



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

WEDNESDAY,
JANUARY 25, 2023

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COUNCIL HOLDS SECOND MEETING TO DELIBERATE 2023 BUDGET

Elgin County Council held their second budget deliberation meeting on January 25, 2023. Following Council's direction from the January 10, 2023 meeting, County staff prepared a budget summary document that details the proposed 2023 County budget.

Outlined in this document is a comprehensive overview of the budget process, including the breakdown of the proposed revenue, proposed operating costs and proposed capital projects for 2023. The bulk of this document provides a summary of the budgets for each County service area.

This document, and other supplementary budget materials, can be found on the County's public engagement website, Engage Elgin. This website can be accessed at the following link: www.engageelgin.ca/investinginelgin

An extensive public consultation period is being held from February 1 - 14 for the public to engage and provide comments on the 2023 Proposed Budget. The 2023 Proposed Budget Survey can be accessed at the following link: <https://bit.ly/3DsVXG7>.



ELGIN COUNTY STANDARD CONTRACT DOCUMENTS

County Council received a report detailing the development and the anticipated benefits of the Elgin County Standard Contract Documents. In November 2022, County staff undertook the preparation of a set of construction standards in collaboration with staff from the Municipality of West Elgin, the Township of Southwold, and the Township of Malahide that will provide a set of standardized construction specifications that will create efficiencies in the creation of contract documents for participating municipalities. Previously, construction specifications were created on a project-by-project basis that are often lengthy, written by multiple authors, and required extra staff time when reviewing the documents for errors and omissions for each project.

It is anticipated that the development of the construction documents will provide the following benefits to support municipal infrastructure projects for all participants:

- Consistent application of specifications which will create clear expectations of construction methods and materials for contractors, developers, and consultants;
- Reduced contract disputes and extras;
- With wide applicability, contractors will be able to work with confidence in any participating municipality, which will foster an environment for healthy competitive bidding;
- Material sourcing for future maintenance will be simplified with consistent materials and methods used during initial construction;
- Reduced document review time by municipal staff; and
- Increased opportunities for collective purchasing.

To read the staff report and the Elgin County Standard Contract Documents, please view the January 25, 2023, County Council Agenda Package.

COUNCIL APPROVES 2.5% NON-UNION ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT FOR 2023

County Council approved the implementation of a 2.5% wage increase for non-union staff and Council effective the first full pay period of 2023. Each year, Human Resources staff recommends to Council a non-union salary increase, with the purpose of ensuring that the County of Elgin continues to attract and retain skills and talent by remaining competitive in its compensation practices. Non-union salaries are reviewed annually and recommended adjustments to wages are made on the basis of both benchmark data and comparative market trends.

For more information, please view the staff report in the January 25, 2023 County Council Agenda Package.



For the complete January 25, 2023, County Council Agenda Package, please visit the Elgin County [website](#).