



There are currently four options being considered by City Council concerning the water and sewer rate increase for 2015. These include:

1. \$30/year until 2023 (equivalent to a 3% increase per year)
2. A one time increase of \$200 with no further increases until 2023
3. A two time increase of \$100 with zero increases until 2023
4. \$50/year (unknown number of years)

The Timmins Taxpayers Association (“TTA”) does not support any of these options. The options above all propose increases that are higher than the current inflation rate – was this even a consideration? We would ask that a fifth option be included: an increase less than inflation rate or even a 0% increase. We acknowledge that although there appears to be a surplus in revenue from water and sewer taxes, this is used for required upgrades and capital expenditures for water and sewer projects; however, we maintain our position.

Many Residents live on a very fixed income and have little money left after monthly expenses for basic needs are met. The increases proposed, combined with increases in property taxes, hydro and gas rates are too heavy of a financial burden.

The lack of explanation and accountability for the disastrous \$20 million overruns for the upgrades to the Waste Water Treatment Plant should not be borne by the taxpayers until an independent review of the project is completed. We are tired of digging deeper and deeper into our pockets for unexplained mistakes.

It’s time that City Council and Administration say ‘stop’ to these increases and find other ways to save money and cut costs. Stop coming after us when you are literally flushing our tax dollars down the drain.

The Timmins Taxpayers Association