

## Release Date: February 9, 2021 Town of Arnprior 2021 Budget Approved

**Arnprior, ON.** After public discussions in December 2020, and budget deliberations last week, Arnprior Council approved its 2021 Budget on Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. The 2021 Budget includes a 1.5% Municipal Tax Rate increase which will produce an additional \$146K in revenue for future infrastructure investments and will help prevent sharp tax increases in the future. The budget contains over \$492K in Community Grants including the Arnprior Public Library's annual operating grant of \$291K.

The Town continues with the “pay-as-you-go” financial model which supports avoiding any new long term debt, paying down existing debt, increased annual contributions to reserves, as well as continuing investment into infrastructure renewal. The Town's debt retirement strategy will see the Town debt free by 2032. The 2021 Municipal Tax Rate increase will result in a net increase of **\$1.09 per month** or **\$13.10 per year** for every \$100,000 of property current value assessment from Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC). Over the past seven years, Arnprior's annual average Municipal Tax Rate Increases continue to be less than the average rate of inflation.

The 2021 budget continues to invest in asset renewal with over \$5.0M in total capital investments. Investments into linear infrastructure (roads, water, sewer) and facilities make up 72% of all capital investment as part of a life-cycle replacement strategy. Major capital budget highlights include:

- \$2,250,000 – Alicia Street Reconstruction – Phase I & II (McLachlin to Division St)
- \$250,000 – Rolling Road Rehabilitation (asphalt & sidewalk patches)
- \$600,000 – Nick Smith Centre Parking Lot Paving
- \$70,000 – Hugh Street Reconstruction Design
- \$75,000 – Daniel Street / Edey Street Signalization Design
- \$175,000 – DA Gillies Building – Fire Alarm / Sprinkler System
- \$350,000 – Water Tower Repairs and Repainting
- \$100,000 – Pump Station Communication Upgrades & Pump Replacement
- \$110,000 – Cat Loader Replacement

Mayor Walter Stack stated that “It is a responsible budget that balances the impact of the global pandemic on residents, businesses and Town services with the needs for future infrastructure investment and renewal. The modest 1.5%

municipal tax rate increase in combination with stationary property assessment values from MPAC keeps the impact to property owners low while allowing capital projects to move forward including road projects such as the Alicia Street reconstruction which was put on hold in 2020 due to COVID-19 impacts.”

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