



MEDIA RELEASE

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COUNCIL PASSES 2021 BUDGET WITH A 0% TAX INCREASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – April 30, 2021

At the regular meeting on April 26th, Merrickville-Wolford Council approved a 2021 Budget with a 0% tax increase.

Mayor Douglas Struthers is pleased that Council and staff found ways to keep tax rates the same as last year noting that, “In 2020, we faced a potential 3.13% tax increase but Council and staff collaborated to find additional relief for ratepayers in the early days of the pandemic. Ultimately, we reduced the 2020 increase to only 0.44%, however 2021 is still a difficult time for many residents and businesses.”

Council held two special livestreamed meetings, one on April 6, 2021 and another on April 20, 2021, both dedicated specifically to thoroughly reviewing the draft budget. “Council and staff have done a wonderful job working together to address unprecedented community needs during COVID-19 while maintaining fiscal sustainability and continuing to position us well for the future”, said Mayor Struthers.

CAO/Clerk/Director, Economic Development, Doug Robertson, noted that, “This is a well-balanced, moderate pandemic budget that strategically delivers impactful projects to enhance quality of life and community safety. Even with the 0% tax increase, Council continued to strengthen the Village’s financial stability by approving modest reserve contributions”.

Highlights of the 2021 budget include:

- Over \$520,000 for critical maintenance improvements to extend the life of several rural roads
- Mechanical upgrades to the Merrickville Community Centre, funded by a \$100,000 grant
- A contribution of \$175,000 for a new Fire Rescue Pumper Truck to replace two existing trucks
- Replacement of the Fire Chief/Operations dual-purpose response truck, locking in improved emergency response times from an innovative pilot project
- \$315,000 in lifecycle replacements of the sidewalk plow and an aging snow plow
- Continued downtown beautification with new signage, map display panels and landscaping at the new Merrickville Public Square and Mill Street boulevard adjacent to the Blockhouse

For further information regarding the budget, please visit www.merrickville-wolford.ca or contact:

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