



The Corporation of the Township of Huron-Kinloss

Staff Report

Report Title: 2026 Budget Community Engagement

Date: Jan. 26, 2026

Report Number: TRE-2026-08

Department: Treasury

File Number: C11 TRE 26

Prepared By: Christine Heinisch, Manager of Financial Services/Treasurer

Attachments: Survey Responses Report

Recommendation:

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Council hereby receives for information Report TRE-2026-08 prepared by Christine Heinisch, Treasurer.

Background:

The public was engaged in a brief survey to help guide the development of the annual budget and ensure our programs and services continue to meet the needs of the community.

Discussion/Analysis/Overview:

Survey responses were down about 10% from last year. We offered respondents a chance to enter a draw to win H-K dollars to increase participation. We have the ballots prepared for the Mayor to pick a winner.

Some highlights that provide useful information for staff and Council to consider during the budget process include:

- The responses continue to represent a fairly even split between those who agree versus those who disagree that the services received for their tax dollars represent good value.
- The majority of respondents have a good understanding of what their taxes pay for and use the municipal website as a main source of information.
- The three Township services or programs that are most important to the respondents are Fire & Emergency Services, Transportation, and Water and Waste Water.
- The majority of respondents are willing to increase spending in Fire & Emergency Services, Reliable & Safe water as well as safe and well maintained roads and bridges.
- The majority of respondents believe in the importance of saving for future infrastructure needs and own a primary residence in Huron-Kinloss.
- The highest level of participation was from lakeshore residents, age 60 and older. A significant number of people want to learn more about the budget process and of those interested, would use the municipal website to find

information, although almost half of those interested also mentioned our newsletter H-K Connects as a method to learn more about the budget.

Appreciation is extended to all who completed the budget survey. Their valuable input supports the preparation of the budget, which is guided by the strategic principles of openness and transparency to ensure informed planning and decision making.

Financial Impacts:

N/A

Performance Measurement:

117 Responses received vs 131 Responses received last year.

Strategic Area:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Embrace a thriving rural lifestyle | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enhance Municipal Service Delivery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare for Inclusive Growth | <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure Financial Stability |

Strategic Goal: Encourage strong communication and community engagement

Respectfully Submitted By:

Christine Heinisch, Manager of Financial Services/Treasurer

Report Approved By:

Jodi MacArthur, Chief Administrative Officer