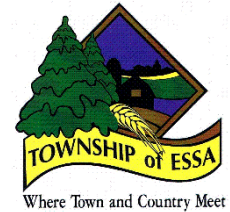


For Immediate Release
March 29, 2023



Essa Budget Passed

Baxter — March 29, 2023 — Essa Council officially adopted the 2023 Budget for the municipality at its meeting held on March 22nd. The 2023 Budget represents a blended increase of 6.39% which equals approximately \$44.62 per \$100,000 of residential assessment. Essa has one of the lowest tax rates in Simcoe County.

The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) is the provincial body responsible for assessing and classifying properties in Ontario. According to MPAC, the median assessment for all residential-class properties in Essa is \$395,000. In 2022, the taxes collected on the “median home” in Essa were \$2,757.76. The approved budget would mean an increase of approximately \$170 per year on the same house.

The 2023 Budget is a responsible budget which responds to the financial challenges facing the municipality and as well maintains existing services and service labels. Some highlights of the 2023 Budget are as follows:

- New and improved recreational services as the Township increases its programs and offerings.
- 1 new snowplow to be ordered for the next winter season.
- New, part-time Building Official to facilitate faster building permit approvals including reviewing and allowing for second housing units on one property – called Additional Residential Units (ARU) to assist with providing additional affordable housing in the municipality.
- Essa will continue with a second full-time Municipal Law Enforcement Officer added last year in an attempt to address the increased demand put on by-law enforcement in the municipality.
- Continuance of a planning consultant to work towards a new Official Plan for the municipality which will guide future growth and development, both in terms of population and employment opportunities; continued opportunity for increased public input, tree maintenance and climate change policies.
- Road upgrades to the 9th and 11th Lines and rural intersections; plus, continued traffic calming measures to improve on road safety.

- Continued study of the 5th Line bridge (Bridge No. 9, “Miller’s Bridge”) to prepare for bridge repairs.
- Commencement of Environmental Assessment of the water system in Angus.

The municipality will be transferring an amount equal to a 3.7% tax contribution to Asset Management in keeping with its adopted Asset Management Plan.

Essa Township lies in the heart of Simcoe County, takes in Thornton, Baxter and Angus, and contains a population of approximately 24,000. To learn more about Essa’s 2023 Budget, visit www.essatownship.on.ca/council-administration/budget-and-finance.

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