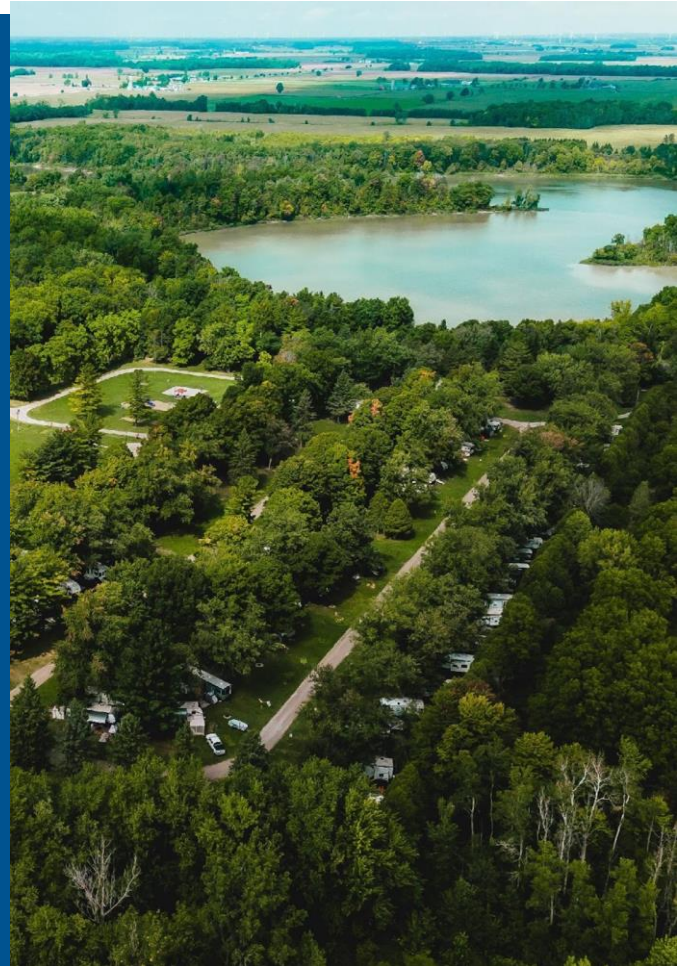




Local Council Update

2024



Overview

- Introductions & Overview
- 2024 Budget Highlights
- A Look Ahead
- Local Initiatives
- Questions

2024 Budget Highlights

- The 2024 Budget reflects the County's commitment to making appropriate investments in the core services that our residents rely on, while also considering the reality that our taxpayers are facing increased costs of living from provincial and federal policy decisions
 - A tax rate increase of 2.93% means that for the value of a residential property, County taxes will increase by \$12.62 per \$100,000 of the value of the property according to its MPAC assessment.
- Please refer to the 2024 Budget Highlights for additional information on how the 2024 Middlesex County Budget is delivering positive outcomes.

A Look Ahead



Economic Development Corporation

- A coordinated approach with a strategic focus



Development Charges

- Growth funds a portion of growth



County Loan Program

- Refocus on growth infrastructure, water and wastewater
- Support long-term assessment diversification



A Look Ahead

Economic Development

- Developing a Foreign Direct Investment Strategy for 2025-2028
- Conducting investment attraction in partnership with Ontario Manufacturing Communities Alliance and Ontario Food Cluster
- Tourism Investor's Tool-kit and sponsoring local tourism events/festivals

Social Services

- Investments in childcare and EarlyON programs and services that supports more child and family visits
- Update to the Homeless Prevention and Housing Plan

Middlesex County Connect

- Enhanced funding for Middlesex County Connect and a third route.



A Look Ahead

Planning & Development

- Middlesex County is experiencing faster growth than historic rates, 9.2% over the last Census period and is projected to grow to between 96,300 and 115,000 people by 2046. With this growth the County is becoming more urbanized, and as a result planning, development, and housing considerations are increasingly complex
- The Province has put into effect and/or suggested significant alterations to planning-related legislation, regulations, and policies. These changes have already had, and will continue to exert, a substantial influence on the way land use planning is executed including placing additional responsibilities on municipalities. The Planning Department is working with municipalities to quickly respond to these changes

A Look Ahead

Planning & Development

- The Department has undertaken initiatives including implementing a Digital Planning (e-permitting) System, providing enhanced 'self-serve' information, examining processes for streamlining, and developing a Solutions Based Planning Logic
- In 2024 it is planned to examine fast tracking of approvals for straightforward or prioritized application types, further prioritization of pre-application consultation, the evolution of the Digital Planning System, templating of common documents, and the continued progress of a 'public assistance' approach to file management
- It is planned to hire one additional planner to augment the services provided to municipalities

A Look Ahead

MLPS

- HOME (Health Outreach Mobile Engagement) program with MLPS Community Paramedicine for Middlesex County
- Review of ambulance deployment strategies - realignment of ambulance resources to provide additional, and direct, support in Middlesex County
- Engagement with LHSC and Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital to mitigate and address increasing ambulance offload time (AOT)

Middlesex County Library

- Tales & Trails storytelling installations were completed in 2023 – 8 storytelling trails, one in each municipality. This year we are working on partnerships with community organizations to share their stories through these interactive installations.

Local Initiatives

Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc

- **Planning & Development**
 - Official Plan update approved in 2023; third-party appeals continue;
 - Department involved in emergency shelter by-law to allow flexibility for places of worship to assist supporting the unhoused
- **Middlesex County Library**
 - Preparations are underway for the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program at the Strathroy Branch – this year, the library will be applying for a grant to support this clinic and taking a more active role. Last year, volunteers prepared approximately 200 free tax returns, providing a much-needed service to residents.

Thank You

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