

No gloom in '81 budget for Elmvale

by Chris Mackey

Elmvale residents can look forward to no great increases in the village budget this year as local council members once again managed to hold the line on spending and keep residential mill rates even with last year's figures.

The 1981 Budget, released earlier this month, reflects a sound economy in the village and residential rates will remain at 14.65 mills, the same it has been since 1978. Commercial rates also remained fixed as they have over the past five years, and will continue to be 17.23 mills.

Although the village of Elmvale managed to hold the line on costs, area school boards did not.

Incorporated into the new budget was a 3.05 mills increase for residents for public school support (5.00 mills for commercial) and a 2.48 mills increase for residential separate school supporters (commercial rates increased 4.37).

What this means for public school supporters is that for every \$1,000 of residential assessment, the increase will be \$3.05 and commercial will be \$5.

Separate school supporters can expect to pay \$2.48 more per \$1,000 assessment over last year while commercial rates will increase by \$4.37.

Requirements

The 1981 budget requirements for the village amount to \$115,431 to be raised by general levy.

The amount was reached by combining the needs of general government, protection to person and

property, public works, community services, parks, arena insurance less the working reserve fund.

General government spending is up from \$49,787 in 1980 to \$54,465 this year and protection to person and property is up approximately \$1,489 over the previous year's budget.

Going down will be costs for arena insurance and public works. There will be more grants this year also.

In the final tally, the village needs \$115,431 to run this year while the County of Simcoe needs \$25,449 from residents here and the school boards need \$189,975.

What helped keep village taxes down was a 1980 surplus of \$20,074 and an estimated revenue for the next year of \$180,907.

Anyone not impressed with the control shown by village council this year need only look at the five year comparison of mill rates in the village, housed in the municipal office then compare with other municipalities.

In the past five years, not only have municipal fathers kept the mill rate at an equal level, but the rate has actually dropped from the 1977 rate of 14.66 mills.

Each of the County and school boards rates have increased each year.



Get the picture

Workmen were changing the billboards on Vinden Street recently when this picture was taken. The message on the billboard on the right is not clear as it was halfway

through its transformation. At that point, it was anyone's guess which half was going and which half was coming.

Area towns object to SCBE's budget

Village of Elmvale agrees with a resolution sent out by the town of Stayner, that states the Simcoe County Board of Education has gone overboard in spending in their 1981 operating budget.

Reeve and council members endorsed the resolution asking Education Minister Bette Stephenson to "establish guidelines in bringing the SCBE back down to earth" at their last regular meeting held May 11 in the Board of Trade Room of the Community Hall.

The resolution sent out by Stayner Council took the form of a letter to Dr. Stephenson and was signed by Mayor D.A. MacDonald. It pointed out the groups concern over residential increases for elementary and secondary schools that amounted to 19.45 percent for the

town as opposed to 13.95 percent for the county average.

It went on to say that while the group understood in these days of high inflation every municipality, and ultimately each individual must bear the increasing costs resultant therefrom, it

was their feeling society must also accept some responsibility in the exercising of fiscal restraint so that some semblance of monetary sanity might prevail.

"Our view of the tax levy, accorded us by the school board, borders on irresponsibility inasmuch as an increase of this dimension should never have been considered," it said in the letter.

Elmvale's levy Residents of Elmvale will be paying approximately \$40 more this year for Public School taxes, based on a \$15,000 assessment, said a spokesman for the village.

Elementary school mill rates have increased by 1.28 mills over 1980 and secondary

rates have increased 1.32 mills.

Faye Townes, village clerk noted last week that the Simcoe County Board of Education will

receive, in 1981, 57.42 percent of the total village operating budget.

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THURSDAY, May 28, 1981

Midland Golf and Country Club Business Meeting Commences at 8:00 p.m.