

Taxes Going Up – Way Up

By **Craig Huckerby** - February 6, 2019



Homeowners will see a big jump on their tax bills for 2019. Sault Ste. Marie City Council finalized the 2019 budget Tuesday night.

Council passed the budget with an overall increase of 3.53 per cent. The total levy will be \$114,995,220 for an increase of 2.55 percent along with outside agencies adding 0.99 percent for the total of 3.53 percent.



Two councillors opposed the budget, Ward 5 Councillor Matthew Scott and Ward 3 councillor Matthew Shoemaker – both believed the increase was too steep for ratepayers.

Mayor Christian Provenzano called the budget "a responsible balance"

The single largest increase went to Transit funding, to bring their funding up to other municipalities.

City transit will return to half-hour service over the summer months with an increased budget of \$300,000 .

Not all outside agencies got their wish, the Ermatinger-Clergue Old Stone House recieved only \$13,000 , half of what it was seeking to employ to additional part time staff, while the Sault Ste. Marie Library saw it's request chopped by \$129,000.

The City's new popular skating trail at Clergue Park was approved for another year at the cost of \$36,300.

Despite Council saying local roads are in disrepair, council did not approve an additional \$500,000 for road maintenance and resurfacing.

Craig Huckerby

Craig Huckerby is a seasoned broadcast and media professional with over 35 years in local media. Starting in television, Craig became known as "the weather guy" on local television before pioneering internet media in the Sault. Craig is credited for bringing local television back to the Sault via the internet in 2003 with LTVNEWS.COM and was instrumental in launching SooNews.ca and Local2.ca. Craig is happy to be part of the Sault's newest media team and website, SaultOnline.com

