

Submitted by: Kim Grogan, Manager of Financial Services / Treasurer

Report No: 2025-098

Council Meeting Date: Regular Council - 17 Sep 2025

Subject: 2026 Budget Public Meetings Schedule

File Location: F05-2026

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council receive Report 2025-102 as information.

BACKGROUND & COMMENTS:

The 2026 budget process began informally with Departments in August. As part of the annual budget process, individual meetings are being held with the Manager of Finance, Deputy Treasurer/Financial Analyst and Managers/Directors regarding budgetary needs followed by an overall review of the compiled budget document with all senior staff. Throughout the process, Township priorities are examined, and, as necessary, changes are made/alternatives examined. Projects are in line with the strategic priorities of Council.

Council will receive a digital copy of the Township's comprehensive budget document for the November 5, 2025, Council meeting. The package will contain an overall summary of the budget highlights, a summary of departmental activities, projects, goals, and strategies for both capital and operating budgets; including 10-year capital plans and line-by-line detail.

For Council's information; Table 1 provides the historical increases of the annual tax levy, the municipal tax rate of the Township, and the overall tax rate for all levels of government for the past 8 years.

Table 1

Year	Tax Levy Requirement	Tax Increase as a %	Zorra's Tax Rate	Zorra's Tax Rate Increase/(Decrease) as a %	Overall Tax Rate	Overall Tax Rate Increase/(Decrease) as a %
2025	12,231,845	5.26%	0.00658799	3.61%	0.01334866	4.38%
2024	11,620,513	12.26%	0.00635861	8.13%	0.01278859	9.57%
2023	10,351,618	8.15%	0.00588043	6.72%	0.01167210	4.54%
2022	9,571,319	7.21%	0.00551001	5.33%	0.01116478	3.35%
2021	8,927,329	2.35%	0.00523139	0.00%	0.01080273	(0.22%)
2020	8,721,929	5.62%	0.00523140	(0.08%)	0.01082690	(0.61%)
2019	8,257,786	6.51%	0.00523541	(1.60%)	0.01089282	(1.42%)
2018	7,752,756	5.57%	0.00532056	2.00%	0.01104948	1.88%

The 2026 budget schedule is attached. Council previously approved this schedule in Report 2024-101 regarding the 2025 Council Meeting Schedule.

ASSET MANAGEMENT:

None

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None

STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

The content in this report supports the strategic priority outlined below, with more information available in Council's 2023-2026 Strategic Plan.

A Sustainable Community:

- Reduce municipal and greenhouse gas emissions
- Enhance and protect the health of our natural environment
- Introduce procurement policies that emphasize and recognize the impact of climate change
- Wise resource management

A Livable, Healthy Community:

- Facilitate expanded housing diversity and supply; to promote attainability
- Adopt policies to promote densification in our urban settlements
- Provide a diversity of inclusive and accessible recreation activities
- Promote a vibrant arts and culture community

A Fiscally Sustainable Community:

- Renew and reinvest in our infrastructure.
- Adopt policies to promote and support the agricultural sector.
- Attract, retain, and expand business investments to diversify the tax base and increase local employment.
- Attract and retain a municipal workforce driven to provide customer service excellence and innovative service delivery.

Governance & Corporate Excellence:

- Identify and commit to opportunities for Zorra to provide an enhanced customer service experience. Learn from past mistakes and improve.
- Ensure organization and financial alignment to achieve Strategic Priorities and meet the needs of our growing community.
- Be accountable to the public through open and responsive government.
- Ensure Zorra is organizationally resilient, ready to adapt, and succeed in a changing environment.

ATTACHMENTS:

[Budget Graphic](#)

Approved By:

Diane Larder, Chief Administrative Officer

Karen Martin, Director of Corporate and Protective Services

Status:

Approved - 10 Sep 2025

Approved - 10 Sep 2025



2026 BUDGET

