



## **Village of Point Edward Budget 2026**

The Village of Point Edward passed its 2026 Environmental Services, Operating and Capital Budgets at their meeting held November 25, 2025.

“A great deal of work has been put forth by the Village’s Managers in order to bring a budget to Council for approval in November rather than our usual approval process in March,” said Mayor Bev Hand. “Led by our Treasurer, Jane Qi, all Village budgets were prepared and approval of the budget was given after a thorough review by Council.”

“There have been increases in the areas of policing, employee benefits and borrowing costs for Capital Projects,” said 2026 Finance and Administration Chair Greg Grimes. “As costs continue to rise, Council and staff remain committed to maintaining the high level of service Point Edward is known for. We will continue seeking efficient ways to deliver services while monitoring cost-of-living pressures, economic uncertainty, and casino revenue volatility.”

The 2026 Operating Budget totals \$6.2M for Village purposes compared to \$5.3M in 2025. The amount to be raised by taxes in 2023 is \$4.3M. In order to achieve this, the tax rate will increase by 3.81% for the Village portion of the tax bill. Challenges we faced with the Operating Budget include:

- Increased cost of insurance of \$30K
- Increased cost of policing of \$60K
- Borrowing costs of \$230K for large capital projects

The Capital Budget proposes spending of \$1.0M along with contributions to reserves in the amount of \$1.3M. Major spending in the Capital Budget includes:

- \$200,000 for planning work for the eventual reconstruction of the Lite, Mara, Church and Simpson area.
- Purchase of a replacement ice resurfacing machine - \$194,868
- Replacement air packs for Point Edward Fire and Rescue - \$320,000

- Additional funding for replacement of pathway lighting - \$136,091

The Reserve Budget, a new portion of the process, which separates contributions to reserves from actual Capital expenses, includes contributions to Waterfront Park and Arena improvements, funding for 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations and the final contribution to the purchase of a replacement Engine truck next year.

The Council also approved a water rate increase of 7.52% to water rates and 9.4% to sewage rates at the same meeting. Further contributions to reserves for future expenditures were also included in the amount of 71 cents per cubic meter.

The Environmental Services Department budget includes funding for a new office, lab and storage building as well as continuation of a program to install stand-by power generators at all pump stations. Council also directed staff to prepare a plan for consideration that will replace aging water meters across the Village in 2027 and 2028.

A new storm water fee has been implemented for all properties in the Village that are not single and semi-detached dwellings. The fee is based on property size and the number of residential units and takes effect on January 1, 2026. Revenues generated from this fee will support the hiring of an additional Environmental Services Department staff member to better meet the regulations of the Clean Water Act and the Drinking Water Quality Management System.

A 1% increase in the tax rates generates approximately \$32,186 while a 1% increase in water rates generates approximately \$15,903.

Residential assessment in 2026 will amount to \$802.89 per \$100,000 in assessment, an increase of \$29.47 for the Village portion of the tax bill.

The monthly increase in Environmental Services (water and wastewater) for a home using 12.63 cubic meters of water per month would be \$14.70 monthly or \$176.40 annually.

The final tax bill will blend changes made to both the Lambton County portion and Education portion of the bill and may also change due to tax ratio changes from the County of Lambton. Interim bills will be sent out in early February with a due date of March 2, 2026. Final tax bills will be mailed in the early part of June and will be due July 2 and October 1, 2026. Water bills are sent monthly through Bluewater Power.

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