

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK - 2018 BUDGET

Item #	Source	Subject	Comments	Attachments	Follow Up
1	Ridgetown	CSX RR	Did infrastructure numbers include RR – most expensive one to maintain but have solution – remove rails, stones & let farmers farm it. RESPONSE: Numbers do not include the CSX but doing minimum mtnce & looking for purchaser for RR – feel needed to continue growth – purchased for strictly Ec Dev reasons. Agree, money in the materials.		
2	Ridgetown	Debt	Have debt and year end surpluses, so why not put into budget for zero % tax hike – trying to building infrastructure from within and not in taxes. Where did the \$60M come from? RESPONSE: Spending \$47.5M on infrastructure – over last 10 yrs. as the annual debt drops we have taken that money from debt payments and invested it into infrastructure. Have small tax increases and paid debts to fix more infrastructure – doing so to raise taxes less in future. The key is not to look at one yr. at a time but to look at averages and putting money into reserves to save for larger expenditure – \$47.5M not from one year – saved for it.		
3	Ridgetown	Website	Believes website is not designed for people unfamiliar with CK. In past requested meetings to review suggestions to highlight local communities and what each has to offer. Can we look at after receiving approval from local BIA & Chamber of Commerce? Don't want to see communities loose their identities. RESPONSE: Have made and continue to make improvements to the website and how market the community. Marketing CK on Tourism side. Like idea of working with BIA/Chambers. On a not as popular side, have moved away from profiling and pushing individual communities. We listen to the investor's need and chose the best community to meet their needs. Cannot continue to push one community over another - have one tax base and equally thrilled to see investment in any community – have to listen to what the buyer wants – happy to profile all the assets		
4	Ridgetown	Police	When can public see police budget - not yet available on-line. Disappointed not available sooner. RESPONSE: Should be on-line today/tonight. Police slide presented, available since opening night (Jan 17) Sec. 11. Presentation to Council scheduled for Jan. 30		
5	Ridgetown	Bridges	\$550,000 for bridges, what is the amount already there? RESPONSE: \$10.6M in budget, plus 1% and \$550,000 (2nd year of 3). Will need one more year and will be very close to what is needed.		
6	Ridgetown	Public meeting times	Why do community consultation meetings start at 4 p.m. and not 6 p.m. when public better available. Something to reconsider. RESPONSE: Have presentations at 5 p.m. and here to 6 p.m. to address questions. Can be a decision of next Council and Budget Chair		
7	Ridgetown	Rec & Culture	Request for a breakdown of money spent on culture and recreations. Like to know how much is culture and how much is recreation. And, in breakdown for culture, how much is infrastructure and staff RESPONSE: Administration will provide at a later date.		Director, B&PS will follow up with individual
8	Ridgetown	POC	What is fines & penalties? Do American citizens when in Ontario have to pay (speeding tickets) on the spot? RESPONSE: The POC is governed by Provincial legislation and that is not permitted in Ontario but, do have agreements with various states (i.e. Michigan) that Canadian fines must be paid before renewing driver's license		
9	Ridgetown	Alley Mtnc	Why are alleys behind business sections not being ripped and graded like they have in the past? RESPONSE: Have to follow provincial guidelines for minimum maintenance standards, therefore roads and sidewalks take priority. No mandate for alleyways. Need to determine ownership and if municipally owned then can look into (no promises). It is a bigger challenge if privately owned. May want to consider transferring ownership to municipal then it becomes publically owned and maintained. Clarified that comments only applied if municipally owned. Tour of area was offered.		General Manager, IES - study all of CK, determine ownership (municipal or private); f/u with Road supervisors

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10	Ridgetown	Police	<p>Shared the following list and did not expect a response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - surprised to hear CK is frequently flooded community - ambulance concerns - administration vs Council - see sign of problem - need to come to arrangement where more notice is given to Council to give them time to consult with public - especially if significant issue - see problems with financial system - system does not have the means to recover costs (i.e. Police plain clothes unit). All should be readily available. - is there some way the average taxpayer can determine how much from budget is going to all social costs? - Use to have snow blower to clear streets – if contracts out – hours involved should not be a big expense - Police review and presentation re changing police force. Are missing out by not having that presentation & think it should be done at arms length. Will save a lot of \$. Why stalling on? Is there an onus on administration to bring forward. Have low number of people per sq. kl – applies to police, fire, ambulance and ability to pay – need best system for people of CK. New amendment allows Council to review line by line (section 49(3)). <p>RESPONSE: - considered in 2010-2014 term and not approved; not considered by this term of Council. Police service is a requisitioning body who reports to a board who has 3 municipal representatives. Council has authority to request how budget is to be provided and to vote on value (up or down) - not change it. Administration's job is to work with the police appointed. Suggestion to attend a Police Board meeting if more information is needed. OPP did volunteer in past to make initial presentation for free. To do analysis the cost is \$300,000 could be good value for money.</p>		
11	Ridgetown	Budget Survey	<p>Request copy of public survey responses.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Available in budget binder tab 10</p>		
12	Ridgetown	Bridges	<p>Q - comment made that 50% of bridges built in '60's, will there be the same problem down the road if look at the same structures. Could some be replaced with culverts at less cost?</p> <p>A - Clarified that 50% of our bridges greater than 3 metres were built in the '60's. Budget has a 20 yr. plan – have 850 bridges greater than 3 meters. We inspect and assign cost to replace and used that analyse to determine cost. Most cost effective design for each. Do look at culverts & new technology. Have formed an infrastructure committee and will share that level of detail going forward.</p>		
13	Ridgetown	MPAC	<p>When was the last MPAC assessment? Are we caught up? Can you show tax increase for rural vs farm?</p> <p>RESPONSE: MPAC is a 4 yr. cycle & currently in the 2017-2020 cycle – biggest impact was to farms in all southwestern Ont.</p>		
14	Ridgetown	Buildings	<p>Appreciate using the Scout Hut which was built in '67 by Rotary for scouting and have been meeting in that area since 1913. Hope not on cut list.</p> <p>RESPONSE: No</p>		
15	Ridgetown	Pools	<p>Requested use of pool for special event with Scouts but pool closed on Saturdays. Already has a short season (July and August) why closed on weekends when everyone else is available. Why are they not open 7 days a week. Can adjustments be made to reduce time for indoor pools when they have year round availability?</p> <p>RESPONSE: There is a shortage of lifeguards in all of Ontario. It is difficult for young people to get into due to expense of doing so. There are not enough lifeguards to go around. In another community, closed on Saturday and open on Sunday. Will take comments into consideration.</p>		
16	Ridgetown	Crossing Guards	<p>Alarmed to see crossing guards removed in Ridgetown and other communities received lights. Question timing of study due to the amount of activity in the area</p> <p>RESPONSE: Council has looked at a couple of areas and requested traffic assessment and made changes</p>		
17	Ridgetown	Ambulance	<p>Request for clarification of what is taking place. Hear being taken further away so when need will take longer to respond.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Have 6 ambulances available in CK. Each call to hospital can be 2 to 2.5 hours. The control of calls is handled by the province at an ambulance control centre in Wallaceburg. There are no plans to reduce ambulance service. Part of tax increase is a proposal to add one additional ambulance so staff on next shift can take and start work. A cost of \$225,000 for ambulance if staffed up to \$1.4M. Medavie is working with Chief to provide the most cost efficient service possible.</p>		

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18	Ridgetown	Police	Explain the \$100,000 for new vehicle. RESPONSE: Emergency Command Vehicle to be onsite for period of time and coordinate activities. Should be some shared resourcing.		
19	Ridgetown	Infrastructure	Engineering fees vs Consulting fees - when need to have final engineer's report. Where does that funding show up? Why not design and build to save costs. RESPONSE: Depending on the work, some is done in house & part of Engineering budget. If larger project, consultant would design and undertake environment assessment, public and contract engagements. Cost would be a percentage of the cost depending on the project. Design and Build - no huge advantage to - 12% to 88% real savings found in construction - have a number of firms bidding on and competing – able to standardize		
20	Tilbury	Bridges	Is Morris Line Bridge going to be started RESPONSE: It is being tendered this spring and will be started.		
21	Tilbury	Roads	Roads are always going to be an issue. Divestment in roads is not a good word in the farming community.		
22	Tilbury	Bridges	Is the Gleeson bridge going to be saved? RESPONSE: As long as there is funding. This still needs to be looked at.		
23	Blenheim	Ambulance	Explain the new ambulance system and why administration is not recommending the \$1.4 for a new staffed ambulance. RESPONSE: Used a comparison between fire and ambulance locations, one being in a static location and the other on the move. 911 calls for an ambulance are dispatched to a call centre in Wallaceburg operated by the Province. Based on the information collected, calls are prioritized to determine the urgency - similar to a triage system. Someone with a sprain is less urgent than someone not breathing. They are not the Ridgetown or Blenheim ambulance and could find themselves to be regularly out of area. The idea of an ambulance in an area is misleading because they are constantly moving. There is an AVL locator in each ambulance so dispatch knows where each one is and able to send the most appropriate one (closest/fastest). The idea that it may be coming from Blenheim is a misconception. If sitting in Blenheim they are not responding to calls. The cost of \$1.4M is accurate if buying a fully staffed ambulance which is listed as not recommended. CK does not dispatch ambulance. A week ago ran out of ambulances because the Province was dealing with a surge of demand in another community. If CK had added an ambulance in Blenheim, it would have also been sent to that other community. What is recommended is the purchase of one additional ambulance with no staff. Will then have an ambulance to take patients to the hospital and if one is held past shift change, the oncoming crew, who normally waits at the station for the vehicle, will be able to start work. The added vehicle will ease that pressure without a full tax increase. Next year CK may want to add a staffed vehicle.		
24	Blenheim	Staffing	Have said 50% of budget is provincial funding for things like public health & Ontario works and a vast part of salaries are paid by Province. What happens if funding stops? How many of those jobs have been terminated? RESPONSE: When funding stops, those employees would loose their jobs. Example was the recent provincial funding cut in child care services where 23 people were terminated. People are aware of this when hired.		
25	Blenheim	Staffing	What are those positions? See slashing students but hiring others. RESPONSE: Are proposing to add 22 Base staff at cost of \$544,000 most of which come with provincial funding. Re what the jobs are, can provide that detail after the meeting and, all budget details, including the 22 positions, are posted on the website (tab 10F).		Director, B&PS - review staffing request detail with individual
26	Blenheim	Wind Turbines	What are the tax dollars from wind companies? RESPONSE: Will depend on the size of the tower. In 2017 was \$2.2M annual tax. Is about the same tax dollars for a wind tower as is for a house - average \$3,000 to \$4,000/tower. The larger the tower, the more tax dollars received. The rate is set by the Province. CK is being more aggressive and demanding dollars and community benefit over and above tax. CK recently negotiated a \$4M tax benefit with the North Kent turbine project and \$2M with South Kent to go towards safety upgrades at the CK airport. CK made decision to invest (via Entegrus) into a wind project to get a 10% return on our money. Trying to maximize the benefits back to the community. As well, wind companies pay for any damage to road or drainage systems so as not to impact the taxpayers.		

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27	Blenheim	Wind Turbines	Is CK taking on all the liability (i.e. problems with water wells) RESPONSE: The turbine company has that liability. Example – Province of Ontario received Council pressure & was the first time companies were required to do post testing of water well at their expense. The extent of CK liability would be that made an investment, That risk is relatively low and those dollars are secure> Will benefit \$20M over life of project that can be used to invest into CK. Tower life expectancy is 20 years and they take down the towers. Agreed that the life expectancy could go beyond the 20 year timespan.		
28	Blenheim	Public meeting times	Why only 2.5 hours in 3 locations. Is not enough time and should be a whole day.		
29	Blenheim	Blenheim CAO Rail Line	Spray weed control - also giant rag weed.		
30	Blenheim	Arena	Arena advertising - length of time		
31	Blenheim	Wind Turbines	Decommission wind turbines - Pattern Samsung		
32	Wallaceburg	Website	Would like to meet with the CAO and ITS to discuss the Municipal website. The Municipal website caters to people within our community. Believe it is difficult for investors and tourists to pick up on what CK is. Propose that the site be restructured and that the front page of the website profile CK's 23 communities. Make it quick and easy to access information. If you click on Wallaceburg, you will see all the amenities that Wallaceburg has.		
33	Wallaceburg	Service Challenges	The population per sq km for CK is 43 compared to Windsor of 1552. Are you talking square footage of the whole rural area or are you comparing it to downtown Windsor. That is not a comparison at all. RESPONSE: We have 43 people/sq km in the entirety of CK. This is highlighting the challenges that exist with the type of infrastructure demands that we have. For example, we have 5% of all the bridges in all of Ontario with 43 people/sq km to service that. It is not a fair comparison. It is an extreme challenge that CK has to face in terms of being able to service all the roads, sanitary, bridges and culverts with such a low population density.		
34	Wallaceburg	Taxes	Our taxes are low but what about the ability to pay those taxes. I don't see the take home pay comparison to other municipalities. RESPONSE: It is information that Council received in the BMA report. Windsor has a higher population density to draw from within their boundaries that they have to pay their taxes. RESPONSE: We point out to the Provincial Government that CK is very unique and different from a lot of municipalities. The government implements programs for communities over 100,000 and sometimes we get disqualified. We are saying the Provincial Government should base it first on population and then it should be population density because that reflects the ability to pay on a per sq km vs CK of 43 people.		
35	Wallaceburg	Bridges	KFA has presented a number of options to reduce maintenance and repairs of bridges. A committee was struck by Council and has yet to meet and precluded the individuals of presenting the options for decreasing the costs for these bridges. RESPONSE: We went through a matrix and scoring system. The committee was populated at the last Committee of Council and should be meeting within the next month. Councillors Carmen McGregor, Derek Robertson and Darrin Cannif have been assigned to that committee, as well as a member of KFA.		
36	Wallaceburg	Bridges	The Base Line Bridge was built in 1993. How come we don't have a bypass in Wallaceburg? The Lord Selkirk bridge was built in 1950 and is not meant for heavy trucks. RESPONSE: The Mayor will be meeting with MTO and talking about the bypass around Wallaceburg. The bridge is going to be fixed this year. Once that is done we should be talking about doing that roadway and transferring traffic from one part to another.		
37	Wallaceburg	Police	How come we don't have volunteer auxiliary? RESPONSE: We have 23 auxiliary officers that help out at special events and assist with traffic control		
38	Chatham	Public meeting times	Why do you hold these meetings from 4:30 - 6:00 pm and not 7:00 - 9:00 pm RESPONSE: For the past 8 years we have begun these meetings at the same time. The next Council can consider this.		

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39	Chatham	Budget	<p>The current budget format is a broad overview and does not give people the opportunity to understand and so it is hard for people to become engaged. We need a complete profit and loss statement. Capital investment, Capitol Theatre, Bradley Centre all need to be articulated. Propose a 3 level budget. Level 1 is the overview. Level 2 division that outlines each of the 21 divisions and departments with a breakdown so public can understand. Level 3 is a line by line.</p> <p>RESPONSE: A vast majority of the items listed as "other" are internal allocations, contribution to reserve fund, allocations between 2 departments and not expenses that you would consider such as hydro & staff. These are not items that we go into depth with because they are administrative type items. We have to do financial statements and report to Council and highlight our performance. The first 2 levels of information are available on our website. (Tab 11)</p>		
40	Chatham	User Fees	<p>Elaborate on user fee increases</p> <p>RESPONSE: There is a listing of user fees proposing to get raised. Associated with areas of minimum wage increases. Recreation Services and cost to run program higher, raised fees to accommodate that.</p>		
41	Chatham	Budget	<p>How does Council come by items to be considered and get recommended or not recommended? Will the public have an opportunity to debate?</p> <p>RESPONSE: Council, by way of Notice of Motion, will see a need and will deliberate on a matter and will direct staff to include in the budget. An example is the Children's Treatment Centre. It was brought to Council to invest \$1.5 million that can be leveraged towards a build of over \$20 million in our community. We have to make a judgement and develop mechanism through reserves or tax base. If recommended from staff then it comes to Council or Budget Committee and we go through the budget deliberations and entertain motions to include or remove an item. Each item comes through by motion and then voted on to include or exclude. The public has the opportunity to bring a deputation to speak on an item.</p>		
42	Chatham	Ambulance	<p>Adding a vehicle is very important to our community. That unit will benefit the person who calls us. It changes patient's outcomes, not our workload. The \$1.4 million to add additional staff unit, if broken down to population is \$10/person, and second year 50% funded by Province. Confused because it is so important to the community and yet it is not being considered again this year. There have been no upgrades or up staffing for the past 12 years, yet increase in call volumes. The ones that call 911 are the ones that lose.</p> <p>RESPONSE: The \$1.4 million is a full % increase on taxes. That day may come when talk to Medavie about adding 10 new staff. We are examining all the ways to meet the increasing pressure on the system and working with Medavie to see about reducing load of work. We take into account the whole system to find efficient and effective ways that won't break the bank. We want best possible care. Working closely with Medavie on how best to meet the needs of the customer and patient care.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Each year Council sets direction to administration regarding the level of threshold that we are looking for in the budget presented. Areas we must accomodate, nice to do items, items directed by Council to be invested in, some just don't make the list because of threshold given by Council. The responsibility we encumber administration with is deliver a budget most responsible to deliver on service and prudent for our taxpayers. The budget is delivered within that. Bill 148 changes - push it out. The accountability for setting budget lies with Council. Reports come with much debate. Incumbent what level of service can deliver.</p>		
43	Chatham	RVG	Staff at Riverview Gardens are fantastic, care is wonderful; but more frontline staff would be helpful.		
44	Chatham	Handi-bus	Handi-bus service is great. Staff are friendly, patient, helpful, but we need more buses. Sometimes it is difficult to set a time slot and wait times can sometimes be long for the elderly. Also there is no service outside Chatham.		
45	Email	Taxes	The biggest complaint people moving here have about living in CK are the costs of taxes. For Budget 2018, before you cut services in CK, cut middle management ranks. A tax increase up to the level of inflation may be acceptable, less would be better.	#1	Email attached

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: January 7, 2018 8:53 AM
To: Bob Myers <Bob.Myers@chatham-kent.ca>; Brock McGregor <Brock.McGregor@chatham-kent.ca>; Darrin Canniff <Darrin.Canniff@chatham-kent.ca>; Derek Robertson <Derek.Robertson@chatham-kent.ca>; Doug Sulman <dougs@chatham-kent.ca>; Michael Bondy <Michael.Bondy@chatham-kent.ca>; CKmayor <CKmayor@chatham-kent.ca>
Subject: Taxes: Biggest Life Expense

Our biggest life expense, now that our home is paid for, is taxes.

Taxes at the municipal, provincial and federal level. Taxes on income, taxes on everything I purchase, services and goods. I do understand the need for taxes. However, it appears that there is little room for common sense, policies dictate how every issue is dealt with, at every level. If I was the CAO I would want it that way too.

I have practically no say on these expenses.

All I can do is whine!

I can chose the neighbourhood I live in, the car I drive, the vacations I go on.

Mayor Hope has mentioned making the municipality attractive, it has to be physically and financially, not only for business but also for citizens. The biggest complaint people moving here have about living in Chatham-Kent is not the cost of real estate but the cost of taxes!

I know that Chatham-Kent is sparsely populated, almost all of Canada is.

For Budget 2018, before you talk about cutting services in Chatham-Kent please ensure that middle management ranks have been cut, that efficiencies are being realized.

I suspect a tax increase up to the level of inflation may be acceptable. less would be better.

Thank you for reading.

[REDACTED]

P.S. I didn't even mention snow removal - its been pretty good! Grass cutting - not so good!