

**COMMUNITY FEEDBACK - 2019 BUDGET**

Item #	Source	Subject	Comments	Attachments
1	WALLACEBURG	Staffing	<p>What is meant by new services, in reference to the recommendation to hire more staff?  <b>RESPONSE:</b> An example would be in our drainage area where we need new staff to do assessments on species at risk, which the province used to do but has transferred to municipalities, and which is also a legal requirement. On the other side we do make reductions in staff also, and an example is when we reorganized some department structures last year and eliminated one senior management position.</p>	
2	WALLACEBURG	Population	<p>What is the ideal level, or do we have a target population for Chatham-Kent?  <b>RESPONSE:</b> Right now if you look at our population, the demographic looks like an hour glass with the 20-25 year olds being the smallest group in the middle. There is no one target group. The community was at approx 110,000 then went down to 101,000 and with next census it looks like it will reach around 105,000. Ideally we want to get back to the top level or more, keeping in mind that people do move away over time and shifts do happen.</p>	
3	WALLACEBURG	Provincial funding	<p>Is the funding we get from the province based on our population?  <b>RESPONSE:</b> It depends. Some funding we receive is based strictly on the overall population, but in other areas, such as Ontario Works social services, it's based on the number of people out of work and the number of caseloads on file. OMPF has a matrix of about 6 to 8 criteria they use, such as rural vs urban, population density, etc.</p>	
4	WALLACEBURG	Provincial funding	<p>When do the transfer payments from the province occur? Does this make it hard to develop and plan a comprehensive budget?  <b>RESPONSE:</b> Each business unit varies. For some, we pay the expense first and then get reimbursed, some come in consistently each month, and some quarterly. There are different rules and processes so overall, it's spread out. It does present challenges. The province has a March 31 fiscal year end, so they are busy developing their budget which means we will be a quarter of the way through our budget year before we hear from them. We are hoping that any changes they introduce won't effect us until 2020. Our concern is if they cut their amounts to us, as municipalities cannot run a deficit like the province can. We generally have a very predictable budget which doesn't vary too much year to year.</p>	
5	WALLACEBURG	Public Works	<p>Why do your trucks plow around three at a time and they never put their blade down to move snow? They use fuel, are paid by the hour, and it's money down the drain.  <b>RESPONSE:</b> We will investigate, as this is not the way we operate. The shear mass for every time we have a snowfall and need to clear roads is the equivalent to going from Chatham to Calgary and back. We don't have enough capacity in our workforce to have that type of work done as fast as people want. I will look into the efficiency of our operation and if there were valid reasons then we're really talking about a service level issue here.</p>	
6	WALLACEBURG	Damage to property	<p>The Griffin was brought in years ago because we had a bad backup of ice and water was not controlled by dam. I live on the river, the ice was up my bank 20 ft into my yard. Use of the Griffin damaged my wall which is now deteriorating, only where the ice chipped it. Who is responsible for this? I haven't been successful in getting any compensation for the damage.  <b>RESPONSE:</b> Councillor McGregor advised that she and Councillor Hall would talk with him offline. Could possibly be the responsibility of the Conservation Authority. The river system is complex due to shared responsibilities. The municipality does not have jurisdiction.</p>	
7	WALLACEBURG	Heritage Committee	<p>We have a municipal group that looks into the history of Chatham-Kent. Unfortunately there is no representative from Wallaceburg involved and we were told all positions are filled. Membership seems to be unbalanced, with a lot from Chatham. They get paid mileage, meals and a wage. Maybe we could look for some savings here.  <b>RESPONSE:</b> I believe we are talking about the Heritage Committee. They are volunteers who are not paid but are offered mileage reimbursement, although many don't claim it. We will get you the details on what the \$7,000 budget you referenced is used for, and the membership process.</p>	
8	WALLACEBURG	Roads	<p>I live on Snye Road. When they grade the road we have a 2 to 3" of gravel ledge left behind, and the water can't get out. Maybe we should use a grader with a roller or packer behind it, and you don't need two drivers.  <b>RESPONSE:</b> At any time, please call 360-1998 to report an incident so it can be tracked and acted upon. From October to December we had so much rain and when roads are too wet we can't properly grade them.</p>	

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9	WALLACEBURG	Roads	<p>Dufferin Ave between Hwy 40 and Walpole Island interchange serves 1500+ residents and been busier now since Sombra ferry hasn't been operating. Road is deteriorating daily. Heavy trucks and farm equipment use it, and it's taking a toll. Speeding is a concern also. Running Creek Bridge along the road is also deteriorating. Is there a timeline on repairs? Is there something in the budget to get that fixed? It's an international border crossing.</p> <p><b>RESPONSE:</b> Regarding the bridge, safety is always first. We do an assessment on the condition of each bridge very two years, so I'm confident that none of our bridges are going to fail; at times we may have to close a bridge or put a load restriction on it. The area you talk about is a connecting link which means the province is suppose to pay a percentage. We document and rank our road inventory, and traffic volumes. We have long term plans on bridges and roads. Please provide your contact info so we can provide the plan for those areas. Concerning speeding, there is a traffic monitor request site on the Police webpage. You can also request the installation of traffic speed read-out signs.</p>	
12	WALLACEBURG	Cost savings	<p>How does administration or council identify cost saving projects or cost curves and do they report on that? I'm interested in how your IT department saves money.</p> <p><b>RESPONSE:</b> We regularly do service reviews on operations, functions and processes, and report findings back to Council. Citizens can participate as well. Over the last term of Council we discussed continuous improvement programs, and we also have a financial internal audit. Over the last 6 years or so we've been refreshing our IT services as we had not been investing in our systems and found ourselves with old software that wasn't able to be supported any longer. Of interest might be our Project Delta if you'd like to look it up. Our Economic Development department can work with you to help find funds for your personal situation.</p>	
13	WALLACEBURG	Taxes	<p>Seems to me we have below average taxes and all these deficits. I would not hesitate to pay more to get roads fixed. When it comes to heavy industry paying their way we are way below the average and it doesn't seem their low tax rate is working to draw more in, so our equation is falling short. Maybe if we pay a little more, the gap in the Asset Management Plan will close sooner.</p> <p><b>RESPONSE:</b> Our Asset Management Plan was a 20 year plan to get to adequate funding which is a long long time and we've talked about speeding that up at times. These are helpful comments for Council to hear. The economy is picking up. We've kept the budget low due to assessment growth. Our tax policy (tax rates) will go to Council in the spring.</p>	
14	WALLACEBURG	Roadside Mowing	<p>I keep hearing about more services, but I want less services in order to save dollars. The biggest waste is roadside mowing, for no value and harm along the way. Environmental sustainability is being defied. Other communities do it wisely and smartly. Stop this manicured mentality in the rural areas. Do a cut in September. We say we want to be pollinator friendly. Herbicides are more effective now than ever.</p> <p><b>RESPONSE:</b> Municipalities are severely restricted on chemical use. We cut to control noxious weeds and tree development, so if you don't mow you're going to have trees develop and then you won't be able to mow, and costs go up significantly. If we don't get in there and clear that what happens is our endangered species nest there and then we can't touch it at all, so it all has to be managed before it goes wild. As well, we need to maintain drainage. We meet with the Minister of Natural Resources next week concerning two pieces of legislation.</p>	
15	WALLACEBURG	Taxes	<p>How does our community compare in tax arrears? How do we register?</p> <p><b>RESPONSE:</b> Our tax arrears have greatly declined, after the recession of 2009-2012 when we had a high unemployment. Since then we've seen a great improvement in the area of arrears and tax sales. We are far under 2% which matches other areas in the province. We've actually had to reduce the amount of interest on arrears within our budget due to the decline.</p>	
16	WALLACEBURG	Provincial funding	<p>Given our reliance on the OMPF funding, and it's almost inevitable we will lose funding, shouldn't we plan ahead for that?</p> <p><b>RESPONSE:</b> We have been working hard to pay down our debt and getting ready to have the ability to respond to any crisis. We were just notified a couple weeks ago about the possibility, and until then we were under the assumption that the program would continue. A phone call today provided no news, just that there will be cuts. We will likely cut the \$550,000 new revenue we currently have in the draft budget.</p>	
17	WALLACEBURG	Reserves	<p>How much is in our reserve fund?</p> <p><b>RESPONSE:</b> Approximately \$130M. Reserves are for specific purposes and half are for lifecycle. The BMA Study provides a target for best practices and generally you want a 1:1 ratio.</p>	
18	TILBURY	Crosswalk in Tilbury	<p>Crosswalk by Tilbury high school. Want Council/admin to realize how important it is to the community.</p> <p><b>RESPONSE:</b> presented to Council as part of Capital Budget on Jan 21 - when budget set and funding for all projects determined, will start work on design and implement in the summer.</p>	

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19	TILBURY	Wheatley BIA	Have recommendations on behalf of the Wheatley BIA and will present to Council via deputation.	
20	TILBURY	infrastructure	Kent Federation of Agriculture in full support of the infrastructure plan.	
21	TILBURY	Infrastructure/ Tilbury Flood	Timing of the storm water masterplan? <b>RESPONSE:</b> It is part of the capital plan & will commence in Feb. Will go out to consulting engineer; will take one year to process; will involve a Class Environmental Assessment; two or more public information centres; will be high-level and not a detailed design to show if generators would be used or not. When commit to project, engineers will then go out for a detailed design. Council approval required.	
22	TILBURY	Infrastructure/ Tilbury Flood	Slide 9 - masterplan is the first step then funding and implementation. IES is only spending \$153 per household on drainage, asset and waste management. Intends to ask for more dollars to be spent specifically for underground infrastructure. It is estimated that \$150M is needed to just fix Tilbury. An additional 1% yearly could start to fix the problems. Encouraged deputations.	
23	TILBURY	Reserves	What doing with reserves? Referred to a variety of community groups and funding struggles. CK is the best kept secret and should be working to attract groups and increase population. Is there a process in place where decisions on current issues can be made more instantaneously no matter the issue (life, drainage, funding, etc.) Are there reserves that Council has access to on an ongoing basis and not once a year at budget time? <b>RESPONSE:</b> (1) The Mayor is looking at different ways to fund organizations. (2) Do have various reserves for lifecycle and large infrastructure projects. There are some additional minor reserves that Council can tap into at any time. We take direction from Council. There are funds, although limited, that need to be supportive of community wide initiatives and Councillors can assist with these requests to bring to Council. This budget has items to support community groups.	
24	TILBURY	Deputations	What is the process for the average citizen to bring something forward? <b>RESPONSE:</b> Anyone can bring forward ideas via a deputation in budget or work with a Councillor to bring forward.	
25	TILBURY	Wheatley Arena	Active father of a young family who plays hockey, coaches, etc. Concerned with closing arena/dropping hours. Request rec members for methods to increase the use of the arena. Advised that the Leamington arena which is a 10 minute drive away, had lower rental rates making it difficult to compete. The cost difference was \$41.43. How can the Wheatley community attract young families and encourage new business if cutting recreation and don't have what other communities have. Every centre in Essex has a new arena. <b>RESPONSE:</b> (1) No talk to closing an arena. For innovative solutions, can look at the Bothwell model. (2) There are no plans to close the Wheatly Arena. There is a line item proposing to keep the same hours but to have it closed one day in order to make the arena more viable. No reduction in hours, just consolidating staff into 6 days instead of 7. Understanding of issues with ice time and rental fees but going through a business plan to look at those things. Glencoe Arena has similar issues - lower rental but time still declining.	
26	TILBURY	Wheatley Arena	If closing the Wheatley Arena then no opportunity for bookings or to make money. Just saving staff dollars. How does that benefit the community. Arena is already closed 2 half days (mornings) and people can't get time in the mornings because it is closed. How does that help the kids?. Sundays are packed with skating and something every night. Don't know which night should be closed. <b>RESPONSE:</b> Have limited staffing (CUPE Contract) - trying to manage the workforce and to make the arena as viable as possible. Not written in stone and is a Council decision but looking at closing on Thursdays as it's the easiest day to move things around. When into the ice allocations process, do meet with groups and come to agreements by looking at programming and engaging community.	
27	TILBURY	Wheatley Arena	Fear closing of arena and request opportunity to formalize a community revenue committee to think of ideas on how to increase arena usage. It would be easier to rent if arena rental costs were on par with Leamington. CK recreation needs to find ways to use the arena in the summer (i.e. ball hockey). <b>RESPONSE - Similar to Bothwell Arena</b>	
	TILBURY		The budget session was followed by an infrastructure discussion with Tilbury residents on the flooding issues.	
29	DRESDEN	Sewers	Are storm sewers area-rated? <b>RESPONSE:</b> No they are not. So that's the general tax base, that \$2.3M is our lifecycle for storm sewers across Chatham-Kent. If the question is, could they be area-rated, of course Council could decide that but right now it's out of the general tax base. Keep in mind that all municipal drains out in farm land that get part assessed to roads, that's paid by the general tax base, so it goes both ways.	

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30	DRESDEN	Physician Recruitment	A plea for approval of the \$100,000 funding for physician recruitment. It will make our community more competitive. Our health care system is overloaded. ReferenceD the CKPlan 2035 goals.	Yes
31	DRESDEN	Infrastructure	Last night Council approved \$600,000 for bike paths. Can this be scaled back and some of that money used to improve the conditions of our roads and bridges instead? <b>RESPONSE:</b> Recommendations were based on 6 different strategic priorities and ranked according. The bike path scored very well, based on Health. This is sustainable. We've taken what you saw in the Capital Budget and went through that at an executive team level to decide what's really important. Municipalities need more than roads and bridges, so it's about the right balance, and quality of life. The reality is that we have more needs and wants than we have funding for, and we're always trying to strike the right balance.	
32	DRESDEN	Staffing Levels	For the size of our municipality there seems to be a lot spent on payroll and office staff. What is the ratio here compared to other amalgamated areas? I feel we could be more responsible, and maybe there could be more doubling-up on responsibilities by staff. <b>RESPONSE:</b> This is certainly the toughest single discussion point every year when it comes to where to cut. All services we delivered is directly tied to staffing. In the last seven years the percentage of the budget related to staff costs has actually dropped. There are demands on the municipality to provide certain types of services. We are responding to needs in the community, for example our aging population (long term care facility) which drives our service delivery. Two proposed new positions have to do with environmental sustainability downloaded by the province and is a legal requirement (ie. assessment on species at risk). So we would have to ask ourselves what services are we prepared to cut back on. We have tried to be very conservative and conscientious of this over the years.	
33	DRESDEN	Taxes	The direction of Council was to reduce the industrial tax rate to attract business, is that right? Where did you reapportion that, and secondly with respect to new assessment growth, what percentage of last year's budget is new assessment growth? <b>RESPONSE:</b> The tax rate won't actually be set until the spring but we have consistently had direction from Council to try and reduce that tax rate to encourage businesses to come in. \$2.1M was the amount of increased assessment growth due to two significant items that are not expected every year, one was an additional turbine project which benefits about every taxpayer through about a 2% decrease in their tax rate. We collect approximately the same amount for a turbine as we do a house. When we decrease one area, other areas increase, and the residential tax burden was increased slightly as a result of that reduction in industrial. Farm has also gone up a few percentages, although relatively speaking a lot had to do with the MPAC assessments a few years ago. So both farming and residential picked up the burden.	
34	DRESDEN	Taxes	The \$2.1M was not in response to the phase-ins? <b>RESPONSE:</b> Phasing in of the assessment over four years from MPAC is revenue neutral. Regarding any population decline, from the 2006 to 2010 to 2014 census our population decreased from approx 110,000 to 101,000. The estimate for next census is between 105-106,000. This has been borne out by new house builds and people looking for employment, which is a good sign. When there is an increase in your property assessment from MPAC, that is actually revenue neutral to the municipality; we don't make any money off of that.	
35	DRESDEN	Firefighters	In reference to the recent announcement that the Chatham fire department just hired eight new firefighters, does the Wallaceburg fire department still have both full time and volunteer firefighters? Has there ever been a discussion to have that service in Chatham as well to decrease the cost of services there? <b>RESPONSE:</b> Yes. The municipality has signed contracts with the association of full time firefighters to have the service delivered in Chatham by only full time firefighters and so after amalgamation, Chatham-Kent had an obligation to honour that contract. We have ongoing discussions with the association to have more flexibility built into our contracts to redesign the service to achieve the fastest response times. Efficiency is important. The eight in Chatham were hired to fill vacancies due to retirements.	

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36	DRESDEN	Bike Paths	<p>Regarding bike trails maybe we should look at encouraging bikers to travel other roads rather than concentrate on a narrow, busy, curvy section of road (referring to the Round the River Trail).</p> <p><b>RESPONSE:</b> Before we made a decision on this location we had community engagement and input. Chatham is only 33% implemented from the original plan and none of them are connected. We have an obligation to build roads not just for cars and trucks but also for pedestrians and cyclists. That section of road was chosen for its high demand and it's where people wanted it, and it's actually safe. The greenhouse and ethanol plant nearby have made donations toward the project. Mitchell's Bay is being looked at to connect the north and south trail. The whole strategy is all related to health, and we have to make it safe. With the change at the provincial level we have already lost \$2M in funding that was specifically for bike trails in Chatham-Kent.</p>	
37	DRESDEN	Cemeteries & Trees	<p>I understand that senior management is reviewing the care of the road network within the Dresden Cemetery, as they are deteriorating and need attention. Can you please comment on this? Secondly is the issue of dead and dying trees and what appears to be a lack of efficiency across departments within the municipality, marking trees, setting a cycle up, when at the appropriate time they can be trimmed, and paying attention to the road network that is deteriorating.</p> <p><b>RESPONSE:</b> We have arborists on staff. We do not wish to cut down any tree if possible due to our low tree coverage, but of course if it's unsafe we'll cut it down. We do have a system in place to manage trees. We contract out large tree jobs but otherwise we service them in-house. If there are ever concerns or matters unaddressed for too long, please call 519-360-1998 to report an issue. Our geographical area is large and we appreciate citizen involvement. We have 2500 sq kms we have to manage which is a big task and we rely on the public for these types of reports. The responsibility of the management of cemetery roads has shifted internally and is strategically an advantage because now we are adding cemetery roads to our large commissioned contracts.</p>	
38	DRESDEN	Consultants	<p>Is there any chance that our consultants budget can be kept down? Why do we have so many consultants, that build bridges that are too high and cost more than it should, when we have a good engineering department?</p> <p><b>RESPONSE:</b> Overall, we use a consultant to accomplish more work than we are able to output with current staffing levels, at a competitive price, and for purposes of expertise. We have staff who are capable of managing bridges that are under 5 meters in span, otherwise it must be outsourced as a special skill. We utilize consultants to do more things with less people who we don't need to add to our permanent workforce; consultants add a lot of value, and their use is typically project based. We spend approximately \$4M annually on consultants and most of those would be for infrastructure, but also for our external auditors, etc. We report each year to Council regarding the use of consultants, and we conduct service reviews to look at the most cost efficient way to deliver our services; sometimes that means hiring more staff and other times hiring consultants. A good example is in legal services, where we were spending \$2M on our insurance program and \$800,000 on external lawyers to handle our losses. Today we are spending \$1M on insurance program and \$600,000 on in-house staff to handle all our legal work. We switched because we could show there was a cost savings. London has 16 lawyers and we have 2 (not including the General Mgr). In our planning department we have 7 staff whereas in Kingston they have 38, and so we have to hire consultants for special projects to help because we don't have enough internal staff and/or the required expertise. When senior management finds that a position is no longer needed, we put that forward and it disappears, or sometimes we try to repurpose those funds. It should be noted that our planning department used to be mostly outsourced and was brought in-house to save approx \$200,000+ per year. Some of the new staff requests in this year's budget will result in using consultants less.</p>	
39	DRESDEN	Infrastructure	<p>You said lots of bridges and roads were constructed in the 1960s and were getting to the end of their lifespan. We don't want that to happen again so is there a short term solution to spread that out, ie culvert vs bridge, or just target the problem area of a bridge and not all of it?</p> <p><b>RESPONSE:</b> Because we have a huge influx of bridge rebuilds we do try and utilizing all that we can of the existing bridge. There are very few bridges on which we do a full reconstruction. Culverts are always the first choice when possible, but the issue is we need to have the necessary hydraulic flow. At times we will also load rate a bridge, in a case where the bridge is still good but we cannot sustain extremely heavy truck traffic any longer, which results in being able to extend the life of that bridge.</p>	

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40	DRESDEN	Taxes	<p>Are the wind turbines taxed at the industrial rate?  <b>RESPONSE:</b> Yes they are, however the issue is that the province has through the Green Energy Act set the assessment low at \$40,000 per megawatt produced which is a relatively low assessment when a turbine may have cost \$2-3M per tower, which means it's being assessed at approx \$80,000 to maybe \$120,000. The province told MPAC to set it this way. We have gotten smarter over the course of the last few projects and been in a better negotiating position. We have gotten approx \$20M additional contribution in our investment and \$4M commitment to have a community development fund.</p>	
41	CHATHAM	Licensing Fees Revenue & Memorial Arena	<p>Concerned for clubs and non profit groups that have to fundraise. I understand CK is allowed to charge up to 3% in licensing fees. How much money does CK receive in licensing fees on the backs of community groups? Why not charge less than 3%? Why can't you put that money back to the groups? Concerned also for condition of Memorial Arena and lack of decision by council on whether we will build a new arena in Chatham and what size it will be. Referred to report to council of 2015 and also this past week regarding ice time usage. Where would I find the line in the budget for improvements to Memorial Arena? Chatham Maroons will celebrate their 60th anniversary this year. The only groups that have made improvements to Memorial Arena are the Alumni Association and the Sports Hall of Fame.  <b>RESPONSE:</b> We had \$135,000 in bingo revenue. We use the maximum 3% all times due to a bylaw that was passed in 1998. Most municipalities charge the same. We will notify you of the total dollar amount collected in all licensing fees. There are funds in the lifecycle budget to maintain status quo at Memorial Arena. Part of the debate during deliberations will be how much should our ice rental rates be, ie. user fee vs tax base funded. In the budget this year we are recommending we start putting funds in for a new facility. There will be a survey next week to get feedback on appropriate size of facility to build and other info council requested. There is a federal government funding program available. There are contributions in the budget toward arenas in CK but not Memorial Arena due to potential new build.</p>	
42	CHATHAM	Bus Passes	<p>Heavy user of the public transit system. Will the senior bus pass price remain the same this year at \$220 or will it go up? There was a big increase last year so I think the price should stay the same. So much money is spent on solar shelters and there are very few people that ride the bus and use these shelters and we seem to keep replacing old ones even though they aren't much needed.  <b>RESPONSE:</b> We have four types of bus passes and the senior pass is equal to the student pass, and we have a general pass as well as a low income pass. We revised the approach last year to provide the best value to the low income riders. If we have any price changes in 2019, a credit will be given. We are also working on a system to load smart card fare products online.</p>	
43	CHATHAM	Drug Awareness	<p>We have a lot of problems in CK due to drug abuse. There always seems to be lots of research and studies done but very little follow up. The office on Adelaide Street that serviced the area to help prevent the spread of disease (ie hand out needles) was closed in September. It cost \$85,000 to run this annually. We need to spend money on prevention and harm reduction programs, part-time jobs for youth, after school activities.  <b>RESPONSE:</b> This is a complex and multi-faceted problem, and there are a number of agencies and governments tackling this. The building on Adelaide Street you referred to was operated by Aids Windsor. CK does provide services through our Public Health clinics. Our study you spoke about earlier is ready and we are moving forward by sharing it with a number of front line organizations and groups at a town hall type summit toward the end of February.</p>	
44	CHATHAM	Library	<p>Relatively new resident of 5 years and member of the library board. Compliments to the community for being as responsive as you are to its citizens. Want to remind everyone that the library supports very strongly one key strategic focus, that of People and Culture. We are far more than a book lending facility. We increase the community's awareness through educational programming and many people just come because they don't know where else to go for support. The community navigator program (social worker) is located at the main branch and visits the others, assists folks in many ways. If our government funding is cut, please look at this program as a unique and valuable resource.</p>	

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45	CHATHAM	Social Housing	<p>Fairly new to Chatham, and work in the social services field. I hope this council sees it is critical in our community for everyone to have a place and not be homeless. We need more transitional housing, a different model than just putting people in a motel. A lot of folks that come to the shelters are receiving funding but they have no heat. It doesn't look like the provincial government is going to be giving any more money for affordable housing.</p> <p><b>RESPONSE:</b> Housing is key to our health. A number of years ago council endorsed a housing first philosophy to house people as quickly as possible and we connected a number of community groups who assist us when we come across someone who is homeless. We do house them immediately and sometimes that means a motel. We are looking hard at transitional housing and working with individuals to wrap programs and services around them quickly. Council has been very supportive of our non-profit housing stock. There is not enough housing for everyone and it's an ongoing issue across the province. We are aware and keeping on top of it.</p>	
46	CHATHAM	Tourism & CIP	<p>Part of the Downtown Chatham BIA, been coming to these meetings for nine years. This BIA encompasses five blocks on King St. which contributes 0.6% of the tax base, provides lots of jobs, and generates \$20M a year. Want to work on the riverbank infrastructure but we need tourism, people to come and visit, so we need to spend more in that area. We are bringing 70 US based companies to the downtown for a tour and we will be looking for help from CK for that. We'd like to see an increase to the Community Improvement Plan (CIP) funding. \$1 in grant money equals \$13 in private investment. If there was more available you would see growth.</p> <p><b>RESPONSE:</b> The entire municipal executive management team supports what our BIAs do and we recognize the tax contributions made. We are working on the CIP and doing a review in the coming year. Tourism is very active and we can connect to talk more about that. Economic Development is going through a reorganization and the new director is focusing on BIA support and will be a liason.</p>	
47	BLLENHEIM	Rose Beach Line	<p>Why is Rose Beach Line closed for a year. Read in the paper that large cement blocks were available for Erie Shore Drive and Rose Beach Line. What happened to those. Why closed for a year when could use traffic lights like recently done at Kent Bridge Road overpass. How much has CK spent on engineers working on this.</p> <p><b>RESPONSE</b> - Road closed due to slippage of the lake bank and 3 accidents last year when it was down to one lane creating fear of liability by not closing. Will be detouring traffic until the masterplan for Lake Erie is completed in 2020. The study will give Council a full view of the dollars required to protect the Erie shoreline and not just Rose Beach Line. It is estimated that it would cost \$13M to fix Rose Beach Line.</p>	
48	BLLENHEIM	Honorarium Increase	<p>New Council and Mayor setting budget and give selves a 17% and 15% pay increase. Not fair to take that kind of pay raise.</p> <p><b>RESPONSE</b> - Mayor Canniff has a video on-line that explains the process that occurred. As well, Councillor Sulman's comments from that Council meeting (Jan. 21) also explain what took place. The increase was due to a federal government downloaded cost by eliminating the one-third tax exemption on Council's honorarium that has been in place for 50+ years. No one is making more money. In fact it is a pay decrease but an increase to the Municipality.</p>	
49	BLLENHEIM	Deficit	<p>Glad to see CK working hard to decrease the deficit and hope it continues to do so. Council could do a better job of making that public. If you don't put in cost of living, CK will automatically be in debt and reduce services.</p>	
50	BLLENHEIM	Shoreline	<p>Heard talk on climate change. Has anything been done regarding the feasibility and profitability of looking at shoreline restoration or land use changes to develop what the county use to do in terms of water collection and seepage. Need to be more proactive especially when behind in infrastructure.</p> <p><b>RESPONSE</b> - This would be covered in the Lake Erie Erosion Study currently underway. Expect back to Council in late 2019 with recommendations to move forward.</p>	
51	BLLENHEIM	Culture & Recreation	<p>When looking at the tax insert, the amount for recreation and culture is only \$42. In the Council package, administration is proposing Art Space be closed and moved to the upper level of the Art Gallery. This is a loss of exhibition space and inaccessible (no elevator/steep stairs). Art Space is located in downtown Chatham and is the only venue for CK artists to display and sell their work. It attracts other art organizations and retailers to the area and in downtown Chatham. Asking all of Council to reject the proposal and to ask staff to come up with other ways to support Art Space and local artists because we should be expanding, not reducing. Request that Council support arts and culture in CK.</p>	

**COMMUNITY FEEDBACK - 2019 BUDGET**

Item #	Source	Subject	Comments	Attachments
52	BLLENHEIM	Roads	Commended work on bridges. Feel that since amalgamation roads (gravel and paved) have not been maintained to the standard they should be. Especially rural roads and roads in towns and villages. Believes this is why the loss in population. See no real plan to get roads back to the standard they should be. Let's bring back the standard at time of amalgamation. Tired of excuses. Borrow money to restore the roads. If delayed, it will cost more. If looking for funding, show the Province our roads. Not happy to hear about twin-pad arena.	
53	BLLENHEIM	Rose Beach Line	People don't believe numbers given. (i.e. \$13M for Rose Beach Line). Closing the road is not the solution.	
54	BLLENHEIM	Municipal Comparators	Why is CK always compared to places like Sault Ste. Marie and Brantford? We cannot compare with them. Our economy is not like theirs. Not a fair comparison. <b>RESPONSE</b> - It is challenging to find a comparable municipality due to CK's size and population. Windsor and London were selected because they are near us. Places like Sault Ste Marie and Brantford have similar lands and population. The intent is to show the challenges we have with population density compared to like communities and to compare what they pay in taxes.	
55	BLLENHEIM	New Scotland Line Bridge / Engineering Costs	The things that happened with the New Scotland Line Bridge cannot happen again. The work was done in a few days then opened after being closed for 7 months. The engineering cost alone was \$74,000. How can you rationalize that kind of spending? Hearing 1% to 2% increases in budget or have to give up services. Suggestion to drill down and look at how spending. We have 800+ bridges, millions could be saved if look at what spending. Process needs to be re-examined or at the very least, some resistance. CK cannot afford to spend that kind of money.	
56	BLLENHEIM	Rose Beach Line	Resident in area and have been following what has taken place. Appreciate recent press release. But, erosion does not stop. If CK waits too long, will see a much worse situation and extensive remediation. Try to get something done in the short-term. Don't want to see us get further behind to the point we cannot get it back. The community wants to see it opened. Do realize the road is in poor condition but waiting on a fulsome study is fine but do not wait too long.	
57	BLLENHEIM	Deficit	How much do we have in unfunded liability for employees? How is it funded? Where does it come from? <b>RESPONSE</b> - Unfunded liabilities are items that we must accumulate as a liability on our financial statements that have no accumulated funding source, such as retired staff that have retirement benefits. Retirement benefits are provided between the age of 55 to 65. The annual estimated payout amount is budgeted, covered by operations and paid annually. As staff retire and added to the list, others are reaching 65 and off the list, therefore it is consistent and balances off. Actual value was not available but administration does monitor and conduct actuarial studies every three years.	
58	BLLENHEIM	Rose Beach Line	Live on road and road closed sign is causing some misconceptions and not getting some deliveries. Request for dead end sign or something similar. Five houses and the Wildwood campground on that road. The road being closed during the summer will cause chaos. <b>RESPONSE</b> - By law there has to be a road closed sign but can maybe look into an auxiliary sign for Rose Beach Line.	
59	BLLENHEIM	Rail Road	Get rid of the railway and recoup those dollars for the budget.	
60	BLLENHEIM	Police	Requested percentage increase for the Police budget (.36%). Noted that all departments were asked to reduce their budgets the best they could. Never heard tell of Police doing that. Did Council approve the new building on Dillon Road being built. Where is that money coming from. The Police budget is out of our pockets. Why is it being built when CK has so many buildings. Why not use what CK already has. <b>RESPONSE</b> - Money coming from the Police Service Budget out of their reserves and is being built to store the Command Post.	
61	BLLENHEIM	Police	Police are now buying SUV vehicles. Do we have to spend that kind of money. There is a lot of money sitting around.	
62	BLLENHEIM	Police	Past Councillor motion referred to a \$2M savings if CK went to OPP. What happened with that. <b>RESPONSE</b> - The last term of Council heard a presentation from the OPP. It was a discussion on operations and the policing model and costing was not included. Nothing more was brought forward outside the presentation.	
63	BY EMAIL	Four Counties Hospital Cemetery Road	ATTACHED	Yes
64	BY EMAIL	Conditions	ATTACHED	Yes

I am here today to speak about the proposed \$100K funding to support primary care physician recruitment. As a member of the board of the CKFHT, I am aware of the needs of our organization and can provide some insight into the importance of this budget allotment to the entire community.

The CKFHT operates 5 primary care sites (Wallaceburg, Chatham, Dresden, Blenheim and Ridgetown). The business model for the CKFHT was based on 30 physicians; we have 22. Last year at this time, we had about 38000 rostered patients; we currently have about 31000. The drop of 7000 rostered patients is a severe concern for the FHT and the community in general. Where did these patients go? Some have died; some have moved away, but the bulk of these are now orphaned because their physician ceased to practice in Chatham-Kent.

Dresden, for decades, had 3 physicians. The new CKFHT clinic in town has space for 4 physicians, but we now have 1 full-time and one part-time doctor. Almost weekly I have correspondence from someone searching for a doctor.

Chatham-Kent is in competition with other communities for physicians. We have a difficult time competing with larger centres (Toronto, London, Ottawa and Windsor) as they have amenities we cannot offer. Locally, Sarnia has recognized the need for physicians in their community and has allocated funds for physician recruitment. The proposed C-K funding will help level the field and make our community more competitive in its search for physicians. An unfortunate reality is that the road to recruitment is paved with money.

There are two fundamental needs satisfied by this funding:

- the need to have access to care
- the need to support C-K economic initiatives.

The main use of this funding would be to increase access to primary care by recruiting family doctors. Without adequate physicians, there will never be quality care. If we sit back and wait for doctors to arrive; this will not happen. Proactive recruitment is needed to encourage physicians to locate in C-K. Our aging population is mirrored by the age of our physicians and many are due to retire, exacerbating the access problem. Although not your immediate concern, fewer physicians put more pressure on an already overloaded emergency care system.

The second benefit of this funding is economic. C-K is an aging community. We want to be seniors-friendly, we want to encourage people to move here, whatever their age. When looking to move here, realtors are asked, "Can I get a doctor?" Currently, the answer is "not likely." An aging and increased population requires more care, more access and more doctors. Without adequate primary care, the economy of the region falters.

You have heard these statements before:

*Within one generation, our community is ... one of the healthiest and safest in Ontario*

*Within one generation, our community is recognized as the best place to live in Ontario*

*Within one generation, our community will be ... recognized as a destination of choice in Ontario for business investment.*

These, of course, are three of the 4 vision statements in the CK2035 Strategic Plan. A successful physician recruitment strategy is a foundation for success in each of these visions. Without physicians, these statements will not describe C-K in 2035. I want to repeat that statement: without adequate family doctors, C-K will have difficulty accomplishing its strategic plan.

I end on a positive note. Expedia, the travel website, has named Chatham-Kent as one of the best places to visit in 2019. Let's change the wording a bit. We want Chatham-Kent to be one of the best places to live for a lifetime. Ensuring a full compliment of family doctors will help this become a reality.

Thank you for this opportunity to talk to you.

Paul Weese  
900 Lorne Ave.,  
Dresden, ON N0P 1M0  
519-359-7271  
weese@kent.net

BY EMAIL TO [ckfps@chatham-kent.ca](mailto:ckfps@chatham-kent.ca) on January 21, 2019 @ 11:13 am

I would like to ask for your assistance in the 2019 budget deliberations. Most specifically for a financial grant for Four Counties Hospital in Newbury.

Those of us living in the east section of Chatham-Kent prefer to access medical services in Newbury. There are many reasons.

- almost all medical services are available in Newbury. (laboratory, physiotherapy, ultra-sound, x-ray, cardiologist, obgyn, hospice care, emergency room services 24-7 (with usually less than 1-2 hour wait); specialized Doctors available from the London Health Care System, endoscopy procedures available, etc.

- citizens of Ridgetown, Highgate, Dresden, Thamesville and surrounding rural areas in these locations have fewer miles to travel to attend this hospital

- those of us using the laboratory service have our results in the Dr.'s hands in about 24 hours vs using the Chatham laboratories (with most times a waiting room wait of 3 – 4 hours)

- no charge parking, with correspondingly shorter walking distance to all these services

We appreciate your attention to this most important request.

Yours truly

[Redacted signature block]

BY EMAIL TO [ckfps@chatham-kent.ca](mailto:ckfps@chatham-kent.ca) on January 25, 2019

GENTLEMEN

MY CONCERN IS THE ROAD CONDITIONS AT MAPLE LEAF CEMENTERY. THE MAIN ROAD IS A DISGRACE TO THE CITIZENS OF CHATHAM. EVERY YEAR IT IS PATCHED AND IS LIKE A ROCKY ROAD. I UNDERSTAND THE CEMENTERY DEPT. HAS AN A BUDGET, AND THIS IS A CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND SHOULD PLACED IN HIGH PRIORITY. I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW THAT TAXPAYER DOLLARS ARE SPENT WISELY AND THIS PROBLEM CAN BE PUT ON HIGH PRIORITY IN YOUR BUDGET. PLEASE ADVISE OF YOUR DECISION.

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