

**From:** [Jessica Steffler](#)  
**To:** [budget](#)  
**Subject:** Residence Comments  
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Good afternoon,

Mayor and counsellors of the Township of Wilmot, the 2025 proposed budget is unacceptable. I have lived in Wilmot for over 30 years and the idea that previous leadership not spending or increasing taxes is just that an excuse. No one in this Township can afford a 50 percent increase especially after the large increase last year and the cost of living increasing.

As far as infrastructure, yes we need upgrades. I work in this industry and look at municipal budgets consistently. What many municipalities, cities, owners etc. do is a proper forecast of infrastructure projects over the next 5 years. I have yet to see a owner spend their entire budget as proposed on infrastructure projects. This should be managed so that increase to residence is within means that the community can afford.

As far as two specific projects, the New Hamburg Fire Department and the Recreation Centre, not all residents use those facilities. I would hope that both the fire department and the Rec center would have to raise more funds independently from just municipal tax dollars.

With inflation and the cost of living continuing to increase we will face homelessness within our community. If you review the Wilmot Resource Centre's website, you will find a demand that has increased for individuals within our township.

It is extremely disheartening to see even the suggestion of this type of increase proposed and that there is "no fat" to cut. The budget needs to be reviewed and an appropriate increase. If that means the township cannot hire more staff or get to a project until the following year, that is how it must be as residents just simply cannot afford it.

Look forward to the meeting on January 7<sup>th</sup>

**Jessica Steffler**



