

October 12, 2016

Deputy Mayor Henderson and Council

Thank you for the opportunity to ask questions and to be heard today.

I am here because it bothers me that we are over 9 months into the year and I don't know how my town is doing.

Back in July, the Cobourg Taxpayers Association wrote to Deputy Mayor Henderson to ask if we were on track after 6 months.

Figures were not provided and there is still nothing on the town's website.

Does council know how we are doing?

Why is this information not being provided to the public?

In 2017, I would like to see special emphasis placed on looking at ways to control future tax increases.

I would ask that budget numbers be released to the public at the end of June with an explanation of what steps are being taken to control possible overspends.

I would also like to ask that the 2017 budget be set and approved by the end of 2016.

Recently, the newly formed Northumberland Taxpayers Coalition met with the CAO and Director of Finance of Northumberland County.

We were delighted to hear that she was very receptive to maximizing cost-cutting, cost-sharing and shared service opportunities between the county, the municipalities and townships; however, she said municipal and township budgets were not normally completed by the end of the year.

Since the county goes to tender early in the year, Cobourg could not be included.

If the county can get their budget in by the end of the year, why can't Cobourg?

The Cobourg budget is less than a quarter the size of the county's.

Surely we can do better?

My vision is for a lean, effective and efficient government that is working for its people.

In summary, I am seeking answers to the following questions:

1. When will the 2016 budget vs. actual figures be posted on the Town of Cobourg Website, and is it possible to do this for the end of June each year?
2. What steps are being taken to monitor the budget vs. actual figures to identify and control overspending at this point in time?
3. Will the Town of Cobourg place the emphasis on looking at ways to control tax increases beginning with the 2017 budget?
4. With the goal of reducing costs in collaboration with the County, will the Town of Cobourg work to set and approve the 2017 budget by the end of 2016?

Thank you for listening to and representing your taxpayers.