

## **2017 CONSOLIDATED BUDGET**

The Town of Grimsby Council has finalized the 2017 municipal budget in the gross amount of \$54,620,430. This represents an increase of 6.0% in the Town's municipal levy, a 3.6% increase in the sanitary sewer levy, and a 4.9% in water expenditures. For a property with a median assessment of \$415,000, the Town's portion of property taxes will increase by 5.6% or \$56 for the year, and the average water bill will increase by \$33. The average increase in the tax levy over the past six years has been 1.93%, which is less than the cost of living over that period.

The levy will continue to sustain the high levels of municipal service provided to residents as well as incorporating the operating costs of two new facilities - Southward Community Park and Fire Station 2. A significant investment in the Information Technology budget, as recommended by a departmental service review conducted by an independent consultant, will ensure the Town maintains an effective, secure, and resilient internal network and is able to provide additional online services in the future.

Highlights of the capital budget include reconstruction of the North Service Road, rehabilitation of various water mains and roads, continued work on the West End Trail, completion of Southward Community Park and Fire Station 2, and the replacement of the Town's phone system.

"It was another difficult budget year; however I am pleased with the budget process and the final outcome. Staff identified all of the staffing and infrastructure pressures we faced due to our rapid growth" said Mayor Bentley. "Staff and Council then worked together to provide a balance of appropriate infrastructure spending, staffing level increases and structural changes to allow us to continue providing the level of service our residents demand at the most efficient cost".

The property tax bill issued by the Town also includes amounts owing to the Region of Niagara and the respective Education Boards. The Regional portion of property taxes increases by \$123 in 2017 while the Education portion increases by \$9.

A copy of the Town's 2017 Consolidated Budget and 2017 Consolidated Budget Summary may be found on the Town's website at: [www.grimsby.ca/Finance/Budgets](http://www.grimsby.ca/Finance/Budgets). For more information or to provide any comments, please contact the Finance Department at 905-945-9634.