

Hagersville Budget Increases 2.19 Mills

HAGERSVILLE (Staff) Municipal ratepayers in Hagersville will be faced with a \$2.19 increase per thousand dollars of assessment this year. Council struck its 1972 budget last Thursday with a 2.19 mill increase over 1971.

Increased police and education costs were cited as the major factors in the increased mill rate. Most other municipal departments were able to hold the line with their budget

forecasts or decrease them slightly.

The increase for commercial ratepayers is 2.16 mills.

In presenting the budget, finance committee chairman Robert Gedye said the committee had started out with a 3.5 mill increase and had been able to reduce it to 2.19 mills.

"The only way we can see to reduce it further is not to do any road work this year in the village," he said. The road budget was set at

\$40,000, of which \$20,000 is subsidized.

Mr. Gedye noted the costs of general government were unchanged, but there was a \$1,000 increase in the general administration budget. The increase is due mainly because of the 8 per cent increase in wages to municipal employees and \$4,500 set aside as salary for an as yet hired municipal engineer for approximately six months this year.

Firefighting costs are

up about \$2,000 from last year, Mr. Gedye said. The volunteer firefighters receive \$100 for their service and asked for \$5 for practice meetings, of which there are about two a month.

The police department showed the biggest increase, from \$42,537 last year to \$69,700 this year. Mr. Gedye noted the increase includes an \$11,000 arbitration award, which the department received this past January.

Mr. Gedye noted the arbitration award pertained to the 1971 police wages, which would have then brought last year's police budget to \$53,000 and reduced this year's to \$58,000. "Thus the net increase is only about \$5,000 this year, which is not really as bad as it looks," he said.

The police budget also allowed for a fourth constable and two auxiliary policemen. Council hopes that with the fourth full time con-

stable the department will be able to cut down on its overtime bill.

Coun. Gedye noted there was no surplus built into the budget and that it is a "break even budget."

The breakdown of the mill rates is as follows. Public school, 4.95; high school, 4.51; general municipal rate, 10.18; county, 3.98 and water and sewer rate in the water and sewer areas only, 2, for a total of 25.62 mills for residential ratepayers.



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Gas Representatives Field Questions From Council

CAYUGA (Staff) - Representatives of the Union Gas Company fended off questions Friday from county councillors and a group of petitioners over a proposal to abandon certain natural gas lines in Haldimand.

Union Gas officials had been requested to attend county council following a number of petitions by residents in the affected areas.

Union Gas is proposing to abandon nearly 110 miles of pipe, which would affect some 950 customers in the county.

The company's argument is that the lines are not economical.

Reeve Dr. William Austin, of Jarvis, asked company officials what the overall profit picture in Haldimand was for the company. He said other utilities are not dropped because they are unprofitable. He received no answer, nor

did other questioners on the profit of the company.

Council was told the affected lines are all gathering lines from gas wells and not distribution lines. The test of economics against these lines showed they were not economical to operate and should be discontinued.

Dr. Kenneth Mustard, Dunnville deputy-reeve, asked if the gathering lines could be used as distribution lines.

He was told there is no difference between the two, other than what they were originally laid for. However, he was told, it would not be economical to use them as distribution lines. The lines are quite old, 20 to 30 years, and would have to be brought up to current safety standards, at a cost of approximately \$2 million.

Walpole Reeve Gordon Miller noted that a number of the

proposed lines to be discontinued are in the Selkirk area and asked if the company would consider updating the lines in such an area where there is a more dense population.

He was told that Walpole generated about \$8,300 in revenue but that the loss was \$3,700. "And that doesn't include the cost of \$255,000 to replace the lines."

"We have considered this, but it doesn't meet the test of economics."

Dr. Mustard asked if the costs could be averaged out, with the profitable areas carrying the unprofitable ones.

Vice-president of operations, Frank Capewell, said the company is obliged, under provincial regulations to operate a profitable venture. "In this instance we can't justify a \$2 million expenditure for some-

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Haldimand-Norfolk provincial and federal Liberal Associations held a joint annual meeting in Jarvis last Thursday. Above, meeting chairman John Race looks over the program with federal association president Jim Gibson and vice-president Gordon North. (Staff Photo)

Craddock Refuses To Head Local Liberal Association

A nominating committee from the Haldimand-Norfolk Liberal Association will bring a new slate of nominees before the membership this year to fill the vacancies in the executive ranks left open following the annual dinner meeting at the Jarvis Community Centre last week.

Provincial association president Ernest Craddock refused nom-

ination to head up the group at the session. The former chief executive unleashed harsh criticism at the membership for what he termed unwillingness to work during the last October's provincial election campaign.

"I've better things to do than waste time if nobody else wants to help," he said. According to Mr. Craddock only six of the 21 polls

in the riding answered the call to organize themselves during the campaign. He said the individual groups were given three months to "get going" but failed to respond to a letter asking for their participation.

"I don't think we want Liberals in this county," said Mr. Craddock. "At least it certainly doesn't look

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Hagersville Blasts Grove Over Statement

HAGERSVILLE (Staff) Eric Grove, the assistant director of the Haldimand-Norfolk study underwent a verbal tongue lashing Monday night by council for allegedly saying the village would not be allowed to grow beyond its present size.

Mr. Grove was not at the meeting, but the statement was backed by the reeve, deputy reeve and the clerk.

The discussion about Mr. Grove arose when council read a letter from Charles Pearce, of Hagersville, county building inspector, regarding the capacity of

the village sewage treatment plant. The plant is currently working at or near capacity, according to Ontario Water Resources Commission figures and the village has been told not to allow any further large residential developments.

Mr. Pearce's letter states the lack of sewage treatment facilities are affecting the growth of Hagersville. He says the sewage treatment plant is handling about 250,000 gallons a day of sewage, but there is an additional 1,000,000 gallons a day of ground water flowing through

the Harrop drain, which also drains the plant, from the quarries.

Thus, Mr. Pearce says, the drain seems to be able to handle 1,250,000 gallons a day without any erosion pro-

blems. He says if the ground water from the quarries can be shifted, then the sewage plant capacity could be enlarged four times.

Deputy-reeve Ross Slote said it "appears

Can Grow—Grove

Assistant study director of the Haldimand-Norfolk Study, Eric Grove Tuesday confirmed a statement attributed to him by Hagersville council that the municipality will not be allowed to grow any further than at present.

"But," he said "if the municipality can persuade the Ontario Water Resources Commission that its sewage treatment plant can handle an increased capacity, then it would be accepted that Hag-

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the OWRC says the plant isn't big enough, Pearce says it is big enough and Grove says it can't expand because of erosion.

Reeve John Kincaid said: "Grove isn't big enough to stop the growth of the village. I've never seen a statement (about the village growth being curtailed) in writing, only verbally."

Mr. Slote said the study director, Nigel Richardson and Mr. Grove are "pushing for a satellite city. But if the existing towns and villages can expand,

then there won't be a need for a satellite city."

Coun. Robert Gedye noted the shopping area of Hagersville attracts shoppers from Jarvis, Cayuga, even Waterford.

Reeve Kincaid said council "has taken the initiative and got things going in Hagersville. Our doors are open. We've talked to people who want to invest here and bent over backwards to accommodate them."

"Until we see something in black and white that we're doing some-

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