

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK - 2017 BUDGET

Item #	Source	Subject	Comments	Attachments	Follow Up
1	Thamesville	Staffing	What is the total number of staffing? The numbers from the Province show 2116 employees. Response: Administration indicated that the equivalent number of full time staff (FTE's) is 1352 and clarified the difference in numbers being part time staff and volunteer firefighters..		
2	Thamesville	Marketing	Trying to look at marketing of CK objectively. A lot of things go to Ward 6, and we are shortfaling the rural areas. There needs to be a revamping of the Municipal website that is easy to read and understood by visitors and investors. Should look at having a map of CK so you can click on the different communities and information relating to that community would come up (ie. population, recreational facilites, amenities, etc.) Can the website be revamped so every community gets equal billing? Response: The website needs refreshing and we are working on that.		
3	Thamesville	Bridges	Comment: Would like to see the plan for the bridges for the next 2 years go forward.		
4	Thamesville	Taxes	There are 2016 charts showing CK taxes as well as 2016 taxes raised by community and by property class. Would like to see charts like that for what you see coming in 2017. Response: Administration pointed out the challenges with this request. There are a lot of variables to be decided. The proposed draft budget is at 1.96% and is now in Council's hands and this could go up or down. There is also the tax policy. The Province is making changes to lower taxes for multi residential which would raise residential taxes.		
5	Thamesville	Capitol Theatre	We are looking at a huge infrastructure deficit and we have the Capitol Theatre. Is is time to cut the losses and shut the Capitol Theatre or sell it to save money? Response: There was a commitment made to the Federal & Provincial Governments when the Municipality received the \$7M in funding that we could not close the building until 2027, or change its use. All communities need amenities. The toughest decision Council makes is what is the right balance to make the community attractive enough to live in.		
6	Thamesville	Culture	Comment: I enjoy culture and support the concept of quality of life. I have been to the Capitol Theatre once and go to the Mary Webb Centre more often. We farm and are not able to attend these in October and in the spring. I think that when you use the entire municipality in your calculations of cost per resident, it probably wasn't fair. There are a number of us far enough away that cannot use that facility the way someone in Guelph can. Guelph has a concentrated population compared to what we have here.		
7	Thamesville	Taxes	Farm taxes are doubling. Has someone sat down with the numbers and looked at the impact on farmland, and if so can you see a disproportionate shift in the burden? Will that be looked at? Response: Administration discussed the challenge of CK having such a low industrial base, which means shifting more on the residential class, which is already high. If the farm base was lowered then it would be shifted to the residential tax base. Council makes these types of decisions when they set the tax policy in the spring.		
8	Thamesville	Wind Turbines	Wind turbines in North Kent. I want to see North Kent 1 stopped. Question about residents of Dover getting free filtration systems. Response: Administration was not aware of free filtration systems and will look into that. The wind turbines are now under the authority of the Province. The Green Energy Act transferred the authority from our Council to the Province		Administration to look into issue regarding free filtration systems
9	Thamesville	Consultants	Do you think it is feasible to look at bringing in contract consultants that carry their own liability insurance with complimentary staff? They would be responsible for 80% of what we are contracting out right now. That would be cost savings to get us away of high cost of consultants. Response: We are very strategic with our approach. We do a lot of designs internally and where we need additional expertise we look to consultants. These consultants bring an entire team with them, not only the liability part, but designers, construction expertise, biologist. It makes fiscal sense for us to hire a consultant team. We are always doing comparisons and what we could be doing differently to keep costs down.		
10	Tilbury	Staffing	What is the number of Engineers working to optimize our 5% bridges & 20% drains in CK? Response: hire consultants (experts in their fields); have 5 Civil Engineers within IES		
11	Tilbury	Bridges	Have consultants and staff been tasked to optimizing bridges? Response: Yes, have regular inspection cycle for bridges, where optimization occurs (i.e. replace railing, if over/undersized, short/long term solutions)		

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12	Tilbury	Bridges	Options to open Morris and Pollard Bridges Responses: have forwarded information to Council but no discussion/decision as of yet. IES has put together what is needed in terms of cost but is not part of the 2017 budget as it stands now - outside the 1.96%. Will depend on Council direction. Council/Budget Cttee will discuss, deliberate and decide next steps.		
13	Tilbury	Municipal Comparators	How relevant are the municipal comparitors when most are more urbanized than CK? Response: not relevant/comparators available are not strong. Windsor has 1400 people per square kilometer and CK has 42. CK issues are unique. Most logical is Kirkland but data not available. Suggestions were Lakeshore, Kingston, Sudbury		
14	Tilbury	Bridges	Need money for bridges. Can you cut other areas to bring dollars to bridges? Response: Budget Cttee has tough decisions to make without affecting service or impacting assets. But do want to find a solution.		
15	Blenheim	CK Web	Request to meet with ITS re website & review his plan. Like to see rural areas treated equally. Suggestion: ability to click on map of community that shows all its amenities		Request forwarded to the CAO
16	Blenheim	Reports to Council	Reports are not clear or accurate. The money spent on projects due to poor reports could have been used for infrastructure. For example: Bradley Centre, industrial park, Kingston Park. Request to meet with staff to review/reassemble reports to Council, what needs to be declared.		Request forwarded to the CAO
17	Blenheim	Bradley Centre	Report re Bradley Centre indicated an operating loss of \$984,000 but that loss is really 10 times that amount. Reports are not accurate. Have list of reports that cost the ratepayers \$55M. RESPONSE: The Chief Financial Officer explained that the outlay of cash was \$1M annually with a significant portion of that to repay the debt (debenture). Actual operating was just over \$300,000 deficit.		
18	Blenheim	Cost of Living	People living on pension but costs continue to increase. What are the chances of lowering the taxes? Do all bridges have to be \$10M? Are there simpler designs? RESPONSE: Administration explained there are 1800 bridges <3 meters where CK is using steel culverts and constantly looking at alternative methods & meeting with KFA. Similar issues with roads where construction and material costs are exceeding budgets.		
19	Blenheim	Wheatley	Consider giving Wheatley to Leamington RESPONSE: biggest challenge as a municipality is its size. 2500 sq. kilometer of infrastructure with 42 people per sq. kilometer to service it. Windsor has 1400 people per sq. kilometer.		
20	Blenheim	Debt	Like to know total debt and make cuts to gain efficiency (operate more economically) RESPONSE: The Chief Financial Officer showed slide indicating \$70M of the debt had been paid over 6 years. Only \$19.4M remaining paid from the tax base.		
21	Blenheim	POLICE	Why are there two SWAT teams and so many Police cars? RESPONSE: Council has ability to reduce the Police budget but not the ability to specifically remove a service (i.e. Cars or staff). The Police Services Board have the opportunity to come back with recommendation on that reduction or challenge it.		
22	Blenheim	Bridges	Proposing bridge closures in rural areas but why not close one in Chatham - no reason for two. RESPONSE: Council heard several concerns re traffic flow when Parry Bridge was closed from June to Sept. Recent Council decision to keep two open. Administration explained that proposed closures were considered on low volume roads (less than 200 vehicles/day) only.		
23	Blenheim	Bridges	Would bridge closures affect fire insurance rates of residents and businesses. RESPONSE: The Fire Chief clarified that an independent organization called Fire Underwriters (FUS) does independent reviews of fire services and provides a rating based on multiple factors. One of the factors is water supply – either by hydrant proximity to your house or by the department's ability to provide water supply (demonstrated & certified) via a tanker shuttle of water to remote locations. He advised that our rating is over the 5 year period and as such we expect to be getting another evaluation at some point in the future. Having bridges taken out of the system could affect that ability but at this point we don't have that data. FES is planning to do that evaluation this year with IES and Fleet.		
24	Blenheim	Infrastructure Deficit	Do other municipalities suffer from the same type of deficiencies? RESPONSE: all municipalities are facing similar challenges		
25	Blenheim	Government Funding	Trudeau promises of money for infrastructure projects. Is CK anticipating a larger amount of federal money for future projects? RESPONSE: Yes/hoping - no programs announced yet		

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26	Blenheim	China/Ec Dev	Staff should not be going to China, not see one job from there. What about Holland. Who is paying for these trips? RESPONSE: Director Investment Attraction & Government Affairs advised they do go to Holland, Europe and USA. Recently signed Memo of Understanding with China but will be pulling back a bit on going to China. Economic Development is working with a number of clients & looking for small to mid-sized companies. The Mayor has a budget for these types of trips, approved by Council.		
27	Blenheim	Capitol Theatre / Bradley Convention Centre	Putting out millions of dollars to operate both per year. Why is the convention centre operated by & catered by a London firm? Is there no one in Chatham-Kent? RESPONSE: RFP for Bradley Center was awarded to Compass Canada (Mississauga firm but offices all over). Contract is in place until 2018 at which time another RFP will go out. It is an open public bidding process. Staff - hired locally. Not aware of any purchases for additional parking.		
28	Blenheim	Election	Portion balloting for Mayor? RESPONSE: received advise from the Clerk that if do for the Mayor would need to do for all positions. Becomes way too complicated and costly.		
29	Blenheim	Blenheim Arena	Rink side advertising - invoices come from a company out of North York/Toronto. Can CK staff not do that? RESPONSE: Believe is a contract and revenue stream for CK. Clarification required. General Manager of Community Development offered to follow-up with Manager, Recreation Facilities.		General Manager, Community Development offered to follow-up with Manager, Recreation Facilities
30	Blenheim	Entegrus	Received call re telephone survey from a Kentucky company re Entegrus Service. Do we own Entegrus? Why would a company from Kentucky want to know about our service? RESPONSE: CK owns 90% of Entegrus and receives \$3M annually in dividends.		
31	Blenheim	Bridge Closure	Roads with closed bridges (Tomak Line) noticeably have less road maintenance and the property owner has to call in requests for road maintenance (grader, dust) as a result. RESPONSE: With bridges being closed creates longer distances for maintenance. Will take under consideration.		
32	Blenheim	Staffing	How radical would it be for Public Works to go to a 4-day work week? Would see 20% savings on wages, fuel, equipment use, etc. RESPONSE: Chief Human Resource Officer HROD/Customer Services explained that service level and delivery of services were a part of the service review process that could include reductions of staff, moving from full-time to part-time and layoffs. Will pass on suggestions to the General Manager of Infrastructure and Engineering, who regularly charges his group on these kinds of things. All is doable and workable and happening present day.		Chief Human Resource Officer HROD/Customer Services to pass suggestion on to General Manager, Infrastructure & Engineering
33	Blenheim	Staffing	Productivity of workforce - like to see productivity of workforce increase. For example: road in Erieau with no gravel along the side and road is now breaking away; yesterday dump truck drives into and then out of Erieau; asphalt truck with box up and driver sitting in truck with feet on dash. Staff need to know that all of us are taxpayers (their boss) and we are watching. It's demoralizing. RESPONSE: Council are regularly advised of similar instances and they are followed-up on with the appropriate GM/CAO.		
34	Blenheim	Staffing	Employee rate is 42% of the base budget. Is that a lot or less when compared to municipalities of similar size? RESPONSE: the big variable is the amount of money for infrastructure but for the vast majority, Chatham-Kent is low in staffing costs. Staffing in CK is much leaner than it is in London.		
35	Blenheim	Affordability	There are a number of people who are down and out and cannot afford to pay their bills. RESPONSE: Council does realize and understand and why struggle to balance what need to do. It is important to produce a responsible budget.		
36	Wallaceburg	Capitol Theatre	Thought we weren't putting any more money into the Capitol Theatre. Could you file bankruptcy? Response: No, could not file bankruptcy. St. Clair College ran the Capitol Theatre for 4 years and they absorbed all the operating expenses for that. At the end of 4 years they were running a deficit. The Municipality has an obligation to run the theatre until 2027, which was part of the condition of receiving the \$7M in Federal and Provincial funding. Council looked at all the options. We are in a position where it is going to be a \$545,000 cost.		

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37	Wallaceburg	Convention Centre	<p>Convention Centres never show a profit. So why does Chatham keep putting money in the Convention Centre?</p> <p>Response: There is no Convention Centre, or Theatre that makes money. There was strong support for a Convention Centre when the Memorial Arena closed. When you look at what types of things you want in the community that make it an attractive place to live, the feedback we got from the business community was a Convention Centre.</p>		
38	Wallaceburg	Convention Centre	<p>Thought Council said no to putting money towards paving the Convention Centre parking lot. Then see 3 weeks later it being paved. Was told contingency fund was used to pay for the parking lot.</p> <p>Response: There was always a plan to have it paved. Don't recall a decision not to pave the parking lot. Will look into that.</p>		CAO to look into Council decision regarding paving Convention Centre parking lot
39	Wallaceburg	Roads	<p>In Chatham entire streets are paved. In Wallaceburg we get patches done.</p> <p>Response: The challenge is we are underfunded. We are constantly prioritizing roads and only the roads that truly need to be paved, or the sections that need to be paved are what gets done. We have a good database on roads. We look at the worse and most frequently traveled. We also look at what storm sewers, sanitary sewer work needs to be done and coordinate with the PUC to do the work in sync with them so work is done once.</p> <p>We are doing work in Wallaceburg this year and next year. We need to spend \$30M and that only gets us 25% done as far as Wallaceburg goes. We have many older conditions in CK and all we can do at this time is spot repairs.</p>		
40	Wallaceburg	Taxes	<p>Kingsville has lowest taxes. Is there a reason you don't go to Kingsville to see how they do it?</p> <p>Response: We do share information and are trying to figure out how we can adopt best practices. Kingsville is a one tier government. You would have to combine Essex County and Kingsville together to make a fair comparison. CK has expensive infrastructure. We have a lot of linear space. We are doing everything we can to make it as cost effective as possible</p>		
41	Wallaceburg	Taxes	<p>St. Thomas has new industries and have the lowest industrial tax base around. Why aren't you copying what they are doing?</p> <p>Response: Council has copied some of those strategies. We have lowered our industrial tax rate. Our tax change in our assessment is gone up \$1.125M in the last year. Our unemployment rates have also dropped. We have to set budget to make sure there is enough money to do what we have to do. Later in spring Council sets the tax rate and we distribute the amounts of monies. Council has tried to reduce tax rate. If we reduce the industrial tax rate then that burden has to be shared primarily by our residential taxpayers. We have approximately 68% of our overall tax base which is paid by residential taxpayers. That is very high compared to Province. To put more burden is tough. Farmers expressing concern because their tax burden has gone from 4% to 8% in terms of that distribution. Direct result of the industrial tax base leaving our community in 2008. We are doing everything we can to lure people back to reduce the overall burden.</p>		
42	Wallaceburg	Taxes	<p>In Toronto if you have a 1200 sq ft house the taxes are \$3,000. In CK \$200,000 home has same taxes. We don't have subways and everything else.</p> <p>Response: Toronto has 2000 people per sq km to pay for those items, where we have 42 people per sq km.</p>		
43	Wallaceburg	Debt	<p>Is a priority to get rid of debt?</p> <p>Response: There would be penalties that would have to be paid to get out of it. Most of our debt is expiring over the next 5 years. Any balances that we have in our bank account we are looking at investing them as best we can to get the highest rate. We have reduced our debt from \$180M in 2008 to \$94M. It has been a very aggressive attempt to pay it down.</p>		
44	Wallaceburg	Bridges	<p>How much of the money to build bridges goes to consultant fees, engineering fees. They spent millions to build a bridge over a ditch 18" wide.</p> <p>Response: We only use consultants when we have capacity issues (we don't have enough people to design it, or the expertise). Most small bridges are done in house with our engineering staff. There are certain bridges, like Lord Selkirk, where we don't have that expertise and some of the consulting firms have to go outside of Ontario to get that expertise. When you work with a consulting firm, one advantage is that the liability resides with the designer. We are looking at every new technology we can. When we look at bridges we look at long term what is the total cost of that asset. It may be more up front sometimes, but in the long term we all save. Sometimes it makes more sense to build a new bridge from scratch rather than spending on extending the life. We always look at total cost over the life of the bridge not just the initial investment.</p>		

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45	Wallaceburg	Capitol Theatre	Why does the Capitol Theatre need the equivalent of 7 fulltime staff? Response: We had 3 bids for theTheatre. They were all very similar in terms of the staffing models. The Municipality ran the Capitol Theatre at one point, so we have an idea of the expectation.		
46	Wallaceburg	Railway	Recently trucks were rerouted through the industrial zone and as a result of the heavy trucks a rail came loose. A backhoe was used which caused more damage to the road bed. I have 40 years of rail experience and I tried to explain to the supervisor how best to take the track out and was ignored. Now another rail has come loose as well. Why would CK not ask for a professional opinion on how best to fix that crossing? Response: We want to do things the right way. If you see anything that isn't being done right please call 519-360-1998 so we can address any issues.		GM of IES to look into the issue
47	Wallaceburg	Social Housing	Is social housing part of the Asset Management Plan and was it looked at? Response: The 1st phase of the AMP included Social housing. In the list you will see social housing/municipally owned and social housing/partners. Municipally owned is one of our better asset categories where the lifecycle is \$884,000. We are almost fully funded. There is a bit of a deficit on the other of \$400,000 but we have partnerships with those.		
48	Wallaceburg	Police/Fire	Comment: Like hearing the Police Chief and Fire Chief on the radio		
49	Chatham	Police	Comments: There is a lot of information that should be published on the website for the public to save some phone calls In 1998 we had budget \$195M and 112,000 population and had full complement of taxes (commercial & industrial). Today down to 102,000 population and have fewer resources for taxation. Disposable income needs to be back in the hands of the people. Requested a breakdown of police budget.		Police Chief to follow-up with individual
50	Chatham	Sidewalks	Would like Fourth street included in the sidewalk replacement plan. It is a major sidewalk from downtown to Queen Street. Would like to see the CIP program reinstated for commercial areas. Response: It is not included at this time. We haven't tendered the work either. There may be opportunities there if we can get some aggressive pricing. We could also look at it for the following year.	#1	Letter attached
51	Chatham	Reserves	Explain drawdown type of reserves. Response: Mandated reserves are funds that we receive that we have to spend for a very specific purpose. Assigned reserves are where we put funding in towards strategic investments and Council has the discretion to move those around. Lifecycle reserves are specific to the infrastructure.		
52	Chatham	Bridges	The bridges in Dover were built when horse and wagons were used. Does someone look at these bridges? Question why some bridges built there. It would be good idea to talk to the local people. Response: We are examining bridges now. A divestment list was created in 2012 and there are 25 bridges on the list. The criteria used was is it absolutely necessary, the amount of use of that bridge and was there a work around. Have heard from the community they don't want bridges closed.		
53	Chatham	Salaries	Concern about the payroll numbers. We have a public sector that averages more than the private sector. If you got payroll under control and there was an effort to reduce and get the numbers below average then business will start looking at CK because taxes are reasonable, services are reasonable, everything is reasonable and stable. Response: A lot of our services are directly related to staff. We are doing everything to drive efficiencies on the staff level.		
54	Chatham	Street Lighting	Recommendation to keep the street lighting budget at the same level it was in 2016. With LED lighting there is less maintenance. What is the savings to the community? Response: There is \$100,000 in surplus in 2016 because of the conversion. In the 2017 budget \$400,000 was cut for hydro costs and \$75,000 for maintenance for a \$475,000 savings because of that conversion. The benefits of LED ae reduced power consumption and reduced overall maintenance. That means we will have a payback in less than 5 years.		
55	Chatham	Winter Control	Recommendation to keep the Winter control budget exactly the same as what you spent last year to save money. Response: The amount includes clearing roads, sidewalks and all the salting. Weather is a variable. We did an analysis and went back 10 years and are predicting \$4.5M this year. If we have an average winter our budget is right on line. There are cycles and sometimes we are higher and sometimes lower. When we are lower we keep those in reserves to fund when higher.		

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56	Chatham	Street Sweeper	<p>Recommendation to keep street sweeping the same as last year. Once that budget is exhausted, stop doing street sweeping.</p> <p>Suggestion to tell the students you hire to do more than what has been asked for. When cleaning off the drain they should also be cleaning further down so it doesn't clog again.</p> <p>Response: The street cleaner is designed to clean streets and helps with that problem. We need the support of the public and ask that they don't sweep any type of debris, leaves, etc. on road because that is what happens. We then have to send out our employees, which increases the costs. A reminder will be sent to the public to please retain your own debris. In the end it benefits everyone.</p>		GM of IES to send reminder to the public regarding debris
57	Chatham	Taxes	<p>Recommendation for signs, pavements and markings. Budgeted \$980,000 and spent \$741,000 for savings \$238,000. Reduce budgets.</p> <p>Response: We are looking at inflationary increases. We have legal requirements for signs and markings for the safety of the community. Some of these suggestions we can't cut because of legislative requirements.</p>		
58	Chatham	Taxes	<p>Does continuous tax increases help or hinder our business retention and attraction to the community? Why are we not getting business and people here?</p> <p>Response: We have spent 70% of our budget on the existing business base in the community effectively assisting them with facilitating an expansion. We recently helped a company that received a significant investment from the government. That company had about 24 employees 5 years ago and are now pushing 200 today. We are doing much better economically then we used to. We are approaching a comfortable level for employment. Taxes are a factor for companies looking at communities, but not a significant driving factor. More importantly they look at logistics, price of hydro and incentives available to invest here vs in other jurisdiction. The top concern for companies looking at investing in the community is the available workforce. If you haven't got the workforce then won't get considered. We haven't lost a company because of property taxes.</p>		
59	Chatham	Fire/EMS	<p>Request to review strategies regarding Fire and EMS.</p> <p>Response: CAO to follow-up about these recommendations.</p>		CAO to follow-up with individual
60	Chatham	Bridges	<p>How much have you spent on Parry Bridge on both contracts? Why did we pay twice? There was a hole after they worked on the bridge.</p> <p>Response: We had to load grade that bridge. That created challenges for all our residents so we worked with the first contractor to try and increase that load grading to allow more vehicles to cross. That investment reinforced the structure. We were going to wait to do the complete rehab in the following year but we found a way to reinforce the bridge and that money added to the value of the bridge. We did spend on 2 different occasions but the first time allowed us to increase the load grade to assist some of the farmers and the second time we took that investment and now we have a structure that fully meets all the needs of all vehicles. Will follow up for details regarding the hole.</p>		GM of IES to follow up with individual about hole in the bridge
61	Chatham	Roads	<p>Condition of roads in Chatham Twp are terrible and need to be fixed. (Darrell Road and Calendonia). The gravel put on these roads is poor quality.</p> <p>Response: The key to good roads is drainage. We have 1700 km of gravel roads and none were designed very well as modern practices. We want to take soil samples and then determine long term are we further ahead to reconstruct the road as opposed to continuing this cycle. We are constantly prioritizing roads.</p>		
62	Chatham	Water wells	<p>What is administration and Council doing now to find out what is happening to our natural resource, particularly in Dover Twp., in our ground water wells? Is it being caused by the turbines? What if we have to go to municipal water from lake Erie. Referenced newspaper article to conserve water and low water levels.</p> <p>Response: Council directed administration to attend an investigation regarding the issue. There were a number of assurances provided. Before any turbines are built there is a requirement that there will be ground water testing done in advance and then they will be retested. If there are any negative impacts to the ground water there is an obligation on the turbine company to address those concerns and make it right. The ultimate responsibility for that environmental protection rests with the Province of Ontario. Council is very concerned and they are continuing to monitor that and find out whatever can be done. CAO to follow up regarding newspaper article.</p>		CAO to follow-up on newspaper article
63	Email	Wallaceburg Train Tracks	<p>Jan 24 - Tom Van Damme - suggest selling train track land back to the owner to save maintenance costs and create capital</p>	#2	Email attached



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January 26, 2017

RE: Pre Budget Presentation

Thank-you to Councillor Robertson & Committee for hosting these Community Open Houses. Although attendance is sparse this year, it does demonstrate accessibility for public input.

The Historic Downtown Chatham~BIA would like to thank the Mayor, Council & Administration for support of the capitol budget recommendation to start & complete the Downtown Chatham Sidewalk Replacement Program this year (2017) and we strongly urge you to add in the connecting sidewalks on 4th Street as part of this year's work.

We respectfully would like to remind the Mayor, Council & Administration that The Historic Downtown Chatham~BIA Area is the largest or 1 of the largest commercially rated tax based areas, in less than a 3 square Kilometer radius. There are approximately 600+ people employed in our boundaries.

The Historic Downtown Chatham~BIA wants to state the importance of re-addressing the C.I.P. Program which was removed from the downtown cores previously. Knowing that there are new owners of several buildings in these areas this program could help sway additional improvements in the downtown areas.

We offer 3 points for you to consider

- a) infrastructure woes will always continue to plague our municipality
- b) the citizens will continue to want a certain standard /quality of life
- c) inflation will never be "0"

Any thoughts of having a "0" % increase budget are not realistic & are unattainable unless there is dramatic cuts in other areas of the budget. Many of which are noted in the citizen budget poll (tab 10g)

Thank-you for your time

Paul Shettell 
 Chair ~~ Historic Downtown Chatham B.I.A.

Jeanette Charbonneau

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: January-24-17 5:27 PM
To: CKfps
Subject: Budget Savings

Hello Council

As a property owner of farm land north of Wallace burg along the train tracks I find it hard to believe that \$150000.00 a year is being spent on maintenance along those tracks. Why as council do you think that keeping that line is a good idea? They are in such bad repair they will never be used again?

Do you think that the rail and aggregate could be roped out and this land sold back to the owners at Fair Market Value?

This would save \$150000.00 a year in maintenance costs, would create capital to go towards infrastructure and increase your tax base. It's a win/win for everyone.

We are getting tired of picking up/trimming the trees hanging into our property. Also controlling the weeds that are growing up along the tracks.

Also with the almost doubling of land values where is all that extra tax revenue going to go? Hopefully used in rural areas and not being spent on a theatre or convergence center. Other individuals own facilities in Chatham that do not get a tax payers subsidy that has to compete against this convention centre. Is that fair for these business that have meeting rooms beside the restaurants?

Thank you

[REDACTED]