



3 March 2023

Township of Lake of Bays Council via Carrie Sykes, Clerk  
Township of Lake of Bays  
1012 Dwight Beach Road  
Dwight ON P0A 1H0

By email: CSykes@lakeofbays.on.ca

Dear Mayor Glover and Councillors,

The Lake of Bays Association (LOBA) asks you to consider the following comments during your deliberations on the draft 2023 Township of Lake of Bays budget.

LOBA represents many seasonal and permanent residents of the Township. Our members have a keen interest in maintaining the natural environment and receiving good municipal services. The Township budget should forward those objectives, in a fiscally prudent manner. There is work yet to do in arriving at an appropriately balanced budget.

First, LOBA welcomes the new format of the budget report and documents, and the holding of dedicated Council budget meetings. The proposed budget is better laid out and explained. The process for discussion is clearer, although more lead time between the release of the draft budget and the council meetings would be beneficial.

That said, the budget still falls short of providing all the information needed to make fully informed decisions. New initiatives are not individually costed. There is no clarity about what makes up the unfunded capital amount. 2022 variations between budgeted and actual expenditures are unexplained. For example, there is a major difference between budgeted and actual Parks & Facilities spending. More clarity is needed about the intended use of reserves. It is important to consider the potential effect on future budgets and levies.

The proposed increase in the levy is comparatively high for the Muskoka area, and we do ask Council to closely examine whether it is truly justified.

LOBA members, like all residents of Lake of Bays, value the Township's programs and facilities. We know close consideration will be given to the prioritization of capital projects. Please consider what opportunities for savings exist through management of capital spending and improved facilities management. The proposed Capital Asset Management Consultant seems like a good step. We look

forward to hearing about the Township's plans for funding the local share of the new hospitals proposed for the District of Muskoka.

LOBA supports expenditures needed to recruit and retain priority staff with needed expertise. The challenge experienced in staffing the Planning Director position is a lead example. There should be planning for increased by-law enforcement staff to ensure the township can effectively address non-compliance. Although it is a comparatively small expenditure, we do want to comment that it is good to see the addition of a boat for use by the Building/By Law Enforcement Department. It is past time for the Township to have "eyes from the lake" when upholding waterfront standards.

We thank you for your attention, and for your ongoing leadership in maintaining the environment and providing good municipal services, within a fiscally responsible budget.

Respectfully,

Tim Hadwen  
Chair, Planning, Development and Government Relations Committee

copies: Lake of Bays Association Board of Directors  
Bryan Brown, CAO, Township of Lake of Bays  
Patricia Allen, Director of Finance/Treasurer, Township of Lake of Bays  
Lake of Bays Association members via Newsflash