



Press Release

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A dynamic and responsible budget

Morin-Heights, December 11th, 2024 - The municipal council adopted a balanced operating budget of \$17,402,090 at a special meeting on December 11th. It also adopted a three-year capital expenditure program (PTI) for 2025-2026-2027 of \$35,340,084, including \$20,997,500 for the wastewater treatment project scheduled for 2026 and 2027, subject to obtaining a PRIMEAU grant covering 90% of the project costs.

As far as the operating budget is concerned, the economic situation is very different from what it was a year ago. Inflation is on the decline and interest rates are gradually keeping pace, which has a positive effect on the city's finances. It should also be noted that a new assessment roll comes into effect on January 1st. As a result, the Municipality's standardized property wealth has risen to almost \$2.2 billion, 56% more than last year and 64% more than in January 2022, three years ago.

In so doing, Council decreed a **33.8% decrease in the general property tax rate**, to 49.58 cents per \$100 of assessment. The overall tax burden of Morin-Heights' taxpayers will increase by 1.8%, the inflation rate for the Montreal metropolitan region as of September 30th, 2024.

Payroll costs account for 38.7% of total municipal expenditure. In so doing, it remains at the same level as over the past 10 years, specifically, between 36% and 40% of total expenditure.

The waste management rate is frozen at the 2024 level of \$282. The water service rate is maintained at \$303 for the 13th consecutive year. The Town Planning and Environment Department rates have been frozen at their 2024 level.

The Municipality's contribution to the MRC has risen by 8.5%, as have the costs of the *Sûreté du Québec* police force.

The budget includes additional funding for climate change adaptation to, among other things, accelerate the pace of maintenance of the storm sewer and ditch network.

Municipal managers will receive a 1.8% pay increase. Firefighters will receive a 2.5% pay increase and blue and white collar workers, 2.55%.

The PTI investment budget will be devoted to various roadwork, including the resurfacing of different roads and streets, and the repairs of the northern section of Watchorn Road, including rehabilitating the aqueduct in the area concerned.

Investments conditional on confirmation of a grant are planned for the expansion of the fire station. The PTI also provides for the replacement of a fire engine for the fire and public security department.

The Municipality will continue to plan the development of Basler Park. Funds have also been allocated for culture, community life and events, keeping the focus on a lively and dynamic living environment.

Finally, the Municipality confirms its first investments in the upkeep of certain buildings on the Castel Marie property, acquired in 2023.

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