

January 7, 2024

Questions submitted by Barry Wolfe, Baden

Answers need to be posted on the budget landing page of the website.

SUMMARY OF QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED BEFORE BUDGET APPROVAL:

- 1 *“There's other metrics that we can also be sharing and we'll be putting out there, sort of what is the absolute taxes per household on an average household within a municipality.” **Where is that report, please?***
- 2 *“...as well as that portion that reflects the region, the education and so that you can see the breakdown of that. So, we'll be sharing those this week as well, and getting that information in front of the public.” **Where is that report, please?***
- 3 *“last year we were given a municipal generated comparator and that we could go and search various municipalities and do the comparison” and “but it was a very interesting one to kind of bounce around and take a look at all the things you generated”. The response was that it would be taken back, meaning someone would find and provide it for council and the public. **Where is that report, please?***
- 4 *That being said, I would ask that **the departments have a report back for next time we meet of services that they provide and the operating costs for each service.** This is two-fold because it gives us a holistic view of what the services are costing and we can have a document that we can kind of reference and see. Also, it gives us an opportunity that at the end of the day, we need to shine the light in every corner and crevice of the budget to see where we can uncover potential savings. **So, my ask would just be instead of cherry-picking certain services, I would like to see the services provided and operating costs for those such.**”*
- 5 *“the CAO reported that, **“So, good practice and best practice is to recover the cost of staff against the capital projects that they work on.”** You DO NOT recover the cost of staffing, because not all staff are costed against capital projects.*

“And there's a couple of reasons for that. One, it reduces the impact on the operating budget directly. [Yes. It hides the cost elsewhere.]

Wilmot Council must analyze this budget proposal and eliminate any potential use of “gapping” in a budget’s calculation.

This newly suggested shift in accounting practices, does not appear so far, to be successful practice. This tax payer is asking for a second opinion. *Will the Township get the professional advice of others, including an auditor which it needs to hire in any case?*

- 6 ***Where does this loss of \$1.5 million in development charges revenue from the Nithview Mennonite Homes Corporation appear in this budget or projected in a 10-year forecast, or how is this loss being officially recognized and budget to account for in the capital budget forecasting?***
- 7 On December 12th, the CAO reported that, “And so, ***the actuals and the outcomes won’t align with the way that they’re budgeted.***
What does this mean in tax payer English, please?
- 8 “*asset management has to differ in degrees been adopted proactively from a funding perspective, which is the first step, addressing that you're going to need that funding and that annually you need to put that money aside, even if it's not for today's project, but for next year's project, you need to account for that cost.*” This future planning is described in detail in a 10-year capital forecast.
 - a. ***Where is the 10-year capital forecast that indicates this known projected cost?***
 - b. Where in the 10-year capital forecast, under the budget year 2026 does the projected cost of **renovations to Castle Kilbride to accommodate an additional, as yet unhired, 23 staff, costed in 2024 dollars, at \$1,042,000 appear?** The report submitted to Council on November 4th, stated on page 4, “*Long term financial implications to be explored and documented for the 10-year capital forecast.*” **Where is the 10-year capital**

forecast that includes the \$1,042,000 projected renovations cost?

- c. ***Where is the standard corporation document for a 30-year risk assessment forecast?***

Respectfully submitted,

Barry Wolfe,
Baden