

**Public Meeting – 2017 Budget
Eastons Corners
January 12, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.
Questions from Public**

QUESTION	ANSWER
Does the Municipality receive information from MPAC?	Yes.
Does the Municipality take into account increases in assessed value?	Yes. If you feel their assessment is inaccurate, you may challenge MPAC's decision. Visit https://www.mpac.ca for more information.
Will the Wolford's tax money be spent in Wolford?	We are one Municipality. We cannot take a segregated approach. Merrickville ratepayers' money is used in Wolford and vice versa.
If values have gone up 8% and the Municipality raises taxes by 4.7%, this is a burden for taxpayers. Can there not be an increase this year?	There wasn't an increase last year, but staying at 0% is not sustainable. Please keep in mind that the proposed 4.7% increase comes after there have been no increases in 2015 or 2016.
The water treatment plant was meant to be self-funded on a user fee basis. Are these services fully funded or are reserves being robbed?	There is a 10% annual increase in place in order to get to a point where the water and sewer services are funded on a user fee basis. Currently, reserves are being used to bridge the gap.
Will the landfill be self-funding?	Yes. The recently purchased scales will help us measure this service and put us on the road to breakeven.
What is the purpose of the compactor?	This will save on tipping of the bins. This will cost less and increase the lifespan of the landfill. Breakeven is approximately 4 years from now.
Are the compactor and front-end loader new pieces of equipment?	No. The compactor is an addition to the fleet and is "used". The front-end loader is a replacement of an older 1994 loader and will be a "used" piece of equipment as well.
Has the Municipality looked at how efficient service delivery is?	The Municipality's service levels are dictated by Council. We are always looking for improvement areas.
The increase for Economic Development and Tourism seems high. Can Tourism costs be cut as the tourists don't usually go to Wolford?	It is difficult to maintain a sustainable community and lifestyle when there is no growth. It is important to support growth. A part of that is Economic Development.
Does the Municipality need 17 staff?	Yes, the Municipality has increased demands due to provincial downloading and this number includes both full-time and part-time staff.
What can be cut from the budget to allow for a 0% increase?	Yes, cuts can be made but that would have an adverse effect on service levels. A 0% increase will not allow for sustainability. Contributing to reserves is a proactive way to not allow for major increases in the future.
With respect to MPAC's assessment of farmland increasing by \$3M, what is the projection for the future?	At an MPAC seminar, it was discussed that Eastern Ontario's assessments of farmland are increasing. MPAC is basing their increases on "farmer to farmer" sales. Visit https://www.mpac.ca for more information.
Is it fair that farm assessments have increased by \$3M?	If you do not agree with MPAC's assessment, you may challenge it.
How is the money from the solar panels being allocated?	The money (approximately \$24,000 per year) is in the administrative portion and goes into general operations.
How long is the electricity contract with respect to the solar panels?	The contract is from September 2012 to 2032.