

From: Robert Ogilvie <bogilvie@xplornet.com>
Subject: 6.5% tax increase is now final
Date: August 17, 2007 5:02:40 PM EDT (CA)
To:

Well Folks, we tried,

At last night's Council meeting, the South Algonquin budget was approved and your tax rate for 2007 is now cast in stone at a 6.5% increase over last year.

Those of you who have followed budget developments via these emails will know that Council has had to deal with a number of financial issues which have resulted in the need to increase your taxes this year. Briefly, these include the need to rebuild our financial reserves, overdue pay raises for Township employees, the loss of income accompanying our decision not to accept Algonquin Park's garbage, setting funds aside for new initiatives like civic addressing - 911, the development of an Official Plan, and the need to support the Township's fledgling infrastructure.

That said, in my opinion there was more than enough wiggle room to reduce the tax rate by another percentage point or two. I presented a resolution last night to take \$12,000 from the 2006 \$55,000 surplus and use it to reduce taxes by an additional 1%. This idea received zero support from other Councillors and so was soundly defeated.

I'd like to thank those of you who turned out to show your support for the modest reduction I was proposing. Sadly, other Councillors don't seem inclined to keep people in their ward apprised of important Council events like the budget. There were about 15 or 20 Ayles Lakeres in attendance and 2 people from Whitney. Even the Whitney couple had been contacted by me about the meeting. Maybe we'd have more success at budget meetings if I can locate a few key residents from all areas of the Township and roust them out to such municipal events...

To end on a more positive note, there are a number of initiatives that I'm quite excited about, including the coming of 911 service and the development of an Official Plan. Work has begun on both, but both will take at least a year (911) or two (Official Plan) to implement fully. More locally, we're working towards an upgraded boat launch at the public dock and intend to spread much of the stock-piled gravel on our roads next spring (doing so now would negate the effects of the calcium applied earlier in the summer to control dust).

Best wishes to all,

Bob

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