
December 1st, 2023

To: Mayor Ann Lawlor and Members of Halton Hills Town Council

Re: 2024 Proposed Town of Halton Hills Budget

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the diverse membership of the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to convey our collective concerns and respectfully request your thoughtful consideration of the significant demands and pressures facing our local businesses as you engage in budget consultations and make final deliberations on tax increases for the upcoming fiscal year.

The Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce takes great pride in serving as the voice of our vibrant and resilient business community. Our members, representing a wide spectrum of industries and sizes, play an integral role in the economic fabric of our town. They are the entrepreneurs, job creators, and community builders who contribute not only to the prosperity of Halton Hills but also to the well-being of its residents.

It is with this responsibility in mind that we implore you to recognize the unique challenges and hurdles faced by local businesses. The ongoing effects of the global pandemic, coupled with inflationary pressures and supply chain disruptions, have placed an unprecedented burden on our members. They have had to adapt, innovate, and persevere under exceptionally challenging circumstances.

We understand the need for fiscal responsibility and the importance of maintaining essential municipal services. However, we firmly believe that it is equally crucial to strike a balance between our town's fiscal requirements and the capacity of local businesses to withstand additional financial pressures.

We kindly request that you take into account the following considerations during your budget deliberations:

Economic Impact: Understand the direct and indirect contributions of local businesses to our town's economic well-being, including job creation, increased property values, and community development.

Competitive Landscape: Recognize that neighboring jurisdictions may offer more favorable business environments, potentially leading to business relocation and the loss of tax revenue.

Business Sustainability: Consider the potential impact of tax increases on the ability of businesses to sustain operations, retain employees, and continue contributing to our community.

Engagement and Consultation: Actively engage in a dialogue with the business community to gain insights into their specific challenges and needs, keeping the lines of communication open for ongoing collaboration.

Efficiency Measures: Explore opportunities for increased efficiency in municipal operations and cost-saving initiatives that can help mitigate the need for substantial tax increases.

We acknowledge that the decisions you face are complex, and balancing the various interests and needs of our community is a formidable task. However, we firmly believe that by working together and maintaining an open dialogue, we can find a solution that ensures the continued growth and prosperity of Halton Hills while safeguarding the interests of our local businesses.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We remain dedicated to collaborating with you in the best interests of Halton Hills and its business community.

Sincerely,



Melanie Frazer
President & CEO
Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce



Sean Ashbee
Chair, Board of Directors
Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce