

Meeting Report

1. PUBLIC INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION MEETING ON THE 2019 FISCAL FRAMEWORK, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2018, 7 P.M. TO 9 P.M., ROSEMÈRE COMMUNITY CENTRE.

CONTEXT

- ✓ The meeting was attended by approximately 25 residents, 7 elected officials and 4 municipal officers.
- ✓ It was indicated that a report on the meeting would be drafted and posted on the Town's website.
- ✓ At the request of a few residents, tables comparing Rosemère with other similarly sized municipalities on the South Shore and elsewhere in the province will be added to the document posted on the Town's website.
- ✓ In addition, further details were provided on the charts on pages 24 and 27 of the presentation to clarify that tax revenues did not include revenues generated by taxes on specific services.
- ✓ At the beginning of the evening, a half-hour-long presentation on 2019 fiscal parameters was delivered by Mayor Eric Westram, Councillor Melissa Monk and Jocelyne Montreuil, the Town's Director of Finance and Treasurer. This presentation was uploaded to the Town's website on October 17.
- ✓ The discussion period began at 7:40 p.m., with several round tables made up of residents, elected officials and municipal staff. It went on for 35 minutes.
- ✓ The full group reconvened at 8:15 p.m. for the second part of the meeting, which ran until 9 p.m. One representative from each round table was asked to share the results of their deliberations, the highlights of which are as follows:

2. RESIDENTS' COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS AND QUESTIONS

- ✓ It was pointed out that it would be important to offer incentives to improve the structural quality of homes in the Town to help preserve their value.
- ✓ For renovations, the 12-month timeframe for completing landscaping work needs to be observed by homeowners.
- ✓ Some residents felt that efforts should be made to avoid subdividing existing lots.
- ✓ There were questions about the impact of infrastructure upgrades on the municipal debt burden and about whether the Town planned to undertake further infrastructure work similar in scope to the Roland-Durand Boulevard project in the near future.
- ✓ Some residents asked about the golf course development and the Town's ability to service a potential real estate development, as well as the resulting financial impact.
- ✓ Concerns were voiced about whether the tax burden resulting from debt servicing might lead to a reduction in the level of municipal services.
- ✓ The importance of staying informed of grants available for infrastructure projects and other government programs was emphasized.
- ✓ It was also pointed out that the Town needed to bolster its political influence within the MRC. In this regard, it was requested that the Town work jointly with the MRC on environmental issues such as the commuter train.
- ✓ Questions about water tax rates were brought up, stressing the need to raise public awareness about the importance of preserving this precious resource. Participants were reminded that the Town does not make a profit on the water tax.



- ✓ Some residents asked questions about the three anchor projects underpinning the Town's vision for the future (1. Realizing Rosemère's urban vision; 2. Getting the infrastructure and the facilities needed to achieve Rosemère's goals; and 3. Modernizing the administrative apparatus) for general comprehension purposes.
- ✓ It was confirmed that the infrastructure project financing related to the second anchor project was not included in the 2019 budget. Public consultations in this regard will be held in 2019 to define the level of investment to plan for in the future.
- ✓ Details were provided about the first anchor project (Realizing Rosemère's urban vision).
- ✓ A few residents enquired about the project to modernize the administrative apparatus.
- ✓ Finally, questions were asked about the practicality of maintaining operating costs (\$300,000) at the same level as in 2018. Is this an achievable objective?
- ✓ The meeting concluded at about 9:10 p.m.

Mayor Eric Westram wrapped up by thanking residents for their participation at this public information and discussion meeting and assured them that their comments and questions would be taken into consideration while the budget was being drafted. He reiterated the Council's determination to make Rosemère a proud, green and prosperous town.

3. COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS RECEIVED BY EMAIL CONCERNING THE 2019 FISCAL FRAMEWORK

- ✓ As of November 1, 2018, the cut-off date for receiving residents' observations by email, the Town had received two messages.
- ✓ The first message concerned water tax rates and the possibility of reducing them in the 2019 budget.
- ✓ The second dealt with the need to invest in cycling and active transportation infrastructure.

4. REACTION TO COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

- ✓ The Town would like to express sincere thanks to residents who took part in the public information and discussion meeting on the fiscal parameters for 2019.
- ✓ The Town is open to, and interested in, all comments and questions received. They will be duly analyzed and considered in its budgetary decisions.
- ✓ This exercise proved very interesting and will undoubtedly guide the thought process of elected officials and municipal officers as they prepare the 2019 budget, to be presented in December. The budget itself will therefore serve as the ultimate response to this civic engagement exercise.