
Subject: Approval of Interim Levy Dates and Amounts

Report to: Corporate Services Committee

Report date: Wednesday, January 15, 2020

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 1-2019 **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.
- The Region's Budget Control Bylaw (2017-63, section 6.3 paragraph b.) provides that prior to Council's approval of the Capital Budget Bylaw, expenditures for new capital projects may be permitted if an individual capital project is deemed a priority by Council and specifically approved by Council in advance of the general capital budget bylaw (section 6.3. paragraph b).
- 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 \$182,862,828 (General Levy) and \$17,664,148 (Waste Management) for a total of \$200,526,976 or 50% of the 2019 levied amounts. The interim levy will provide sufficient

cash flows for current year Region operations until approval of the 2020 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.

Expenditures for new capital projects prior to Council's approval of the 2020 consolidated capital budget bylaw may be permitted if an individual capital project is deemed a priority by Council and specifically approved by Council in advance of the general capital budget bylaw (section 6.3. paragraph b).

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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Appendices

Appendix 1 Interim Levy Payments and Dates

Page 4

Appendix 1 - Interim Levy Payments and Dates

General Levy			
Municipality	March 11, 2020	May 13, 2020	Total Interim Levy
Fort Erie	5,726,046	5,726,046	11,452,091
Grimsby	6,852,188	6,852,188	13,704,377
Lincoln	5,341,710	5,341,710	10,683,420
Niagara Falls	19,292,739	19,292,739	38,585,479
Niagara-on-the-Lake	7,863,682	7,863,682	15,727,363
Pelham	3,790,363	3,790,363	7,580,725
Port Colborne	2,979,336	2,979,336	5,958,671
St. Catharines	24,269,932	24,269,932	48,539,864
Thorold	3,636,661	3,636,661	7,273,323
Wainfleet	1,377,324	1,377,324	2,754,648
Welland	7,460,447	7,460,447	14,920,894
West Lincoln	2,840,987	2,840,987	5,681,975
Total	91,431,414	91,431,414	182,862,828

Waste Management Special Levy			
Municipality	March 11, 2020	May 13, 2020	Total Interim Levy
Fort Erie	669,137	669,137	1,338,273
Grimsby	462,426	462,426	924,851
Lincoln	400,600	400,600	801,200
Niagara Falls	1,732,600	1,732,600	3,465,200
Niagara-on-the-Lake	386,227	386,227	772,453
Pelham	301,185	301,185	602,370
Port Colborne	442,770	442,770	885,540
St. Catharines	2,718,320	2,718,320	5,436,640
Thorold	368,883	368,883	737,766
Wainfleet	136,860	136,860	273,720
Welland	990,994	990,994	1,981,988
West Lincoln	222,074	222,074	444,149
Total	8,832,074	8,832,074	17,664,148

Total General & Waste Management Interim Levy			
Municipality	March 11, 2020	May 13, 2020	Total Interim Levy
Fort Erie	6,395,182	6,395,182	12,790,364
Grimsby	7,314,614	7,314,614	14,629,228
Lincoln	5,742,310	5,742,310	11,484,620
Niagara Falls	21,025,339	21,025,339	42,050,678
Niagara-on-the-Lake	8,249,908	8,249,908	16,499,816
Pelham	4,091,548	4,091,548	8,183,095
Port Colborne	3,422,106	3,422,106	6,844,211
St. Catharines	26,988,252	26,988,252	53,976,504
Thorold	4,005,544	4,005,544	8,011,088
Wainfleet	1,514,184	1,514,184	3,028,368
Welland	8,451,441	8,451,441	16,902,882
West Lincoln	3,063,062	3,063,062	6,126,123
Total	100,263,488	100,263,488	200,526,976