



Thursday, December 17, 2020  
Media Release

## LaSalle Council Approves 2021 Budget in Principle

LaSalle Council has approved a 1.95% Municipal Tax Rate increase in principle as presented by administration. The Budget Session took place on December 16. The 2021 Budget By-law will be presented at a Regular Meeting of Council in January.

“This year, the budgeting process was not easy,” said Mayor Marc Bondy. “Administration knew that this was going to be a tough budget and all departments kept service level increases to a minimum or status quo. Administration presented us with a very responsible budget.”

The Town of LaSalle’s administration recommended a 1.95% Municipal Tax Rate increase in the 2021 Budget. The budget requires a \$1.7M levy increase over the 2020 Municipal Budget, bringing the general levy to \$38.4M. The increases include approximately \$342,800 for Police Services, \$783,000 for inflationary pressures, \$300,000 for long term capital contribution and \$287,200 for growth and service level increases.

“In order to keep the tax rate increase low, we scaled back on the annual contribution to the capital reserves, and also reduced the amount of funding being put aside for the Small Coast Waterfront Project,” said Dale Langlois, Director of Finance/Treasurer. “We have not made any major additions to the 2021 budget.”

The municipal tax rate increase will compensate for the impact of property assessment values not changing from the prior year. Due to COVID-19, the province has postponed the Municipal Property Assessment (MPAC) update which was scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2021. This means that property valuations for 2021 will now be based on the January 1, 2016 values, and nearly all properties in the Town will have an identical assessment value in 2021 as in 2020.

The 1.95% municipal tax rate increase means an average home valued at \$256,000 (using MPAC’s 2016 property assessment) in LaSalle would see an increase of approximately \$48.13 on their municipal property taxes. After taking into account the municipal, County of Essex and education tax rates, it is estimated that the overall tax rate increase will amount to 1.32%. At this time, the education rate is estimated to remain unchanged from last year, however this rate is not released until the spring each year so the actual number is not yet known.

Each municipal department is responsible to develop a budget that coincides with their goals and objectives for the coming year. Those goals and objectives are tied to LaSalle’s Corporate Strategic Plan, and are often developed based on feedback from the community and members of Council throughout the year. For more information about the budget, visit the finance page on the Town’s website at [lasalle.ca](http://lasalle.ca)

-30-

### For more information, contact:

Dale Langlois  
Treasurer/Director of Finance,  
Town of LaSalle  
519-969-7770, ext. 1242  
[dlangloi@lasalle.ca](mailto:dlangloi@lasalle.ca)

Dawn Hadre  
Corporate Communication and Promotions Officer,  
Town of LaSalle  
519-969-7770, ext. 1253  
[dhadre@lasalle.ca](mailto:dhadre@lasalle.ca)

