



Budget

One of the most important tasks for Council each year is Central Elgin's annual budget. Budgeting is really about planning. Council balances the provision of quality services while maintaining property taxes at a reasonable level.

The budget process starts with Council focusing on its goals and the Municipality's Asset Management Plan. Municipal staff consider these policies as they develop the budget details. Council then makes the final budget decisions for 2016. Like your household, we must balance the budget.

What is an Operating Budget?

The operating budget provides funds for the day to day operations of the municipality.

What is a Capital Budget and Forecast?

The Capital Budget and 5-Year Forecast is where the municipality plans for upcoming years and identifies how to pay for infrastructure projects such as road reconstruction, facilities, park improvements, public buildings, and water main replacements.

These projects are similar to those planned by homeowners who replace a roof, renovate or add on to their home. The Municipality of Central Elgin uses a number of funding sources to carry out capital projects although property tax funding is the most common. One thing is certain – existing infrastructure – roads, bridges, sidewalks, storm sewers, water mains, and recreational facilities continue to age and require capital spending on renewal and replacement.

Strategic Planning

Council adopted ten long and short term strategic goals and initiatives in draft form. Council is now looking for **YOUR** input on these proposed goals and initiatives! To have your say, please visit www.centralelgin.org and complete the online survey, or visit the Administration Office, Port Stanley Arena, or Belmont Arena and complete a hardcopy survey. We look forward to your comments!

Tax Payment Options and Penalties

A 1.25% penalty will be added the day following the due date and the first day of each month thereafter to December 31st. After December 31st, interest will be at 1.25% per month or portion thereof until paid, as legislated under SECTION 345 of the Municipal Act, RSO 2001.

Payments are applied first to any penalty and interest with the balance of payment applied to the oldest year's tax amount. Failure to receive a tax notice does not relieve the taxpayer from payment of taxes or penalty for late payment. The Municipality is not responsible for bank or postal processing delays. Please allow enough processing time for the payment to be received. Charges will apply for bill reprints.

Payment Options:

- Internet/Telephone banking (Please use entire roll number starting with 3418 without any spaces or decimals when setting up this bill through your bank)
- Mail (by cheque/money order only)
- Pre-authorized Automatic Withdrawal: monthly, bi-weekly or installment options. Please see our website for forms and further information: www.centralelgin.org
- In person at the Municipal Office (cash/debit/cheque) during regular business hours from Monday to Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm