

Council approves 2014 budget, including upgrades to tennis courts

➤ Roads, water pipes will use up more than half of capital investments

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Property owners will see an increase of just

under 2 % in the municipal portion of their taxes next year.

Town council approved a \$7.8 million operating budget and a \$9.6 million capital budget Monday.

About \$1.8 million will come out of the tax levy for the 88 capital projects approved and the rest of the funding is from reserves and development charges.

"We are one of the only municipalities to prepare a budget for the next year, prior to the year," said Coun. Gary Zalepa Jr. "We can get out to tender early on (capital) projects to get good quotes (which) saves quite a bit on tax dollars."

More than half of the budget for capital projects - a total of \$5.2 million - will be used for repairs and

replacement of infrastructure for roads and water systems.

Public works director Ewald Kuczera said another 25% of the water pipes need to be converted from cast iron to plastic.

Other major projects include work on Line 9 and concessions, Four Mile Creek Rd. and the Queenston St. bridge.

The fire department will receive \$300,000 to buy a used ladder truck for servicing the Glendale area. A new park will be developed behind the St. Davids Fire Hall, and fitness equipment and a playground will be installed at the Virgil Sportspark.

Councillors also directed staff to cover all existing tennis courts with an

acrylic finish after they have received a new asphalt surface. Several residents have lobbied councillors in recent weeks for recoating the surfaces following a presentation by Rosemary Goodwin in October.

No timeline was set for the improvements which will cost about \$6,000 per court.