

November 02, 2020

To: North Dundas Council Members

From: Bill Smirle

Re: South Nation Conservation Authority Update

Mayor Tony Fraser;

Deputy Mayor Al Armstrong;

Councilors: Gary Annable;

Tyler Hoy;

John Thompson

CEO Angela Rutley

Clerk Jo-Anne McCaslin

Council Members and Staff:

At the SNCA Meeting on Thursday, October 15, 2020, the Board approved the **2021 SNCA Levy at 3.5% (2% + 1.5%)**

There was a long and thorough debate. It was not supported by one member so the vote was 11 to 1. (And usually after the thorough debate there is total agreement).

The staff is preparing the Draft Budget for 2021 and it will be “presented informally” to the Executive on November 02 for input, then to the full Board on Thursday, November 19 for discussion, debate and perhaps even approval.

The proposed **dollar figure for North Dundas in 2021 is \$95,241.00.**

2020 was \$90,337.00, so this would be an increase of \$4,903.00.

I have attached FYI the “SNCA 2021 Request for Levy Approval” from the October Board Meeting. Also attached is the SNCA Levy Schedule for every Municipality.

I would like your comments, so I requested a few minutes at this meeting.

If you wish to contact me (H - 613 448 1636; C - 613 806 3169

wilson.smirle@sympatico.ca)



2021 SNC Levy Schedule

Municipality	Total 2020 General and Forest Land Acquisition	2021 General	2021 Forest Land Acquisition	Total 2021 General and Forest Land Acquisition	Total Dollar Change
Ottawa	\$2,960,492	\$2,808,715	\$248,310	\$3,057,025	\$96,532
Clarence-Rockland	\$140,968	\$147,543	\$13,044	\$160,587	\$19,619
Russell	\$139,072	\$136,818	\$12,096	\$148,913	\$9,841
The Nation	\$92,733	\$89,535	\$7,916	\$97,451	\$4,718
North Dundas	\$90,337	\$87,505	\$7,736	\$95,241	\$4,903
South Dundas	\$82,262	\$77,856	\$6,883	\$84,739	\$2,477
Alfred Plantagenet	\$60,735	\$58,209	\$5,146	\$63,355	\$2,620
Edwardsburgh/Cardinal	\$54,351	\$51,129	\$4,520	\$55,649	\$1,297
North Grenville	\$48,858	\$46,721	\$4,130	\$50,852	\$1,994
North Stormont	\$40,525	\$39,596	\$3,501	\$43,097	\$2,572
Augusta	\$37,560	\$35,299	\$3,121	\$38,420	\$860
Casselman	\$29,580	\$28,090	\$2,483	\$30,573	\$994
North Glengarry	\$14,514	\$13,926	\$1,231	\$15,158	\$643
South Stormont	\$7,900	\$7,497	\$663	\$8,159	\$259
Elizabethtown-Kitley	\$642	\$603	\$53	\$656	\$14
Champlain	\$597	\$569	\$50	\$619	\$22
Total	\$3,801,128	\$3,629,611	\$320,883	\$3,950,494	\$149,366

Special Levy Ottawa - Ottawa Rural Clean Water Program	\$200,000
Special Levy Ottawa - Ottawa Ash Tree Replacement Program	\$200,000
Special Levy Ottawa - Eastern Ontario Water Resources Program	\$50,000
Special Levy Ottawa - Baseline Monitoring Program	\$41,000
TOTAL ALL LEVY	\$4,441,494



To: Board of Directors
From: Linda Hutchinson, Director, Organization Effectiveness
Date: October 5th, 2020
Subject: Request for Approval: 2021 Levy

RECOMMENDATION:

The Board of Directors approve the 2021 General and Forest Land Acquisition Levy at approximately \$ 3,950,494; and
FURTHER THAT: The City of Ottawa be special levied \$50,000 for their share of the Eastern Ontario Water Resource Program (EOWRP) projects; and
FURTHER THAT: The City of Ottawa be special levied \$200,000 for the Ottawa Rural Clean Water Program (ORCWP) upon approval of the renewed five-year agreement; and
FURTHER THAT: The City of Ottawa be special levied \$200,000 for the Ottawa Ash Tree Replacement (OATRP) Program; and
FURTHER THAT: The City of Ottawa be special levied \$41,000 for the Ottawa Baseline Monitoring Program.

BACKGROUND:

- SNC's levy is based on the Municipal assessment.
- Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) provides assessment value.
- *Conservation Authorities Act: s. 27*
 - The Board can determine if a project benefits one Municipality, several, or all. The Board can then decide on a percentage to charge each Municipality for special project levies. This percentage is appealable to the Mining and Lands Tribunal.
 - The Board may establish a minimum levy.
- Regulations under the *Conservation Authorities Act* allow weighted votes based on amount of general levy paid.
 - The Regulations allow Ottawa 50% of the general levy vote.
 - SNC Tradition is to have one person, one vote, on the levy.
- SNC levy in 2020 was \$5.58 /\$100,000 (2021 \$5.54/\$100,000)
- Clarence Rockland paid phase one of expansion levy in 2020.



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2021 Levy:

- City of Ottawa budget direction for 2021 is 2.5% tax increase
- City of Ottawa growth estimate for 2021 is 1.5%
- General and Forest Land Acquisition Levy is based on an estimated 1.5% growth, plus 2.0%, which is status quo over 2020.
- SNC levy for 2021 includes phase two of the Clarence Rockland expansion.
- The EOWRP levy from the City of Ottawa remains unchanged at \$50,000 for water resource projects in Eastern Ontario.
- The ORCWP levy from the City of Ottawa remains unchanged at \$200,000, the current ORCWP term is 2016-2020. We anticipate a renewed five-year agreement Spring 2021. This program has been ongoing since 2000. SNC collects this levy on behalf of the three Conservation Authorities in Ottawa.
- The OATRP levy from the City of Ottawa remains unchanged at \$200,000 for Ottawa Ash Tree Replacement, Program was introduced in 2018.
- The Ottawa baseline monitoring program at \$41,000.
- Using the assessment values provided by MECP for the prior year, 2020, the SNC levy in 2021 is estimated, at \$5.54/\$100,000.

Linda Hutchinson,
Director, Organization Effectiveness.

Enclosure: 2021 SNC Levy Schedule

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MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH DUNDAS

34 Ottawa Street, P.O. Box 740
Morrisburg ON K0C 1X0
613.543.2673 | southdundas.com

October 26, 2020

South Nation Conservation
38 Victoria Street
Finch ON K0C 1K0

Attention: Board of Directors

Dear Chair Darouze:

At the regular meeting of Council on October 19th, Councillor Archie Mellan, who is our representative on the SNC Board, informed Council of South Nation Conservation's approved levy for 2021. Much to our dismay, he reported that the Board approved a 2% increase on top of a 1.5% growth increase.

This Council fully support Councillor Mellan's attempt to keep the levy increase to zero for 2021. South Dundas appreciates the impact SNC has on environmental issues; however, due to the impacts of COVID-19 on all residents and Municipalities, if there ever was a year to keep things at par and do with a bit less, this is it.

We are also not pleased that there was no attempt to use the projected surplus of approximately \$250,000.00 to keep the levy increase down. We are disturbed that this decision was made without any thought of how the funds would be spent during your budget discussions with the Board.

We fully appreciate SNC and its conservation efforts, however, Conservation Authorities need to recognize that the economic world has changed and show some restraint.

We ask that the Board reconsider its decision and reverse the 2% increase to the levy.

Thank you for your consideration of this very important matter.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Byvelds', written in a cursive style.

Steven Byvelds
Mayor

Cc: Municipalities within Watershed
MPP Jim McDonnell
Minister Yurek of MOECP



November 2, 2020

Municipality of South Dundas
34 Ottawa Street, P.O. Box 740
Morrisburg, ON
K0C 1X0

Dear Mayor Byvelds,

We send this information as follow-up to your letter dated October 26, 2020, received Friday, October 30, 2020.

We are disappointed we were not offered the opportunity to make submissions to your Council or discuss this matter any other way but to respond to this letter: we are pleased to take this opportunity to respond.

Budget Direction to South Nation Conservation:

- Each year, the City of Ottawa (paying approximately 80% of the Conservation Authority levy) sends a budget direction to all organizations and service boards within the City to assist with budget preparation. For 2021, the direction was a 2.5% increase, with 1.5% estimate for growth. This budget direction considered many issues, including the impacts of COVID-19.
- The City of Ottawa requires budget consistency between the three Conservation Authorities working within the City of Ottawa. The administration of the Conservation Authorities met and agreed that a budget increase of less than 2.5% would be required to be as consistent as possible with the needs of rural partner municipalities. 2% was agreed upon and tabled for discussion, debate, and ultimately approval by the Board on October 17, 2020.
- Similarly, in 2020, the City allowed for a 3% increase over growth, while South Nation Conservation maintained a 2% increase to support the needs of our rural partner municipalities (many watershed Municipalities, including South Dundas, saw budget increases in the 5% plus range).
- To balance the needs of 16 Municipalities, compromise is needed: that is how we have generally arrived at 2% budget increases. We remain open to re-assessing this rate each year; however, we feel it is appropriate for the 2021 budget. While many businesses and households have been tragically impacted by COVID-19, others are experiencing unprecedented growth and development. Perhaps provincial support provided to the Municipalities to assist with the impacts of COVID-19 can assist to balance some of these inequities.





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South Nation Conservation Board Report and Levy Table:

- We attach our Board report, which explains our process and includes the 2021 levy schedule by municipality.

2020 Surplus:

- We are forecasting a \$246,000 surplus (or 3.6% of budget) at the end of 2020.
- We achieved cost savings where we could, to manage for uncertainty in 2021.
- The 2020 surplus is driven by: successful fundraising; cost-savings across programs in response to the pandemic; staffing decisions; and record high development activity in most watershed municipalities.
- 30% of SNC's budget are sources other than municipal levy.
- In 2021, our budget pressures include: decreased contributions from the federal floodplain mapping program; increasing costs to maintain dams, dykes, and flood infrastructure; increasing insurance costs; increasing property taxes; and ongoing impacts from the reduction in provincial transfer payments in 2019.

Should you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Angela Coleman at acoleman@nation.on.ca or 613-984-2948 at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Chairman, George Darouze
South Nation Conservation

Osgoode Ward Councillor, Deputy Mayor,
City of Ottawa

Cc: original recipients (SNC Watershed Municipalities)
Board of Directors, South Nation Conservation
MPP Jim McDonnell

Attachment: SNC October 2020 Board Report: 2021 Levy