

CHATHAM-KENT 2020 BUDGET

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Item #	Meeting Location	Subject	Comments
1	Blenheim	Provincial Download	Question asked prior to presentation: What does Rob Ford have to do with this budget? RESPONSE: 1.5% - contains Health Unit, Ambulance, Childcare & OMPF for low assessment. The province has taken those funds to assist with their deficit.
2	Blenheim	Lake Erie Shoreline Funding / Arts and Culture Funding	There is nothing about shoreline funding. Also, we talk about the importance of Culture but only 25 cents from the total breakdown goes to arts and culture. I would rather pay 50 cents to support and promote it better. RESPONSE: The Shoreline Study will be submitted to the public with the final report coming to Council in March. That report comes first to set direction. Council will then need to approve the plan going forward. Based on that approved plan, we would move forward with contacting the Province if that is in the plan. There is no funding in this budget as there will be no construction happening until 2021. CK taxpayers won't have to foot 100% of the bill. There are engineering studies happening on Talbot Trail, too, and where the road is closed but that is for the 2021 construction year. You indicated 25 cents for Arts and Culture, it is actually 25 dollars. When we look at budgets, we always have to try and balance that fine line between community services, roads and bridges and assets and infrastructure and emergency services like fire and police. My team is looking at grants and other opportunities to bring more funding in. Thank you for pointing out that arts and culutre make our community a great place to live.
3	Blenheim	Tax Increase / Funding for Police and Fire	Windsor has received Provincial Funding, what is their tax increase? When you look at the overall budget for Chatham-Kent, Police and Fire get almost half. Can you cut from Police and Fire? RESPONSE: 3.5-4% increase now for Windsor. In Essex County, when the lower tiers come out with public announcements, they state the tax rate, not the budget. Lakeshore announced that the tax rate was going up 0.9%, but their actual budget went up by 8% (not confirmed yet). We in Chatham-Kent need to decide on what Council wants to do with the budget and then Council divides it up. These processes are separate. For the first night of deliberations, we will have an updated slide of where everyone else is at. Most drafts are 4-8% with budgets in 3-5%. For Fire, what you see is a combination of fire, emergency management and the ambulance service. CK is a large geographic area, Blenheim is one of our busiest volunteer stations. They come only when needed and then they are back to work. This is the most cost effective way to fight fires. Anything specific, we can chat later.
4	Blenheim	Where is COLA applied / Reserve Funding / Service Reviews	A cost of living increase was included in one part of the budget but it sounded to me as though that was only in the one part of it. The cost of living increase is not just on wages, it is on everything. RESPONSE: 1.9% is the CPI rate for 2019, we have used that rate as an estimate. Infrastructure is 3% inflation rate. It should likely be between 4-6% for roads. At 3%, that is the highest inflation in the budget for infrastructure and we think we should put more in. CITIZEN: You should emphasize this more publicly. For years it was insisted, 0% increase. You can't maintain what you've got with a 0% increase. If we have a massive emergency, we are really sunk, is that not correct? What if the Thames raises 18 feet? RESPONSE: There are funds that can be directed for other uses. We do have a large base budget for infrastructure, we could pivot directions to not fund something and redirect to where it is needed. We are able to handle/absorb emergencies in the current budget. CITIZEN: to make things work even better than they do, example snow storm, if our plough drivers were trained properly to do the corners correctly, they wouldn't have to come back to do it again. Sidewalk operators need training too. What else are we doing in the Municipality to try to coordinate between departments and work with other organizations, to do a cost effective use of services in the same way? RESPONSE: One of the processes we have corporately are service reviews. We regularly review department by department and review as an ad-hoc committee those services to streamline, reduce and find efficiencies.
5	Blenheim	Police Service Funding / Farm Assessment	Apparently we cannot touch any requests from Police Services. That puzzles me as to why that cannot be negotiated. Also suggested that the farm rate was going up and residential was going down, this puzzles me as well when we experience more expense. RESPONSE: With Police, it is a different process. The Police Services Board sets the budget for the Police Service. They have asked for an increase of 1.75%, which is under inflation. They have made cuts to come in under their area. Council can reject their proposed budget and then it goes back to the Police Services Board to reconsider. There is Provincial legislation that could activate where the Police Services Board can say no to our Council. Police are coming in at a reasonable rate. To the farm - the last re-assessment by MPAC, this is the fourth year of that assessment. Farm properties went up by 30% in that assessment and that is being phased in over four years. If there is \$10 million paid by farms, that will go up to \$10,500,000 due to the assesment.
6	Blenheim	Reserve Funding / Sports Complex	Who allows for money to be taken from reserves and specifically for the Sports Complex? RESPONSE: There is a Council vote to take money from reserves. Council gave Administration the direction to seek a Provincial grant to see if we could replace the Memorial and Erickson arenas that are in desparate shape. We need to balance that if we stick with what we have, we will need to add money to the arenas to bring them up to standard. We just added \$2 million in expansion to the Wallaceburg arena and they like what they have. It is a political decision and we will hear in the next few weeks if it was passed through the Province.

CHATHAM-KENT 2020 BUDGET

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Item #	Meeting Location	Subject	Comments
7	Blenheim	Sports Complex	If you build the new twin pad, will you close Memorial and Erickson? RESPONSE: Yes, just those two, no other arenas in CK. CITIZEN COMMENT: People feel that the Municipality doesn't care. There are things that need to be done and I know it's going to cost but I think there needs to be something done, remedial stuff that should be budgeted for in the meantime.
8	Blenheim	Lake Erie Shoreline	Cl Latimer: Do we have an update on Erie Shore Drive? At 2:00 on Tuesday the Councillors have a meeting. CHRIS to speak about the study: Several public information sessions have been held. March is the anticipated completion for the report on the Erie Shoreline. The report will set up the framework for the entire shoreline with recommendations on what the Municipality should do and what plans look like for the bigger picture. There is an impact on adjacent lands to be considered also. Rose Beach Line started as an individual project but is on hold and waiting for the overall study. We do have money set aside to complete the Rose Beach Line project but we want to make sure recommendations from each study coincide with other studies - Rose Beach, Erie Shoreline and Talbot Trail. Council will have the ability to divert, move or request more funding for these projects depending on the outcome of the report. Budget 2021 will have a large impact. There will be an opportunity for Council and the public to provide input to the recommendations, but there hasn't been any discussion yet as to releasing the report. Cl LATIMER: We have been speaking with our Federal and Provincial counterparts, but we can't request funds until we know what the community will do. It has to be sustainable financially and physically. We wish it could happen now and we wish we could add measures now if sustainable and financially prudent. CITIZEN: Ensure there is a meeting down the road so we can see the final draft and what is being discussed and how we move forward as a Municipality with our tax dollars. My concern is that if we aren't budgeting that now, eventually it will come to us and we will get a big wallop down the road.
9	Blenheim	Staffing	I am pleased to hear that you look at staffing and making sure all the staffing at City Hall is required and needed. I do have a questions about the hiring: Engineering Manager and the Engineering Tech, what are the benefits? Or is this a service we are paying outside for that now comes in house? RESPONSE: In the Engineering department as a whole, we have 27 staff that report to one manager. This engineering manager will be the third, as we have had a significant increase in developments. Increase in demand in infrastructure and size of the contracts, ie. we have moved from 14 bridge projects now to 40 per year. The staff need that manager to report to. Yes we use consultants but this position is to do more work in house. We have challenges with development projects that we can do internally if we had the staff. The key roles of the Engineering Tech is to work on the Asset Management Plan. It has a strong GIS component that allows us to capture and prioritize assets, and this assists with mandated challenges/goals for July 2021 and July 2024; there are large reporting requirements to fulfill to the government. If we don't fulfill those requirements, we are not eligible for future funding. CITIZEN: For those Engineering Managers, does each one have a specialty or are they just general engineers? RESPONSE: Each manager would have a different area they look after but different skillsets are required to properly manage and provide leadership with around eight staff reporting to each. RESPONSE HROD: Thank you for raising the staffing conversation. You asked if staffing is nice to do? We take seriously the requests for additional staff and it is sometimes difficult to explain staffing and funding. We are diligent about bringing requests for staff but the public doesn't often see the corresponding removal of staff. We make sure they are an absolute necessity and make 100% sure it is a required position. Cl LATIMER: Could you please comment on the BSA and HR Generalist; Council took money out of reserves for one year. If we took those positions away, what won't get done? RESPONSE: The HR Generalist was converted to supplementary funding as a one year pilot. This position covers a variety of areas inside HR that provides a critical function and helps in situations where we have employees who are off ill so they can get back to work; reduces cost for sicktime, reviews the cost of benefits. This position services other departments in the organization, triages their issues so we can take care of the HR piece and the other department can focus on offering their services. In this case, many organizations participate in surveys across the Province with municipal comparators for HR staff to employees: One HR employee per 100 employees is the recommended ratio, but in CK it is one HR employee for 193 employees. In Corporate Services, where we do not serve the public directly, we do find staff efficiencies constantly. We have cut staff in financial services, but in this case in HR, we have identified that we need an increase. There was a benefit review conducted with Budget and HR staff, and found an increase in benefits but zero dollars were asked for in budget deliberations because we have found the offset.
10	Blenheim	Explain the 2020 Tax Budget	Please explain the 2020 Tax Budget Slide. RESPONSE: this is a slide from a few years ago that has been carried forward - when we talk about Council decisions, there are some decisions made in the past that come back: two or three terms ago, Council cut \$500,000 from the budget but kept the same level of service. This Council has decided to fix this issue. The level of service hasn't gone down. The slide should be worded as "Council Directions". Affordable Housing is one of the items that are \$300,000. It is a large investment and is one of the things that Council asked for.
11	Blenheim	Sand and Sand Bags for Eriean	The motion for sand and sand bags for Eriean that was turned down - what happened with that? RESPONSE: That item will come forward during budget deliberations next week. Administration recommended going to an RFP process to put aside a certain amount of money to go towards the sandbag program for outsourcing to a centralized location. The motion wasn't rejected. Cl CECCACCI RESPONSE: The motion was brought forward to be considered in the 2020 budget deliberations. It is on the Not Recommended page but my fight is not over yet. There is nothing we can do for people who are flooded. I will bring forward as a pilot program.

CHATHAM-KENT 2020 BUDGET

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Item #	Meeting Location	Subject	Comments
12	Blenheim	Sports Complex	In the paper, I read that we spent \$265,000 on property that we don't own at the International Harvester site. (Citizen mentioned another site in Windsor where the company had to spend \$9 million to dig out and replace dirt to get rid of pollution.) International Harvester has much more pollution. You can't put parks on there. But we can spend \$265,000 on something we don't own yet. Why did we do it? RESPONSE: Clarification, the testing was not on the Navistar property. Council has been reassured that the samples were taken alongside the property, along the perimeter on our boulevard. We are running out of industrial land in Chatham-Kent. Navistar owns that property. There was \$250,000 spent but we have applied to have this 100% covered through a program with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). We are trying to encourage growth in CK and companies ask what land is available. We are now assured that land adjacent to the site has not had any leaching of possible contaminants.
13	Blenheim	Broadband / Fibre	Broadband - I don't see anything here about bringing it to rural CK. Comment - congratulations to the snow clearers in my area (south of Morpeth), they do a fantastic job. RESPONSE: The SWIFT consortium has approved the Ridgetown/Highgate/Moraviantown area for a project but we are waiting for the final signed documents from all stakeholders. We hope to have a further announcement in the next three months. The private sector goes to where they can make the most money. Blenheim is high on the priority list.
14	Blenheim	Housing	As a landlord, our hands are tied in regard to rentals as we cannot evict due to low housing in CK. RESPONSE: I will provide general comments but we can talk offline after. In CK and across the province, there is a significant crisis. The government is working diligently on how to address the crisis. We are at an all-time low for rental vacancies. In your specific case, we can talk offline. In the budget, we are looking for creative ways to be able to assist with this crisis. We are trying to bring builders to CK to build rental properties. It takes a long time to build physical assets. This is a complex and convoluted problem.
15	Blenheim	Provincial Download	APRIL RIETDYK: CI Ceccacci has asked me to address the provincial shift of tax dollars from the Province to the Municipality - two are in my area, Childcare and Health Unit. Municipalities are required to provide Public Health programs as outlined in Public Health Standards - inspectors, pools safe, harm reduction (keep needles off streets), etc. If we want to have places that Public Health inspects, we need to have them inspected and it is law that we do so. Some of the programs were cost-shared funded, others 100% funded. This government has looked at transferring and changing that funding ratio to a 70/30 funding formula to be shared between the Province and the Municipality. The exception is the new dental program for seniors that is 100% paid by the Province. In Childcare, they are shifting expansion dollars from 100% funded to a cost share of 80/20. The Province is asking Municipalities to pay for 20%. This year and this year only, the Province won't make the cost sharing mandatory. This means less childcare spaces if we do not have the funding. And we need the funding to support people for childcare. Other downloads are in the Ambulance area and OMPF.
16	Chatham	Staffing	COMMENT: Regarding the new positions where you say we will save money by hiring them, shouldn't you work in the savings with the wages to more accurately show the real impact? RESPONSE: It's actually more accurate to say it's about cost avoidance, especially the infrastructure positions. We expect savings by not having to hire work out. We could show what the projected offsets would be.
17	Chatham	Staffing	COMMENT: Regarding the proposed new drainage assistant, you could save lot of money if that person is educated in bridge structures.
18	Chatham	Tax Rate	COMMENT: You note the average household is assessed at \$171,000; perhaps you could use a more realistic example of a home that is worth more than that. Regarding community wellness, we are trying to get more affordable rent in CK, but any large increases that are imposed in turn get passed on to tenants by property owners.
19	Chatham	Tax Rate	RESPONSE: We try to squeak more efficiencies out of our operations. Over the last 10 years due to efficiencies we've had our municipal levy below the rate of inflation. The vast majority of this year's budget is related to the infrastructure levy of 2.74% which has been traditionally underfunded, and so we need to become more in balance.
20	Thamesville	Roads	I have seen improvements in some roads since last year. Will admit we were short funded. Wouldn't mind taking on some debt to improve our roads. Restore the infrastructure to where it was before amalgamation. Our surrounding communities have issues to deal with too, ie. shorelines, storm sewers, but their roads are in better shape. Revisit the underfunding of our roads and borrow money if you need to.
21	Thamesville	Roads	Q. When is Hwy 21 going to be paved? A. Within the next two years.
22	Thamesville	Roads	Q. Do we have a breakdown of the amount of gravel that goes onto the roads and what goes on the shoulder? A: Yes, we have that information.
23	Thamesville	Sewers	Q. Does the 19.83% referenced in the Average Annual Investment Required per Asset Class slide account for the separation of storm and sanitary sewers? A. Yes it's included in that figure. The issue is primarily in Chatham and we continue to work away at it.

CHATHAM-KENT 2020 BUDGET

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Item #	Meeting Location	Subject	Comments
24	Thamesville	Tax Rate	Q. Regarding the budget process vs tax policy slide, is the policy piece just about how the amount is divided up, or could there be another tax increase because of it? A. It is possible, but there has been a decrease in education over the years. As an example, last year's tax increase of 1.99% actually ended up being 1.68%.
25	Thamesville	Police	Q. When can we expect numbers from the Police? A. They are in the area of 1.8%. They generally come in at the rate of inflation. They make their presentation to Council on January 29.
26	Thamesville	Debt	The debt is coming down. Should we not consider what the rate of inflation on capital requirements is and that it will probably continue to exceed the cost of borrowing. What are some inflationary issues with our capital projects if they're at 6% when we can borrow at say 3%. Locking in rates could save us money in the long run. Look at where the pressures are and consider using debt as a tool.
27	Thamesville	Debentures	Q. Why don't we use debentures? Townships used to use that system. Would we consider using this system for projects? A. They add about 40% to a project. We wouldn't necessarily want to put the cost of an immediate benefit onto future generations. We've used them in the past when our debt was really high.
28	Thamesville	Debt	We know that inflation is going to be incredibly high on construction costs. Borrowing money sooner has got to save money. We can borrow cheaper. Should work on the numbers. A. We outsource these projects. It's a very competitive market. We have lifecycle reserves.
29	Thamesville	Shoreline	Q. What is the status and budget impact of our shoreline problems? A. We have held 9 public meetings and are preparing a report to Council for the March 23 Council meeting regarding a strategy. Could cost in the range of \$6 to 20M depending on the approach. In 2020 we have proposed adding an additional 0.33% for the Disaster Mitigation Adaptation Funding which was approved at Council. The DMAF sees 40% funding from the federal government and CK is responsible for the balance of costs at \$24M.
30	Thamesville	Civic Centre and Sports Complex	Q. There is flooding happening at the Civic Centre but the renovations were not approved by Council, and we also have the sports complex project. Are we hoping for too much? How do you plan to handle these? I do not expect a tax increase for these two projects. A. Regarding the arena, Council approved \$18.5M, and we anticipate a \$5M private contribution. It is dependent on approval of additional grant funds by senior levels of government. We have put funds in reserve for the project. Regarding the Civic Centre, we have lifecycle dollars in reserve and we also deal with emergency repairs as they are required. We will return to Council with the cost of replacing the HVAC system. There are no new budget requests this year for these two projects. If the sports complex happens, an arena in Chatham would close and we would leave the rural arenas in tact.
31	Thamesville	Infrastructure	Q. How far out do you project financially for lifecycle on all infrastructure? A. We have \$5B in municipal assets. We have done assessments on all of them and determined what's required to keep them going. We have an asset management plan, which is a funding plan over 20 years.
32	Thamesville	Civic Centre	Q. Was the Downtown Chatham Centre considered as a location for moving from the Civic Centre? A. Yes, but it is not a good longterm strategy due to cost.
33	Thamesville	Service Reductions	Q. Do you still prepare an annual list of possible cuts, ie. service reductions? A. The things on that list affected the quality of life of our citizens too much. Council really only has control over about 9% of the budget.
34	Tilbury	Tax Rate	How do you feel about the tax increase? RESPONSE CL Harrigan: It is too high. When I review, I look Section 6, Items Recommended, each one has a briefing note. I start at number 1 and work my way down. If property assessment goes up or down by 20%, your tax bill will change. This year makes for hard decisions, income tax won't decline from provincial downloads. Taking money that came from income taxes, we have to download to property owners. Still have mandated health unit services that we have to provide - childcare and childcare facilities, need to have daycare to attract young families. We need your help to make those decisions and bring them to the table.
35	Tilbury	Provincial Downloading	Is it right to assume that all municipalities have the downloading? RESPONSE: There is a two tiered system in Essex - Upper Tier (county) level vs Lower Tier (town) level. The lower tier may not have that much being downloaded in that case.
36	Tilbury	Projected Tax Increase	What are the projected budgets in other areas that are similar? RESPONSE: 3.5-7% range, some as high as 8-9% and some as low as 1-2%. Average draft budgets are in the 3-7% range, but many are being approved over the past couple weeks and we will have updated info for Council on January 28 when we start deliberations.

CHATHAM-KENT 2020 BUDGET

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Item #	Meeting Location	Subject	Comments
37	Tilbury	Lake Erie Shoreline	ShoreLine Protection: does the Municipality have that responsibility or the Province? RESPONSE: Lake Erie Shoreline Study and Challenges - we have a consultant engaged and they will be making a recommendation to public with their final report in March. It will outline the overall recommended strategy for the entire shoreline for Council so we can prioritize what needs to happen and make a decision that can benefit the entire shoreline. Once we have the report in hand, we are in a better position to approach and engage the higher levels of government.
38	Tilbury	Lake Erie Shoreline	Has there been a reserve established for ShoreLine Protection? RESPONSE: We do not have a reserve. The report coming in March will identify responsibilities for the Municipality and for private land owners. Once the strategy is reviewed and approved by Council, they can decide to put funds towards this for the 2021 construction season.
39	Tilbury	Intersection at Merlin Road and Queen's Line	The intersection at Merlin Road and Queens Line, when will action happen? RESPONSE: In the 2020 Capital budget presented at the last Council meeting, this item was deferred to budget deliberations. It is (item) 3 or 4 on the Capital plan to complete a traffic study that will be presented to Council. Pending Council approval, there will be a Public Consultation before construction moves forward, hopefully in 2020.
40	Tilbury	Wheatley / Roads / Service Reviews	In the Wheatley/Romney area, we have no sidewalks, no street lights, only see the Police once a week yet here we are with 4.99 percent increase. What are we getting back for the increase? (no answer required) but what I hear about infrastructure and inflation on infrastructure on things that have been budgeted, Cl Harrigan your platform was about change management - have you ever done a cost-cutting exercise, cut your fat exercise? For example, a chip and tar roadway was just paved with a clear overabundance of gravel, it fell apart after the first ploughing. Do you ever take a look at something else to see if it's the biggest bang for the buck? RESPONSE: We are continuously looking for new and innovative technology for our assets. The Asset Management Plan has been developed and we are constantly communicating with neighbouring municipalities, contractors and construction companies. New this year, we have hot in place asphalt. This grinds up existing and replaces what is there. There has been a Committee of Council formed - Infrastructure and Innovation Committee - that is constantly looking for updates of technology and staying on top of new technologies. The Municipality also participates in Lean Six Sigma processes and Service Reviews.
41	Tilbury	Roads - Highgate	Middleton and Harbour where the chip and tar roads are: the paved road stops at the bridge, what is the cost benefit from doing that every three to four years versus a proper paving every 15 years? RESPONSE: The roads on the boundary of Wheatley are included in the Transportation Master Plan with a 0-5 yr priority. Middleton will be surfaced with proper asphalt. There is a difference with tar and chip vs asphalt: the level of service, standard of road and what infrastructure that is underneath the road is different. There is a one-time cost to upgrade the road and significant cost to maintain the road. Analysis to be completed to determine what the cost is to upgrade. Council approved the Road Upgrade Policy last year. If a resident lives on a road that is not in the Transportation Master Plan, there is an opportunity for residents to support the cost to upgrade the road. With respect to the Chip and Tar contract and excess gravel, we are holding the contractor accountable to remove the excess gravel.
42	Tilbury	Priorities	South of Jeanettes Creek and there are bridges closed but when setting priority, really consider that there are some things the community can do themselves but some things we cannot. Build bridges, we cannot. Planting flowers and cutting grass, we can do. Fire and Emergency Services have a low cost in rural areas due to volunteer fire, please do not cut those guys. They're our real heroes, that is not a place to look. RESPONSE CL Authier: We really need to look at the budget this year and only approve things we need.
43	Tilbury	Entegrus Dividend	How much is the Entegrus dividend and where does it go? RESPONSE: It is approximately \$3.3 million and is included in the base budget along with the Interest on debenture that Entegrus has, plus two other sources: landfill that pays a host fee plus Gateway Casinos that pays 5% in revenue to the Municipality. Entegrus dividends increase year over year. Our tax increase would be larger if we didn't have Gateway Casinos.
44	Tilbury	OCIF Funding	Cl Authier: Also, the announcement on more infrastructure, it's already in the budget, too? RESPONSE: The OCIF funding was announced three years ago by the prior government. That is not new funding and is already in the base budget.
45	Tilbury	Roads - Tilbury East	What can be done for the gravel roads in Tilbury East? RESPONSE: Administration showed the AMP slide - we are close to 100% funded for gravel roads but we are now establishing a level of service. Yes there was a change to the service level over the years. If you have any concerns or any roads that are in need of special attention, share with Public Works or your local Councillors. Current funding supports: re-grading of the road but every class of road has a different level of service. Every three years, new gravel is applied for that road's level of service. The previous schedule was every two years. When Council is looking at rates of service for gravel roads, they are recognizing that level of service could go down for other roads but the overall dollar amount would remain the same.

CHATHAM-KENT 2020 BUDGET

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Item #	Meeting Location	Subject	Comments
46	Tilbury	Roads	There must be a better way to maintain the roads. There is the potential opportunity to provide the same level of service at the same cost. This would be a good discussion for the Innovation Committee.
47	Tilbury	Gateway Casinos	Is the Casino adding more revenue than anticipated? Will that offset the Provincial funding shortfall? RESPONSE: The Casino is providing more revenue than the Dresden slots were. The Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) decreases plus other downloads total \$2.3 million to property taxpayers. The casino revenue helps as it is new. There was a one-time surplus on the variance report to Council at the last meeting, and we are using the best estimate for ongoing revenue until it is reported.
48	Tilbury	Provincial Representative	Has anyone spoken to our MPP Rick Nicholls? RESPONSE: We have had conversations with Rick Nicholls and Monte McNaughton, just at the ROMA conference this week, advocating on these types of issues. Some discussions do help and have positive results. The Ontario government had a severe deficit and campaigned on lowering the budget (and it was lowered by downloading. Cl Harrigan: if you want to write to Rick Nicholls, I can get you those numbers.
49	Wallaceburg	CPI	Q. What was CPI at end of 2019? A. During late 2019 it got up to 2.2%, but the average for the year was 1.9%.
50	Wallaceburg	Shoreline	Q. We have a high water situation affecting everybody around here. The St. Clair Conservation Authority does not respond or react to my concerns. Times have changed but their guidelines and criteria haven't kept up. They need to reassess the situation. A. We know this is a huge concern. Our dollars can't address all our many shorelines. We're awaiting results of a major study and a report will go to Council in March. We've had many public meetings. There is no one solution. SCCA has approached the government to encourage them to fund a new study on the operation of the dam.
51	Wallaceburg	Sand Bags	Q. Where can we get sand bags? Last spring high water come to my back door. A. LTVCA has bags and Pebbles has sand. This item will be discussed during deliberations this year.
52	Wallaceburg		Q. On the Budget Highlights slide, what is included in 'Municipal Departments' and 'Council Decisions and Uncontrollables'? A. Reduction in winter control, budget livestreaming, new animal shelter, etc.
53	Wallaceburg	Police	Q. Is anything being done about the 'off on suspension with pay' police costs? A. We are lobbying the government to allow us to expand our powers to suspend without pay.
54	Wallaceburg	Tax Rate	COMMENT: I'm employed in the auto tool and die industry, which has been hit hard. My income is lower now than in the late 90s, yet the cost of everything keeps rising. We live within our means in our household. When deliberating please remember those people who support everything that goes on in CK, and that we have limited resources and fixed incomes. The burden on taxpayers is increasing. We need more industry and large employers to come in.
55	Wallaceburg		COMMENT: We also have a lot of young people growing up. The value of property is increasing but wages aren't increasing. People are moving here from the Toronto area because they can afford it.
56	Wallaceburg	Recreation	COMMENT: Seniors and Aquafit program in Chatham pays twice what any other groups do. Why the discrepancy? We should get a discount for the second half of the year like others do. We've been trying to address this for 6 years. Please give us a one year rate with all the same benefits that others get.
57	Wallaceburg	Wind Turbines	COMMENT: Affect of wind turbines on water wells in Dover and Chatham Townships. We have to purchase and bring in our own drinking water. Turbines have brought in a lot of money to CK. They were taxed at \$3500 under the Act. Look at increasing their taxes since the Act has been repealed. There's a high cost to dismantle the turbines and most of the material cannot be recycled. RESPONSE: When the project was created CK lobbied provincial government and required pre and post-testing of water. Environmental assessments were undertaken by the province with the sole purpose of protecting the needs of our citizens. Although the Act has been repealed, the sole discretion for turbines are still under the provincial government and they also still set the tax rate. CK offered any resident affected to water testing free of charge to any licensed laboratory in Ontario and then expanded that to Michigan. Only 18 landowners took advantage.