeting for improvements
32	Answers had to be weighted. Some items, such as services and levels of service, I would prefer to be equal. Similarly communication is pick one. While I would like to receive regular, frequent emails advising what Council and staff are planning/doing, I would also respond to surveys and attend certain meetings. Communication from the Township is so poor that it is hard to find out about actions and meetings. Especially now that we no longer have a daily newspaper, the Township should be proactively informing the public by regular frequent emails, possibly weekly, not expecting the public to wade through information on the website to see if anything is occurring, changing, proposed. Personally I feel forgotten and ignored by the Township.	The Township has recently created a Facebook Page to increase our community engagement efforts. Residents are encouraged to like and follow the Township's Facebook page to receive up-to-date information on Council and Committee meetings, events, road and facility closures, job postings, etc. The Facebook posts will contain links to more in-depth information available on our website (where applicable). In addition, residents can subscribe to page updates on our website to receive notifications when any new activity occurs on a Township webpage of interest (i.e. Building, Planning, Finance, Council Meeting Agenda and Minutes) and can subscribe to our monthly newsletter, Communique. There is also a News and Announcement Section on the Home Page of the Township's website that residents can access and subscribe to receive e-mail notices of current events.
33	Is it at all possible to build sanitary sewers connected to Cobourg's system for the houses in the lower part of the Township?	There are a number of financial, legal and technical issues involved. We have updated our servicing agreement with the Town and LUSI to allow this to be considered. At present there are no plans to provide public sewer service.
34	Can the roads be resurfaced where needed? Someone should inspect the condition of Van Luven Rd. It's used by heavy truck which doesn't help. Make the trucking companies pay for the damage they've caused.	Roads are determined by the Road Needs Study and by staffs recommendations.
35	Improve speed enforcement on Van Luven Rd. Post speed signs. Install speed cameras. Do something to slow people down before someone gets killed. Totally unacceptable the way some cars, school busses and trucks speed on this road!	This item would need to be brought up to the local police service board or directly to the OPP.
36	Thank you for the survey.	
37	There will need to be budget lines to address climate change challenges and its mitigation.	
38	The Twp. needs to find ways to save money on vehicle and equipment purchases, and scrutinize the requests of the roads dept., it's needs, not wants, and how to assess and manage the fleet it has.	All capital projects including purchase of vehicles are authorized by Council.
39	Further, there are roads that get repaired that don't need it, and roads that don't that get the repairs they need. Maybe the CAO should take a more careful and deliberate monitoring role with the departments and people he oversees.	Staff review the resurfacing and capital program work to be undertaken with Council every year and we communicate this information with the public. All reports and operating updates are discussed with the Senior Management Team on a regular basis.

**Appendix A
Comments/Feedback**

	Comments/Feedback from Budget Survey	Staff Comments
40	Please don't spend any more money on the pixel board at the twp office that is hard to read, dangerous to read on an 80 kph road, and only read by those on that road.	we have received some positive comments on the sign which was part of the Downtown Revitalization grant to improve communication with the public. This money was funded from the grant and did not come out of tax levy. We are looking at ways to improve our messages on the board.
41	Thanks for being on Facebook.	
42	I'd like to see more frequent communication from the Township about projects, activities, concerns, issues being dealt with, what services are available for citizens, what charges/fees are being paid by citizens, and how our taxes are spent. This survey assumes we know a lot of the information about fees/services, etc. but it's not always apparent. A more detailed backgrounder section would help inform us before completing this survey.	The Township has recently created a Facebook Page and will be making regular posts to encourage community engagement and spread information about Township events, upcoming meetings, road projects, services available, job postings, etc. In addition, residents can subscribe to page updates on our website to receive notifications when any new activity occurs on a Township webpage of interest (i.e. the release of Financial Reports and Council Meeting Agendas and Minutes) and can subscribe to our monthly newsletter, Communique. There is also a News and Announcement Section on the Home Page of the Township's website that residents can access and subscribe to receive e-mail notices of current events.
43	We are very pleased with road maintenance in the Township. Our roads are plowed often and in a timely fashion following a snowfall. We appreciate the workers who do these jobs well. Continue with this level of service.	
44	Transparency is extremely important to me. I would like to see where all the money goes and also staff positions, their qualifications for the job and salaries.	Township's staff believe that being transparent is critical and therefore financial information, such as Budget, Financial Statements, DC & Energy Reporting, are regularly updated and are published on the Township's website.
45	I am also extremely bothered that the Township (and Ontario government) prevents me from severing my land so that I can give it to my son while others are able to do so because of all these exceptions (or because they can afford lawyers fees). We have lived here for close to 40 years and our children should be able to continue the tradition in living in this Township.	Please contact the Planning department with specific information on the property in question.
46	We need a regular day every couple of years to put old furniture and house hold items out to curb ,it would help keep Township cleaner and get rid of garbage	
47	Great job on clearing snow, and debris such as branches and other things all over the roads. You guys are Unexpectedly quick at both of these, and I have only lived here for a few months.	
48	We are in month 9 of COVID response and recovery with it appears many more long months ahead of us. A focus on community, community wellness and programs/activities outdoors, for all ages, would be an important priority. A true people priority during these unprecedented times.	
49	Generally, I observe very little in terms of recreational programming across the Township, which I believe is a gap to be bridged.	
50	HT needs to prioritize the reduction of GHG emissions.	
51	Roads are the most important, only about \$1.2 million is put into one long or two short paved roads (paved).	
52	Stop purchasing new vehicles for 1 or 2 years and put the money toward someone's failing road that the 40 thousand dollar study recommends.	All capital spending are authorized by Council. Financial information, such as, Budget and Financial Statements, are published on the Township's website.
53	Procurement amounts should be lowered to \$5k maximum, any money over this amount should need to be approved by Council.	Staff ensure that all procurement processes are in compliance with the approved Procurement policy.
54	There seems to be a lot of excess spending in the public works department	All capital and operating spending are authorized by Council. Financial information, such as, Budget and Financial Statements, are published on the Township's website.

**Appendix A
Comments/Feedback**

	Comments/Feedback from Public via Email	Staff Comments
Roads Fleet		
	The up-and-coming budget should include funds for a thorough Fleet review by an outside independent consulting company. The review would address the issues listed below, as well as many ways to improve efficiency and reduce GHG emissions.	Currently funding for thorough Fleet review is not included in the 2021 Budget
	Any proposed vehicle purchases should have a focus on reducing GHG emissions.	
	The Township has a replacement plan for vehicles. We would like to assume that they will be following their plan and we have no problem with that. The problem lies with how the list is determined as we do not believe that it is driven by data as it should be.	The Township does have a 10 year capital plan. The plan is based on data, such as, but not limited to, age, condition, value, type, etc.
	There never seems to be a plan for disposal of the unit being replaced. Most municipalities send their units for disposal to an auto auction or they use a Government site called Govdeals (https://www.govdeals.ca/). We have heard that some units are kept as spares. We believe that there needs to be justification for this practice. If they are actually used as spares, then there may be an issue with HT maintenance program that would require a spare. Also, the longer they keep a spare the more it depreciates in value.	Used vehicles that are not kept or transferred to another department, are posted on Govdeals. As we replace a vehicle, it then becomes the spare and the old spare is sold. Typically, the oldest vehicle is the spare
	We believe that vehicle 20-01 - 3/4 ton with plow (purchased for \$55,000) was to replace a vehicle purchased in 2012/2013 that was deemed no longer safe to drive and could not be brought up to safety standards to keep in the fleet (as stated by the Public Works Manager in budget meetings). The stated annualized maintenance by replacing this vehicle was \$10,000+. Where do these savings get allocated in the next 5 years budget plans? We believe that the 2013 vehicle was not dispersed of and is still being used in the fleet.	This vehicle was to be sold on Govdeals, however, the pandemic started and this vehicle remained in the fleet. With the separation of the Public Works crew, half at the public works building and half at Cold Springs Hall, this vehicle was needed for daily operations. With covid-19, we were limiting 1 person to a vehicle and as the summer progressed, we increased it to a maximum of 2 staff, following all health unit guidelines. Once we return to normal operations, this vehicle will be sold on Govdeals.
	Accuracy of the fleet inventory speaks to the credibility of the roads manager and the validity of their inventory.	
	Some of our members reviewed the replacement list and the following may be on the Public Works budget request :	
	2006 Brusher ? cost \$75,000.00: (We assume that there will be justification for replacing this equipment, but our experts on the subject suggest the Township consider the rebuilding of the current brusher as there could be a saving for the township).	Please see Business Enhancement Sheet for Promac Brusher attached to the budget package.
	1999 Volvo Dump truck (spare) number-20-40 \$ 330,000.00 (The problem our members have with spare vehicles is ...are they actually used as spares? If they are, there should be a record of how often and what and why a spare was necessary. If it is used as an extra vehicle to service township needs, then it should be justified as part of the fleet. In each case, what is the cost of continuing to own and maintain the "spare". The Township has in the past used the 15 years as the replacement time for such vehicles which begs the question... "Why do we still own a vehicle that is about to become 20 plus years old". We will be interested to see the justification for this truck.)	Please see Business Enhancement Sheet attached to the budget package.
	1994 Steamer (thawing culverts in winter) number-s-1 \$20,000.00 Note:(there are two steamers)	As per the Road Capital Budget Replacement Program, there are two on the plan.
	Will there be a buy vs rent analysis done previous to any new purchases?	There are items that we rent that are specialized equipment and items that we used daily are typically purchased. Previous experience shows, that renting or leasing cost more in the long term.

**Appendix A
Comments/Feedback**

	Comments/Feedback from Public via Email	Staff Comments
Roads Budget		
	We believe that the 2020 budget for road repairs (surface treatment) were approximately \$341,070 - COVID suspended the repairs program.	As per Motion approved by Council on May 7th, 2020 - Staff is to spend \$80k on 2020 Surface Treatment Program
	07 May 2020 Special Meeting of Council a report was brought forward for funding \$80,000 for road surfacing and a contractor was hired. Completed work indicated surface treatment of Bickle Hill Road for a total cost of \$79,897.88 Two road repairs were not included and should carry over to 2021, being Smith Settlement Road, rated 55 and Lew Harris Road, rated 69.	
	What is the amount of unused funds that will carry over to the 2021 Budget for Roads?	Staff cannot respond to this question prior to the completion of year-end audit
	Will Smith Settlement Road and Lew Harris Road be included in the 2021 Double Surface Treatment schedule?	Additional Funding for Smith Settlement Road and Lew Harris Road are included in the 2021 Capital Budget
	Which roads of the 25 in the Roads Need Study under NOW NEEDS will be included in the 2021 surface treatment schedule? The Roads Needs Study should be considered and followed for road improvement plans unless there is a good reason not to. Influencers' wishes should not be the reason some roads get done.	Please refer to the 2021 Draft Capital Budget package for the list of Road included for 2021.
	Quality of workmanship has become a major concern in the Township when it comes to road construction. Many have observed that companies such as Drain Bros. do a much better job of road construction than our local County crew. County maybe be cheaper but so is the quality of the work. Who did the work that had to be redone on Minifie Rd near Harwood Rd presumably because the edge of the new surface fell off (maybe it wasn't properly supported)?	That work was Tender in 2018 and was awarded to Dekeyser Excavating, but there could have been a sub contractor that completed the paving. The repair was not due to poor quality, it was because upstream there was a significant flow of water which lead to erosion of the shoulder and then undermined the asphalt.
	Which roads will be included in the HOT MIX paving schedule?	See BES
	Guard Rail " Maintenance and Material " 2020 budget is \$3,570.00. D.M. Willis report over half of the guard rail network was mounted at the wrong height.	
	Who is responsible for this significant and avoidable error?	There was no error - as work is installed to the proper specifications. Typically the wrong heights are because of winter sand building up underneath the cable. This is an ongoing maintenance activity.
	Will the cost (for the guard rail network to be brought to standards) be covered by the responsible party? If not, why not, and who will pay for these costs?	This was a new item that was included in the Road Needs Study. Staff wanted a report on the safety devices and there locations. Also, these were GPS's and will be uploaded to GIS for future work. This is a maintenance item and staff will complete in the future.
	Railway Road (leading to Harwood Waterfront Beach & Dock) is a road running off Lakeshore Road in Harwood. It is a very short road, on a downward incline, running north and then turning east towards the Waterfront.	
	During a rainstorm the drainage runs down Railway Road and when the water gets to the waterfront, (with the present mode of grading) the water turns west and rushes toward the beach area and consistently erodes the sandy beach. This happens several times a year. There is a cost to Hamilton Township to be continually fixing the beach from the water erosion.	
	Our opinion is that for the 2021 Budget there should have funds allocated to correct this issue. We believe that this road needs to be repaired and regraded in such a way that when the water reaches the dock area it flows and empties to the east side of the dock area (NOT to the beach area). We believe that there would be an annual cost savings by regrading Railway Road to prevent the regularly annual erosion issues of the sandy beach.	Railway Road in the Road Needs Study is recommended in 1 - 5 years. Traffic Counts are very minimal and speed is very low. It can be discussed at Council level

**Appendix A
Comments/Feedback**

Comments/Feedback from Public via Email	Staff Comments
Financial Reports Requirements	
<p>The Friends of the Harwood Waterfront have discussed this issue a number of times and have recommended the issue to Council previously. The feeling among residents in the area is that this has now become urgent! As this is a 'Roads Issue', we strongly recommend that this issue, regrading Railway Road, be included within the 2021 roads budget in order to stop any further erosion of the beach at the Harwood Waterfront Beach & Dock area at Harwood on Rice Lake.</p>	<p>Council will make that decision. The Road Needs Study recommendations repair 1 - 5 years.</p>
<p>The CCHT requests a financial report that:</p>	
<p>a. States the cost of replacement of assets by each department</p>	<p>Staff is currently presenting capital forecast for Water, Fire and Road departments during the budgeting process. Staff will expand this to included other departments in the future.</p>
<p>b. What is the financial impact of this on future budgets (including 2021)?</p>	
<p>The Asset Management report recommended " implementation of component-based condition inspection program to better define requirements", and "Efficiency Fund " Modernization Funding which allows Municipalities to apply for funding to " undertake expenditures reviews with the goal of finding service delivery efficiencies and lower costs in the long term.</p>	
<p>The Township of Hamilton received \$617,084 for the 2020 Budget, \$503,208 of which was allocated to various departments from the CAO report and Council approval.</p>	<p>In 2019, Township received Unconditional Municipal Modernization Program funding of \$617k. For 2020, Council approved \$528k worth of projects to be funded from the Unconditional Municipal Modernization Program funding. Please note that staff do not proceed with projects without Council's approval. All Council reports related to Efficiency Funding are posted online and public has full access to it.</p>
<p>The Province also requested a third-party review (searching for savings) and a draft report by 15th June 2020 - to be posted publicly by the municipality by the 30th of June 2020.</p>	<p>The Province did not request any third-party review or draft report by June 15, 2020 for the Unconditional Municipal Modernization Program funding.</p> <p>Municipalities who received unconditional funding were asked to keep their Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) Municipal Advisors aware of how these funds were allocated.</p> <p>Staff have provided and will continue to provide the Ministry with all the required information for the funding in order to ensure that all reporting requirements are met on time.</p> <p>Staff met all reporting requirements from the Ministry and will continue to meet all requirements.</p>
<p>We have found that there appears to be a lack of ability (by administration) to meet the Province of Ontario legislated dates for all aspects of the required process and documentation listed in the previous paragraph.</p>	<p>Not correct. As mentioned in the statement above, staff met all reporting requirements for the Unconditional Municipal Modernization Program funding from the Ministry and will continue to meet all Province of Ontario's requirements.</p>
<p>Where is the above mentioned Report? Was the provincially requested "third-party review" (to search for savings" ever commissioned or completed? How can we access the information in this report?</p>	<p>As mentioned in the statement above, Province did not request any third-party review or draft report by June 15, 2020 for the Unconditional Municipal Modernization Program funding. Municipalities who received unconditional funding were asked to keep their Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) Municipal Advisors aware of how these funds were allocated. Staff have provided and will continue to provide the Ministry with all the required information for the funding in order to ensure that all reporting requirements are met on time.</p>
<p>The balance of \$ 313,876 remains in a reserve account. Where will this money be allocated, keeping in mind people's needs at the forefront and respecting their hard-earned tax dollars?</p>	<p>Please see budget package for the correct balance of the Efficiency Fund.</p> <p>As mentioned in the statement above, staff do not proceed with projects without Council's approval. All Council reports related to Efficiency Funding are posted online and public has full access to it.</p>

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Comments/Feedback**

Comments/Feedback from Public via Email	Staff Comments
Baltimore/Camborne Water System	
<p>Reserves, which are taxpayers' money, has been used over the past 5 years to fund the deficits of the water system expenses, (which are \$110,00 yearly and now \$549,000 over the past 5 years.) This only benefits a small portion of our Township (549 customers) and solely for their services and use. The water systems are supposed to be user funded and by law net zero. Our reserves are needed for many other Township wide projects. By funding the deficit the funds will not be available for use by the Township for up to 10 years or more until they are repaid. If this repayment is spread out for more than 10 years it further prejudices the use of funds our Township needs for other expenditures. This in not an issue for only the system users as it affects all taxpayers.</p>	<p>Township has healthy reserves and reserve funds. Lending funds to the Water department is not restricting Township from funding other projects.</p>
<p>The questions posed by 4 residents at the Dec.15, 2020 council meeting during the public question period were not read out to the public and would not be on the video recording of the, nor apparently in the minutes. We request those questions and the answers to them by council are provided to the public.</p>	<p>We will provide the information according to the Council approved procedure - and respond to the people who made the inquiry.</p>
<p>Was the Kennedy Rd water line system installed without authorization of Council, was it not in the budget, but an add-on authorized by the then mayor and retroactively approved after the fact of its installation, by council? if so, is this the process to be used for over \$300,000 of expenditures that are not needed and have been also been paid from taxpayer's funds in reserves? Is there any reason to believe Kennedy Rd residents will use this service either by need or cost benefit to them? What, if anything, did the CAO do to avoid this expenditure which is now being funded by reserves?</p>	<p>The project to improve Kennedy Road was realized thanks to the approval by Council and with Public comment.</p>
<p>The residents of Baltimore and any developers who want to build new homes in the area or along Kennedy Rd., or its vicinity should cover the cost to install and maintain their water system.</p>	
<p>Have provincial or federal government grants or loans been available pay the above costs? Residents with wells have to pay for their installation, piping, pumps, maintenance and replacement, electricity to run them, purification systems and expensive uv lights, iron filters, mineral testing etc. Their costs are significant and without taxpayer subsidy or loans.</p>	
Budget allocation for the Environment and Climate Change Advisory Committee	
<p>Although the newly established Environment and Climate Change Advisory Committee has not yet met, it is expected a climate action plan will be forthcoming in 2021. Will this urgent and necessary initiative receive some budgeted funding for 2021?</p>	<p>Currently, not included in 2021 budget.</p>
<p>The Citizen's Council of Hamilton Township would like to request that you add this document to the minutes of the budget meeting in which you discuss our issues listed above. We would like to request notification as to which public meeting minutes you have included them into.</p>	