

**The Corporation of the Township of Brock**

**Special Council Meeting Agenda**

**Electronic Meeting**

**Session Nineteen**

**Monday, October 26, 2020**

- 1. Call to Order – 6:00 p.m. - Mayor Debbie Bath Hadden**
- 2. Presentations**
  - 1) Presentation by Laura Barta – Streetlight Charges
- 3. Public Questions and Clarification**
- 4. Adjournment**

**Participation Details**

**Location:** Online with Microsoft Teams. Please visit <https://www.townshipofbrock.ca/en/news/streetlight-charges-public-meeting-october-26-2020.aspx> and click the [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#) link.

**Telephone Participation:** For telephone participation, please call the following teleconference number between 5:45 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Monday, October 26, 2020: 647-749-9362 and enter Conference ID: 799 287 71#.

**Watch Live:** Should you wish to just observe the meeting without the option of speaking, please enter the following link into your web browser to view the live-streaming of the meeting: <https://www.townshipofbrock.ca/en/municipal-office/meeting-live-stream.aspx>

If you have accessibility needs and require alternate formats of this documents or other accommodations, please contact the Clerks Department at 705-432-2355.

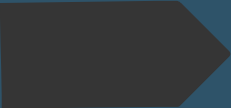
# STREET LIGHTING

Public Meeting – October 26, 2020



# AGENDA

- PURPOSE OF THIS PRESENTATION
- HISTORY OF STREET LIGHTING IN BROCK
- WHO BENEFITS FROM THE INSTALLATION OF STREET LIGHTING
- WHO CURRENTLY PAYS
- WHO SHOULD PAY



## PUROSE OF THIS PRESENTATION

As part of the discussion during the review of the draft 2020 Operating budget staff recommended the street lighting charges for maintaining the existing equipment should be included as part of the overall tax rate.

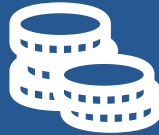
This is a common practice in most municipalities as the lights are seen as a Health and Safety benefit to all residents not just those who live in close proximity to a light standard.

For the 2020 budget, the billing method was left as a special area charge and Council requested this public meeting be held to obtain input on any proposed change in advance of the 2021 budget deliberations.

## HISTORY OF STREET LIGHTING IN BROCK



Historically if someone wanted lighting on their property to assist them or their visitors they made arrangements to have a light installed and paid for the cost to operate it.



When the light would benefit surrounding properties, they would have been asked to contribute towards the costs and may have had some input into the location of light.



As the Township became more developed, street lighting standards were developed and a Policy was passed.

# HISTORY OF STREET LIGHTING - CONTINUED


- In 1982 Council of the day put the following policy into effect to ensure the street lighting units selected and installed were based on the Township's specifications:
- Street lighting units be considered, if the following conditions are met:
  - an existing hydro pole was available;
  - the area was serviced; and
  - the individual(s) requesting the lights entered into an agreement to cover the costs to install and maintain the lights.

These costs would then be billed annually on the tax bill as a user charge.


# HISTORY OF STREET LIGHTING - CONTINUED

- In 2002 Council of the day updated the policy established in 1982 to reflect the urban growth and to further define conditions to be applied:
- New street lighting units will be considered based on an application received from a resident or Council; the capital and maintenance cost will be analyzed; applicant will be advised of costs to them; detailed report to Council; and proceed with installation if approved.
- Annual operating costs would be allocated to the areas serviced
  - Urban Areas – as a percentage applied to assessment values
  - Rural Areas – flat rate charge to all properties within 200 feet of street light

The Township of Brock had an inventory of 772 Street lights under their control as of 2014.



A full inventory of Street lights under the Township's control has not been undertaken since.



This number is expected to increase significantly due to the new development in the Township.



HISTORY OF  
STREET  
LIGHTING -  
CONTINUED



# WHO BENEFITS FROM THE INSTALLATION OF A STREET LIGHT?

Road users – street signs and landmarks are easier to find when the area is well lit.

Sidewalk & Park users – those out walking can navigate areas easier when they are illuminated.

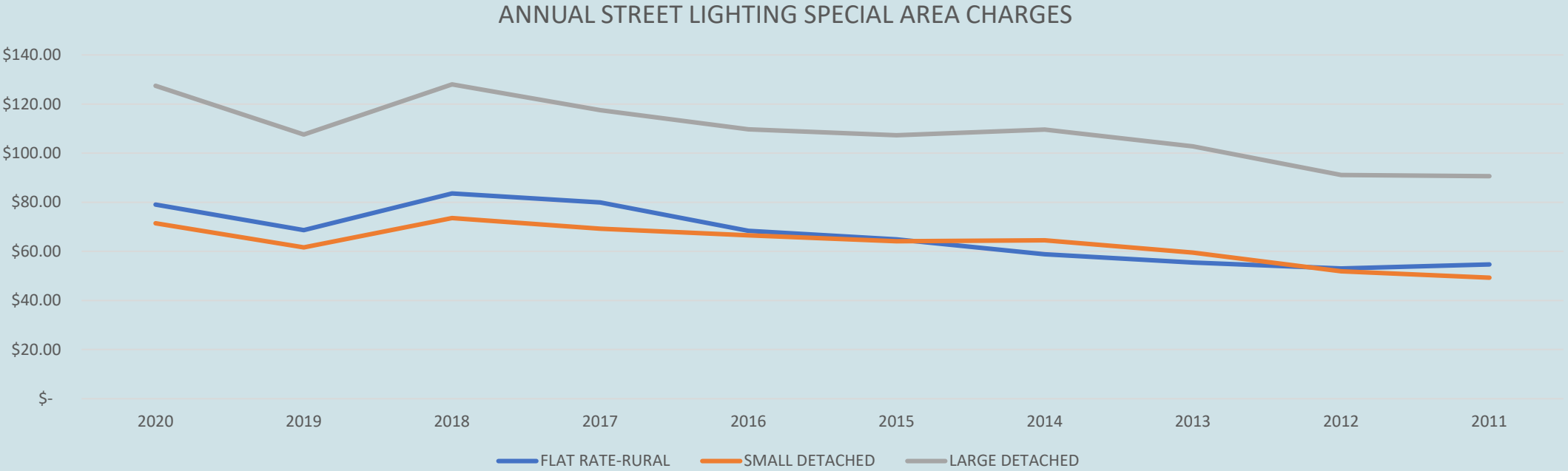
Shoppers – those who walk or drive to local establishments are more confident and feel more secure when the area is well lit.

Visitors, Tourists, Friends, & Family members – those who do not know the area will have an easier time locating their destination if key turns are well illuminated.

Everyone – having good lighting is benefit to all from a health and safety perspective.

# WHO CURRENTLY PAYS FOR STREETLIGHTS

- In Brock the maintenance and repair of the street lighting inventory is billed to residents as a special area charge in their property tax bill.
- Over the past ten years this cost has increased due to raising hydro rates and efforts to improve lighting efficiency by replacing old fixtures with more energy efficient fixtures.
- Rural residents who are within the vicinity of a street light have seen their flat rate charge go from \$54.34 to \$79.03 in the last ten years.
- For a small home (2010 CVA \$200,000) in the urban area, the increase has been similar.
- For a larger home (2010 CVA \$375,000) in the urban area the rates are considerably higher as they are based on the assessed value of the home.



# WHO CURRENTLY PAYS FOR STREETLIGHTS - CONTINUED

# WHO CURRENTLY PAYS FOR STREETLIGHTS - CONTINUED

- What do other municipalities do?
- The tax collector did a survey of other areas and found that the majority bill for streetlights as part of the overall tax levy or are undertaking the same investigations to move to including streetlights in their general levy.
- Within the Region of Durham, Brock is the only Area Municipality that uses special area rating to bill for streetlighting charges.
- The City of Kawartha Lakes is also looking to roll the charge into the general levy.



## WHO SHOULD PAY FOR STREETLIGHTS

- In recent years there has been a shift to focus on providing safe communities for people to live, work and play.
- Many municipalities are including the costs to maintain all municipal streetlights as part of their tax levy charge recognizing that everyone benefits from the illumination to some extent.
- The addition of new street lighting would still be based on an application and cost sharing with neighbouring properties as no change is recommended to that part of the policy at this time.
- Developers will still be required to include street lighting in their developments with new home owners paying the installation cost.

# SERVICES CURRENTLY IN THE GENERAL LEVY

- While you can easily say that all residents benefit from Fire Protection, Snow Clearing and Road Maintenance, there are some Township services that may not be seen as a benefit to all. The following services are also billed as part of the overall levy:
  - Arena operations in excess of revenue (3)
  - Maintenance of Parks & Beaches
  - Community Hall operations in excess of revenue (5)
  - Sidewalk maintenance, repair and replacement
  - Animal Shelter operations in excess of revenue

# SERVICES CURRENTLY BILLED FOR OTHERS

- The Township is also required to bill for the Region and the School Boards annually. While most would agree that policing, garbage collection, and ambulance services benefit all residents, some other services may not be as clearly beneficial.
  - Education – you can see the benefit if you still have school aged children
  - Long Term Care – you can see the benefit if you have an elderly family member who needs full time care.
  - Transit – you can see the benefit if you use the service (partially funded by user fees)

## ► ASK YOURSELF THESE QUESTIONS:

- Is it easier to find an address if you have some light in the evening to guide you?
- Is it easier to locate a road if there is light at the intersection?
- Do you feel safer walking out in the evening if there are lights to illuminate?
- Do you feel more comfortable letting your child take the car to visit a friend if you know they will have lights along the way?





# HOW DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD RECOVER THE COSTS?

1. Should the cost to maintain the street lights be billed annually as part of the overall tax levy?

2. Should the cost to maintain the street lights be billed annually at a flat rate based on the number of properties in the Township?

3. Should the cost to maintain the street lights be billed annually only to properties in the vicinity of the lights (current method)?



# QUESTIONS ???