

Report to Council

Report Title:	County Levy Due Date Deferral		
Prepared By:	Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer		
Department:	Finance		
Date:	April 28, 2020		
Report Number:	FIN2020-14	File Number:	C11FIN
Attachments:	County Levy Due Date Deferral Report by Edward Henley, Director of Corporate Services		

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number FIN2020-14 – County Levy Due Date Deferral, prepared by Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer for information purposes; and

Further the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby supports the County of Bruce’s proposal to defer the County levy payment dates to match the deferral of the Education tax due dates announced by the Province.

Report:

Background:

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Council approved financial relief at the April 14, 2020 Council meeting, including waiving penalty and interest on the interim 2020 property tax billings until June 30th.

On April 9, 2020, the Director of Corporate Services presented the County of Bruce Corporate Service Committee with the recommendation to defer County taxes to be in line with the Province of Ontario education taxes due dates. At this meeting, the following recommendation was approved:

That the Bruce County Levy Due Dates be deferred to match the deferral in the Education tax due dates recently announced by the Province as follows: Instalment #1 due March 31, 2020 be deferred to June 30, 2020, Instalment #2 due June 30, 2020 be deferred to September 30, 2020, Instalment #3 due September 30, 2020 be deferred to December 15, 2020 and that Instalment #4 continue to be due on December 15, 2020; and,

That this request is subject to approval by the lower-tier municipalities as set out in the Municipal Act and is to be forwarded for consideration to the 8 lower-tier municipalities of which at least 5 of the 8 lower-tier municipalities must approve by resolution representing at least two-thirds of Bruce County’s weighted assessment; and,

That a by-law is to be prepared to bring these amendments into force once sufficient lower-tier municipalities have provided their approval.

Analysis:

As per the report, “At least 5 of the 8 lower-tier municipalities must approve the change of the due dates for 2020 representing at least two-thirds of the weighted assessment. The two-thirds requirement could require up to 7 municipalities to agree depending upon their portion of the assessment. At least one of Kincardine or Saugeen Shores must approve due to their representing more than 40% of the weighted assessment.”

The deferral of the County tax levy will significantly benefit the lower-tiers and will reduce the cash flow constraints that will soon be realized. Staff is recommending that Council approve the County’s due date deferral and have prepared a motion for Council’s consideration.

Sustainability Checklist:

What aspect of the Brockton Sustainable Strategic Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?

- Do the recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision? N/A
- Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Cultural Vibrancy? N/A
- Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Prosperity? N/A
- Do the recommendations contribute to Environmental Integrity? N/A
- Do the recommendations contribute to the Social Equity? N/A

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective? Yes

Accepting the recommendation of the County will provide the Municipality with more flexibility on our cash flow as we have experienced a reduction in tax payments during this pandemic.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Reviewed By:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer