The Mayor's Speech on the 2014 Budget

Municipality of Pontiac

Dear fellow citizens,

We are pleased to present our budget for 2014 that will be adopted at this Council meeting. All members of this council and municipal staff have worked earnestly to bring a fair and balanced budget to the table.

This budget was developed responsibly, taking into account the needs, comments and requests expressed by citizens during the last election campaign, the pre-budget consultation and recommendations made by municipal staff. Consideration was given to new tax standards, unavoidable fiscal constraints, the cost of living and the necessities required to maintain services while allowing our community to also develop.

We have arrived at a balanced operating budget without using our non-affected surplus. This reserve consists of only $130,000.00 and a minimum reserve must be maintained to ensure that the municipality is able to respond to unforeseen events.

To obtain this budget, each budget item was verified line by line, keeping in mind the average 12% increase in evaluations, fixed costs such as the share paid to the MRC des Collines (majority is police services) and necessities required to maintain our infrastructure while trying to minimize the impact on taxpayers.

Nevertheless, we managed to limit the increase in operating expenses at 1.30%, compared to the budget of 2013, while considering the needs expressed by citizens. A successful exercise, without cutting into basic and essential services provided to citizens. (See: Analysis of budgetary change 2013 vs. 2014).

In addition, rest assured that the Finance and Administration Committee and our managers will monitor expenditures carefully and monthly throughout the current year recognizing our responsibility and accountability to the citizens.

The Mayor and Councillors plan to meet with the citizens in each electoral district during the coming year to obtain more information on the needs and wants, a calendar will be available soon and the next pre-budget consultation will be in September.
I wish to thank all those who have contributed to the development of the budget for the teamwork and especially to citizens for their great collaboration at the pre-budget consultation.

Thank you.

Note: Minutes of the pre-budget consultation will be available shortly.

Mayor and Councillors of the Municipality of Pontiac

Jan. 15, 2014