

Every year, Municipal Councils struggle to set their budgets, taking into consideration the various needs of their community. They must not only meet the ever-growing demands of the County School Board, but must also set some goals to meet the future growth of their area. Various organizations must approach Council with their financial requests which will permit them to continue their operation. Councils are responsible for a wide variety of services; from Fire Protection services, to Library facilities and operating funds. Recreation, Heritage, Parks, Garbage Disposal and Welfare needs are added to the general operation costs for the Municipal office, Road crews and maintenance, Street lighting, as well as all the sundry items we tend to take for granted. The Focus on Budgets was selected for this month's issue, because this year, the tax-payer has expressed great concern, not only about the higher levy for the County School Board operation, but also because of increasing tax demands coming from both Federal and Provincial levels of government.

With more being taken from the working man/woman's paycheck plus increased levels of property taxation, the average tax payer is becoming more aware of the shrinking "free" money left for personal use. The local municipal operation is the closest one to which the taxpayer can complain. The local municipal council usually cuts away at budgets to try and prevent additional levies on the local resident. School Board taxes must be paid, even though councils may complain about the amount. Basic services must be provided - and many grants are available to assist municipal councils with these; e.g. Welfare, Roads, Parks, etc. Additional grants can be obtained for a variety of programs which can improve a municipality's finances. At some point, councils must decide either to improve their taxpayers services or just "hold the line". Raising taxes is never a popular move, but the council's must make tough decisions as to which way to go.

Many of us are not well versed in the municipal budget procedures. Many are unaware of how councils obtain their money as well as how they spend it.

We have attempted to give an overall "simplified" budgetary outline of our local councils' operations. The Lantern is grateful to the Clerks involved, both for the time given explaining the intricacies of municipal finance and also for the copies of their budgets. We have attempted to follow a basic format for line-by-line operation in revenue and expenditures. Some discrepancies will occur as the townships do not necessarily have the same assets or offer exactly the same services and do not group the same funding areas together. The basic components are fairly true to form.

For myself, I found the exercise of looking over the budgets a challenge as well as a most interesting project. Our Clerks are to be admired for their ability to make me ( a most definite non-mathematician) have some semblance of understanding of this complex procedure. Mill rates I would not even tackle!

If you wish to see full copies of your Township's budget, visit your local Municipal Office...the Clerk will be most helpful and obliging. (Best call for an appointment...they are very busy people!)

**WHAT HAPPENS TO OUR MONEY**  
**A Summary of local Townships' Budgets for 1986**

**REVENUE**

	Bastard & S. Burgess	Rear of Leeds & Lansdowne	South Crosby
Payment in lieu of Taxes	9160.	5820.	11882.05
Ontario Unconditional Grants	134710.	128675.	95133.
Specific Grants	304330.	255380.	157850.
Other Revenues	201741.	39100.	21000.
Local Board & other User Fees*	*(included above)	3000.	*(included above)
Surplus/(Deficit)	45000.	20925.	(12490.)
Telephone Tax	48216.	47287.	35470.45
Tlle Drainage	15367.	-.	-.
General Taxation	1072958.	874386.	788127.10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1831482.</b>	<b>1374573.</b>	<b>1109462.60</b>

**EXPENDITURES**

General Government	184430.	141430.	112426.74
Protection of Persons & Property	79007.	65868.	52117.24
Transportation	446000.	366100.	266200.
Environmental	24875.	26900.	8311.86
Health	10350.	1425.	-.
Social & Family	20000.	53000.	30000.
Recreation & Culture	211829.	38414.	22219.
Police Villages	-.	-.	14100. (Elgin)
<b>Subtotal for Township's Own Use</b>	<b>1003090.</b>	<b>695802.</b>	<b>505374.84</b>
Education (All levels & denominations)	741916.	608797.	529988.76
County Operation	86746.	69974.	74099.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1831482.</b>	<b>1374573.</b>	<b>1109462.60</b>

**Explantion of Areas in Budget**

**Revenue**

Payment in lieu of Taxes:  
 Federal & Provincially owned property  
 Unconditional Grants  
 Prov. per household grants  
 Resource Equalization  
 General Support grant  
 Specific Grants  
 Roadways, Supplement  
 General Assistance, Planning  
 Park Assist & Recreation & other areas.

**Other Revenue**  
 Permits, Reserves, Interest  
 OHRP, Rentals, Licences etc.  
**General Taxation**  
 Monies to be raised by property taxation to meet budget needs for local Council, School Board & County operation.

**Expenditures**

**General Government**  
 Council fees, administration  
 Benefits, Office supplies,  
 Overall office operation

**Protection of Persons/Property**  
 Fire Depts, Conservation  
 Authorities, Building Inspector  
 Dog Control/Livestock comp.  
**Transportation**  
 Road staff salaries & equip.  
 Materials + Utilities (street lights) -  
**Environmental**  
 Garbage collection/disposal  
**Health**  
 Services to Cemeteries  
 Doctor incentives  
**Social & Family**  
 Welfare & assistance

**Recreation & Culture**  
 Parks-staff & maintenance  
 LACAC, Library, Recreation  
 Committees, etc.  
**Police Villages**  
 Sidewalks, Lights etc.  
**Education**  
 Monies to be supplied to  
 County School Board

**County**  
 Shared assessment for the  
 operation of County services.