
Subject: Approval of 2021 Interim Levy Dates and Amounts

Report to: Corporate Services Committee

Report date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021

Recommendations

1. That the interim amounts for the Regional levy **BE APPROVED** by Regional Council in the amounts shown in **Appendix 1**;
2. That the Regional Clerk ensures that the appropriate by-law **BE PREPARED** for presentation to Regional Council for consideration and approval; and
3. That report CSD 2-2021 **BE CIRCULATED** to the Councils of the local area municipalities for information.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to approve the interim levy amounts and due dates.
- Section 316 of the Municipal Act provides that the council of an upper-tier municipality may requisition an amount equivalent to 50% of the prior year's approved levy from each area municipality in order to continue core services prior to the adoption of budget estimates for the year.
- The Region's Budget Control Bylaw (2017-63, section 6.3 paragraph a.) provides that prior to Council's approval of the Operating Budget bylaw, a current year's expenditures may be incurred if a budget for a similar item existed in the previous year's operating budget and the expenditures is at the same service level as the prior year and does not exceed 50% if the amount appropriated in the previous year's operating budget.
- Interim levy dates are consistent with the prior years. The local area municipalities were consulted and no alternative dates are considered.

Financial Considerations

The interim levy amounts to be requisitioned from the local area municipalities totals \$196,284,697 (General Levy) and \$19,410,737 (Waste Management) for a total of \$215,695,434 or 50% of the 2020 levied amounts. The interim levy will provide sufficient cash flows for current year Region operations until approval of the 2021 operating budget and levy amounts.

Analysis

The authority to incur expenditures by Regional departments, boards and agencies is granted by Regional Council through the annual approved operating budget as prescribed by the Municipal Act. Prior to the an annual budget being adopted by Regional Council, bylaw 2017-63 as approved by Regional Council provides that Regional departments, boards and agencies may incur expenses up to 50% of their prior year's operating budget in order to maintain business as usual for Regional services.

Further to this, Section 316 of the Municipal Act authorizes Council through a bylaw to provide an interim levy equivalent to 50% of the prior year's approved estimates (subject to certain adjustments) before the adoption of budget estimates for the year. It has been the Region's past practice to levy an interim levy in order to fund Regional services prior to the approval of the annual budget and final levy amounts. As such, Appendix 1 includes the proposed interim levy dates and amounts by Area Municipality.

Alternatives Reviewed

Alternative thresholds were not considered as the interim levy of 50% permitted by the Municipal Act will generally ensure cash inflows in the shorter term are able to accommodate the level of expenditures. The Municipal Act does not have a requirement to approve a spending limit in advance of the budget approval however the practice has been adopted by the Region through bylaw 2017-63.

Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities

Not Applicable.

Other Pertinent Reports

Not Applicable.

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This report was prepared in consultation with Margaret Murphy, Associate Director, Budget Planning & Strategy and reviewed by Helen Chamberlain, Director, Financial Management & Planning/Deputy Treasurer

Appendices

Appendix 1 Interim Levy Payments and Dates