

**Town of BWG Council completes first three-year budget deliberations
*2020 budget proposes 3.31% municipal increase***

Bradford West Gwillimbury, ON (December 3, 2019) – Members of the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury’s Council met to complete their first three-year budgeting process, ensuring better financial planning for multi-year projects.

The 2020 budget combines a 0.41% decrease in the Town’s base budget with a special capital levy for the repair, replacement and rehabilitation of infrastructure like roads and facilities. The result is an increase of 3.31% in the municipal portion of the property tax bill versus 2019.

This increase is necessary to support the growing community, including hiring an additional crossing guard, by-law enforcement officer, parks staff and providing more funds for volunteer firefighters. Capital investments will include stormwater pond maintenance, improvements at the water and wastewater treatment plants, improvements at Mount Pleasant Cemetery, a Creation Centre at the Library, additions and replacements to Town fleet and ongoing investment in roads.

Residents who receive water and wastewater services from the Town can expect to see an overall increase for these services of 2.5%, which amounts to about \$2.67 to the average bi-monthly bill.

“We are continuing to keep increases as low as possible while making the necessary investments to ensure we meet our most critical goals,” said Mayor Rob Keffer. “The safety and security of our residents is our top priority, so we are focusing over the next few years on improvements to things like water and wastewater treatment facilities, parks and roads, while also expanding our ability to provide services to the growing population.”

BWG collects property taxes on behalf of Simcoe County, South Simcoe Police Services and the Province of Ontario for schools, so the municipal rate will be combined with these budgets to arrive at the overall increase. Final figures will likely not be known until spring, but the overall increase for 2020 is currently projected at 3.55%. This is approximately \$163 more to each household based on an average home assessment of \$481,892.

In 2021 and 2022, the municipal increases are anticipated to be around 5% annually, with blended increases projected at just under 4.5%. Budgets include expansion of Joe Magani Park, replacement of aging playground equipment, improvements to the Auld Kirk, new and replacement Leisure Centre fitness equipment and continued investment in improvements to roads and facilities.

The budget is not final until approved at a regular council meeting later this month.