



The Corporation of the Township of Seguin

Addendum

Council Meeting Monday, December 2nd, 2024 in the Township of Seguin Council Chambers and Electronic Participation

05. Public Meeting:

- Addition to item 05. a) Consent Application No. B-2024-0025-H (Carpenter) of correspondence from Erin Cameron.

07. Delegations:

- Removal of item b) Rotary Club of Parry Sound at the request of the presenters.

08. Staff Reports:

- Addition to item a) Memo – 2025 Draft Budget of an updated memo.

Fw: Comments on Consent Application B-2024-0025-H

From info <info@seguin.ca>

Date Mon 2024-12-02 10:10 AM

To Craig Jeffery <cjeffery@seguin.ca>; Taylor Elgie <telgie@seguin.ca>

 1 attachment (195 KB)

Letter to Seguin Township.docx;

From: Erin Cameron <erin.b.cameron@gmail.com>

Sent: November 29, 2024 12:10 AM

To: info <info@seguin.ca>

Subject: Comments on Consent Application B-2024-0025-H

You don't often get email from erin.b.cameron@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Attn: Craig Jeffery, Clerk

Hello,

Attached is a written submission of comments regarding **Consent Application # B-2024-0025-H**. I believe you will be considering this application at the upcoming council meeting on Dec. 2nd.

Please confirm receipt of this document. We would also like to be notified of any decisions or future applications regarding this property.

Thanks very much,

Erin Cameron (on behalf of Watson Lake Community Ltd.)

From: Watson Lake Community Ltd.

c/o Erin Cameron, President of the Board of Directors
92 Main St. N.
Newmarket, ON, L3Y 4A1
erin.b.cameron@gmail.com
416-554-6056

November 28, 2024

To: Council of the Township of Seguin

c/o Craig Jeffery, Clerk
Township of Seguin Municipal Office
5 Humphrey Dr.
Seguin, ON, P2A 2W8

Dear members of the Council,

Subject: Comments on Consent Application # B-2024-0025-H (Civic Address: 758 Highway 141)

I am writing on behalf of the Watson Lake Community to provide our comments and potential concerns regarding the Consent Application above, which is currently under review by the Council. As the owners of an adjacent property (Civic Address: 305 WA Watson Lake), we believe it is important to share our perspective on how this application may impact our community and surroundings.

We are the owners of more than 300 acres surrounding Watson Lake. Since 1966, we have been committed to preserving the natural environment on our property, as well as the lake and the watershed that feeds it. The prime objective of our community is to promote sustainable development that protects and maintains the pristine environment of the Watson Lake property and its surrounding lands. This commitment is reflected in our community bylaws and guidelines governing use of the property, and in a longstanding Managed Forest Plan agreement with the Government of Ontario.

However, we recognize the important role that surrounding properties play in conserving the health of Watson Lake, particularly the large watershed that extends across the property that is the subject of the above Application.

Key Comments and Points of Concern:

- **Future Land Use:** The proposed severance would be of concern to us if it is the initial step in any future change of use (e.g., development) that might affect the functioning of the watershed to capture, filter and gradually release water to flow into Watson Lake.

- **Environmental Impact:** The issue of potential harm to the watershed should not be taken lightly. The applicant property contains one of the major sources of water for Watson Lake, which flows into Sucker Lake and then Lake Rosseau. Besides the open waters of Cook Pond, the subject property contains a large marshy wetland, which holds water that is filtered by the vegetation and released slowly through drier periods. Wetland areas are valuable for preventing flood damage, improving water quality, and providing essential wildlife habitat conditions for indigenous species. These valuable watershed areas should be left undisturbed.

Suggestions and Requests:

- We ask that the waters and wetland across the applicant's property be designated an Environmental Protection Zone as a condition of the severance.
- We ask that no future development be permitted that would affect the amount or quality of water that is fed into Watson Lake.
- We ask to be kept informed of the outcome, and to have an opportunity to express our views if there are future proposals for use of the applicant property.

We appreciate the Council's time and consideration in reviewing our comments on this Application. I trust that the members of the Council will carefully evaluate all feedback from the community and take it into account as part of their decision-making process.

We look forward to hearing more about the outcome of this application, and any future opportunities for input.

Sincerely,

Erin Cameron
President of the Board of Directors
(on behalf of the 20 Co-Owner families of Watson Lake Community Ltd.)



Seguin Township

Memo to Council

Prepared for: Council

Subject: 2025 Draft Budgets

From: Jason Inwood, Chief Administrative Officer & Michele Fraser, Chief Financial Officer

Agenda Date: December 2nd, 2024

Memo to Council:

Background and Recap

Council has engaged in several months of budget discussions as staff prepared the 2025 draft operating and capital budgets. On November 4, 2024, staff presented a memo highlighting challenges associated with external levies impacting the tax rate. These external pressures, beyond the township's control, have strained staff's ability to adhere to the budget targets established by Council earlier this year.

- **Challenge Focus:** The primary issue is a 21.28% increase from the Ontario Provincial Police, translating to a \$258,155 impact on the operating budget.

Based on discussions on November 4, 2024, staff finalized a draft budget, presented on November 18, 2024. Key adjustments included the removal of new staffing positions proposed in the service level change requests:

1. Climate Change Coordinator.
2. Communications and Programming Assistant shared between Community Services and Communications.

Additionally, the library board withdrew their proposal for a new position.

Council has intensely reviewed the budget since, suggesting various adjustments, particularly regarding new staffing and council remuneration. Currently, staff are directed to exclude these new positions from the 2025 budget and to proceed with the proposed council remuneration. A chart outlined below that details the financial impacts of these staffing changes and illustrates a proposed phased approach for council remuneration over two years for consideration.

Finance Committee Feedback

Seguin's Finance Committee met on November 26, 2024, to review and provide feedback on the proposed 2025 budget. Here are their key insights:

- **1.5% Capital Levy:** Continued support for implementation.
- **OPP Increase:** Concerns were raised, and support emphasized for the council's efforts to lobby the province for phased implementation. It's recommended to communicate this burden to the community.
- **Reserve Levels:** Caution noted regarding reserve levels dropping to 14%, against the 25-30% target.
- **Council Remuneration:** Recommendation to spread remuneration adjustments over multiple years to mitigate financial impact and public perception.
- **Revenue Focus:** Encouragement to identify strategies for increased revenue generation.

Next Steps

To date, no modifications were made to the proposed budgets since the November 18, 2024 presentation. Any additional adjustments will require further Council direction. Final budget adoption is scheduled for discussion on Monday, December 9, 2024, enabling staff to initiate 2025 planning.

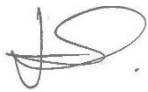
2025 TAX RATE COMPARISONS			Blended Rate			
Preliminary Budget		Municipal Tax Rate increase	Single Family Home	Increase	Waterfront Home	Increase
	Third Party Levies	2.572%				
	Asset Management	1.500%				
	Operating	1.795%				
		5.867%	4.278%	\$ 63.33	5.201%	\$ 232.44
Effect of Changes on Operating Tax Rate Increase:						
	Climate Change	+\$88,200 0.572%	0.417%	\$ 6.17	0.421%	\$ 18.80
	CS/Communications	+\$73,850 0.477%	0.348%	\$ 5.15	0.351%	\$ 15.68
	Spread Council remuneration over 2 years	-\$28,500 -0.185%	-0.135%	-\$ 2.00	-0.136%	-\$ 6.08
		6.731%	4.908%	\$ 72.65	5.837%	\$ 260.84
Broken down as:						
	Third Party Levies	2.572%				
	Asset Management	1.500%				
	Operating	2.659%				
		6.731%				

Update

The Township was notified on Thursday, November 28, that the Province would be providing funding to offset the extraordinary OPP expenses. While we have not yet received an updated billing from the OPP, based on the news release the Township’s 2025 levy will be approximately \$1.26 million. The schedule below outlines the updated tax rate increase and the financial effects of the staffing and remuneration changes.

SEGUIN TOWNSHIP							
2025 TAX RATE COMPARISONS - adjusted for OPP billing change							
				Blended Rate			
Preliminary Budget		Municipal Tax Rate increase		Single Family Home	Increase	Waterfront Home	Increase
	Third Party Levies	1.218%					
	Asset Management	1.500%					
	Operating	1.795%					
		4.513%		3.291%	\$ 48.71	4.205%	\$187.92
Effect of Changes on Operating Tax Rate Increase:							
	Climate Change	+\$88,200	0.572%	0.417%	\$ 6.17	0.421%	\$ 18.80
	CS/Communications	+\$73,850	0.477%	0.348%	\$ 5.15	0.351%	\$ 15.68
	Spread Council remuneration over 2 years	-\$28,500	-0.185%	-0.135%	-\$ 2.00	-0.136%	-\$ 6.08
			5.377%	3.921%	\$ 58.03	4.841%	\$216.32
Broken down as:							
	Third Party Levies	1.218%					
	Asset Management	1.500%					
	Operating	2.659%					
		5.377%					

Prepared by:



Jason Inwood,
Chief Administrative Officer



Michele Fraser,
Chief Financial Officer