

Appendix B – Comments

Balancing Act Simulation

1	Building Maintenance	Community centres need to be more self supporting
2	Building Maintenance	Any increases should be used to improve accessibility beyond the minimum AODA requirements.
3	Building Maintenance	Sell off government surplus buildings so future maintenance is not necessary. Trent Hills for example could use 2 less town halls etc.
4	Discretionary User Fees	people should pay more for the services they use
5	Discretionary User Fees	Do not want to see waste tags increase, but perhaps increase fees to help cover some costs for facilities or services that only specific residents/non residents use. Somehow collect a fee for using the northumberland forest if non resident?
6	Financial & Employment Supports	Jobs everywhere you look
7	Financial & Employment Supports	Additional funds to support those with disabilities.
8	Fixed User Fees & Other Incomes	Decrease bag tag cost
9	Food Security	Fully fund Transition House so it can attract qualified staff at a decent wage and benefits that recognizes the importance of these front line workers
10	Food Security	All need food security. All need to learn how to shop sustainably, healthfully and economically
11	Food Security	Incredible amount of nonprofits that can help with this without needing to involve government.
12	Food Security	Additional funds for those living on disability allowance.
13	General Government & Corporate Supports	This should be broken down further - too much waste

14	General Government & Corporate Supports	While I appreciate the hard work our government staff does and agree on the wage levels they are provided, the amount of holiday, sick, compressed, and vacation days that are granted is getting unsustainable. Using extra vacation as incentive for hiring is ridiculous and just leads to needing more staff doing the same level of work. Unfortunately having a job means working at said job and wage Compensation should be more then adequate when compared to private sector who are paying the salaries.
15	General Government & Corporate Supports	This should be split down on this tool. To have a category of "General Government" that is \$10.7M is too broad of brush strokes.
16	Health Unit, MPAC, Fire Dispatch, & Court Security	Mpac is a stupid expensive system - should be a percentage that is readjusted each time the property is sold or zoning changed from agriculture to residential or commercial
17	Housing, Homelessness & Community Outreach	Everyone deserves adequate housing. We are all responsible and all will be better when these needs met
18	Housing, Homelessness & Community Outreach	Need more affordable housing.
19	Housing, Homelessness & Community Outreach	Additional funds for supported housing needs.
20	Investment Attraction and Business Entrepreneurship	we need to attract more business to the county
21	Investment Attraction and Business Entrepreneurship	The pandemic has changed where people live, how they work and what they look for in a community. Take advantage of the situation we have been put in. Double down on your economic development. Attract educational institutions, trade schools, more manufacturing, professional services. Businesses other than retirement homes. Use properties like Brookside to attract businesses. The towns should be investing in businesses to build and sell.
22	Investment Attraction and Business Entrepreneurship	Our Eco Dev is almost non-existent. In the past year we've lost 200FTE's at Weston. 100 FTE's at Brookside. Many/most of the services provided to SME's are a duplication(competition?) with Venture 13. Other counties along the 401 corridor are booming: Ajax(Amazon); Belleville(P&G expansion, Weston expansion, New Redpath Sugar plant etc)

23	Investment Attraction and Business Entrepreneurship	Any increased funding should be used to attract social enterprise types of business. There is a serious need to have models of businesses that provide training and resources that improve our communities, not simply those designed to make a profit by expecting people to buy more stuff. Improving the economy by encouraging people to buy stuff is unsustainable in terms of the environment, but also in terms of ensuring that all citizens have access to good jobs of all types, not just those in the service industries.
24	Land Use Planning & Inspection Services	No more urban sprawl - if global warming is a threat this is one of the best ways to combat it Redevelop what has already been designated to allow increased capacity/urban areas Promote/support the family farm - these people are the stewards of the land - they are tied to it. The large factory type farms serve profit and sacrifice the land and well being of the animals to achieve it. Water bottling companies should be a much greater source of revenue - if allowed, which I don't think they should be, water should be a resource that is valued and as a commercial operation they should contribute more
25	Land Use Planning & Inspection Services	Upgrade online publicly available GIS resources similar to other counties, Northumberland is woefully behind. I understand this is a project underway, but this is hampering expansion and public planning for land usage. Payback on this type of investment is short.
26	Long Term Care	8 to 11 min with a patient in a nursing home to feed, bath and dress????? Where is the human interaction.
27	Long Term Care	We have already allowed our elders to suffer from Covid. We need more staffing for elders be it long term care or home care in the home.
28	Long Term Care	The population overall is aging and improved access to high quality, non-profit LTC is necessary to ensure that elders in our communities are well-cared for.
29	Northumberland County Archives & Museum	They are receiving additional funds through major project construction
30	Northumberland County Forest	We need to expand our forests, our county, province and world rely on this for resilience to climate change
31	Northumberland County Housing Corporation	Government should not be in the rental housing business- should be invested in attracting different types of housing ownership opportunities like 'pocket communities' where the houses are 800 to 1000 sq ft on small lots
32	Northumberland County Housing Corporation	Additional funds for rent geared to income and for those needing accessible housing.
33	Paramedics	Need to support increased mental health needs

34	Paramedics	Mental health needs to be supported for all
35	Roadway Network	we have some of the nicest paved roads in eastern ontario. we could pull back a bit here and use the money elsewhere
36	Roadway Network	Need resources for all to have housing, mental health, priorities road work
37	Roadway Network	Additional expenditures should target improving non-motorized access to streets (e.g., bike paths, walking trails) for commuters without cars.
38	Roadway Network	Generally no/low concerns with state of current road network. Are there any end of life structures that need attention in the next 10 years that should have a reserve created?
39	SMARTnorthumberland Digital Strategy	we need better broadband and higher internet speeds
40	SMARTnorthumberland Digital Strategy	digital is the right approach, but I guarantee you you can accomplish everything you're looking to do for much less than your budget if you have the right procurement process, RFP and Tender Process.
41	SMARTnorthumberland Digital Strategy	Private sector drives innovation All will be satellite by the time you implement
42	SMARTnorthumberland Digital Strategy	County of Northumberland is behind in this regard and needs to catch up. A proposal should be brought before council on how to modernize how our county operates. This budget is too modest.
43	Tourism Marketing	we need to drive more business to our communities
44	Tourism Marketing	Coboug could be a "Niagara on the Lake" day trip location
45	Tourism Marketing	Tourism marketing is a waste of money, county needs to use economic resources better, plan differently, how do we make Northumberland more economically viable, what skills, trades, colleges, universities can we ally with to capitalize on forests, and agriculture sustainably.
46	Tourism Marketing	Marketing for tourism is very important but should be more private sector driven. It is they that directly benefit from tourism dollars and are set up to adapt to tourist needs and desires more quickly. Northumberland County can provide a guiding hand
47	Waste & Recycling Management	collect garbage every second week like most other jurisdictions do
48	Waste & Recycling Management	increase the frequency of leaf bag pickup, yard waste

49	Waste & Recycling Management	This should not be costing the tax payer at any other level then user based (which is what we were told initially) the program would pay for itself and with the cost of garbage tags so high it should not require additional subsidizing.
50	Waste & Recycling Management	This should be covered in my property taxes. I should not have to pay for a garbage tag at \$4.25 each. That is not right. If you have this money allocated in the budget why not use it?
51	Waste & Recycling Management	In Durham, Peel and Kingston, they alternate weeks for garbage pickup. Why can't we alternate too? No one needs weekly recycling, garbage pick up
52	Waste & Recycling Management	Added funds to improve reductions in waste.
53	Waste & Recycling Management	Put more money towards waste to keep price of tags down. Or raise taxes and get rid of tags.
54	Waste & Recycling Management	Additional funds should stay within county for strategy creation to achieve a zero to landfill goal.

Join In Northumberland

Join-In Northumberland

1	I'd like to see the county open the forest to the snowmobile clubs. Great for tourism, and for community relations. With out the snowmobile trials the forest would be mostly unusable by the other user groups. signage, maintenance and establishment of trails were all a part of their work.
2	<p>Dear Northumberland County Administrators, As a disabled tax paying resident of the county and volunteer on the county's accessibility committee, I would really like to see a dedicated budget for accessibility. Perhaps 0.25% of the entire budget to enhance accessibility in the county. The accessibility advisory committee is a good first step, but as the chair, I feel powerless. All of our recommendations are 'advisory'. There's no meat to the committee. Things only happen with money, and it's my wish that Northumberland County be one of the few counties in our province that take accessibility seriously, and attach funds to our committee and let those (not county staff), that live with disabilities firsthand make financial decisions to enhance the accessibility in our county.</p> <p>The above is a pipe dream, and likely to be glossed over unfortunately. However, an additional wish is to add proper financial reporting in the county's financial statements, audit, and future budgets. This will make the county accountable, and accessibility enhancements more trackable in the future. The financial reporting could add a line for accessibility (how much was spent), in each department, or the county as a whole. Theoretically, the county does already spend money on accessibility (most physical items such as ramps, door openers, etc), but it makes keeping track of how much is spent on accessibility in the county extremely difficult, unrealistic, and mediocre. Ideally, the county could dedicate a portion of the budget specifically to accessibility and have the accessibility advisory committee control decisions, and at the very least, have proper reporting in each department for accessibility enhancements, or for the county as a whole. Kind regards,</p>
3	Consider transitioning from a 100% tag based system for waste to a tax based system that allows all households to dispose one bag per week. The current model results in a significant accumulation of illegally dumped and discarded waste, especially by weekend residents (cottagers) and users of short term rental properties.
4	I agree with the comment about the need to improve accessibility in a consistent and intentional manner. As the population ages, there will be an increased need for the County to go beyond the minimum requirements of the AODA. Given the dire circumstances of many people living on disability allowance, any budget surplus could be directed towards improving accessibility, welfare, and non-profit care for our elders (either in non-profit LTC homes or in their own homes) and those living with a disability.

5	<p>I would like to see lots of smaller and affordable homes built in Brighton 800-1,000 sq foot is plenty of space. We don't need a large lot either, Maintenance and upkeep all adds up. We need to reduce the amount of property tax for 60+ too to at least 50 percent! We don't make the big bucks anymore. Builders have exploded with profits over the past 5 years, they should be paying a builders tax to each municipality to build new construction.</p>
6	<p>The County has ignored Mental Wellness in their plans for health support across this county as evidenced by the postcard you published indicating the 'silos' that you did support. While I'm certain that the other silos are important to cover, mental wellness could not be more important. In fact, arguably it is the single most critical category of healthcare that needs immediate funding. On July 31, 2021, Northumberland lost the primary care centre for Professional Cognitive Behaviour therapy. The Northumberland Community Counselling Centre (NCCC) saw and helped hundreds of underprivileged citizens annually. Today, if a woman suffered at the hands of rape the closest trauma support is Peterborough – meaning that the very same woman would be ripped away from family and friends and taken outside the city to recover physically and emotionally from her assault. The NCCC also ran programs that assisted the other side of the equation – those with violent behaviour. Court-appointed programs were successful at helping these individuals at far less cost to society and to the corrections stream. The County can't even support mental health assessments for the school boards leaving children and youth alone, without anything but remedial support. It took nearly 20 years to establish a professional counselling centre – which celebrated its 12 anniversary by closing down. COVID was harsh and a relatively small injection of funds could have maintained professional mental wellness care across our County. One thing is certain, there is an immediate need to replace this service. Don't believe for a moment that this service is already available through other agencies. It is my sincere hope that this need hits the top of your budget planning pile.</p>
7	<p>Since municipalities have opened trails and roads to ATV's and snowmobiles, it seems only fair that the rules of the road should be followed, even on unpaved roads past farmlands and bush. Machines without plates, driven by children are becoming common. In a spirit of fair play to residents and wildlife, it is time that such machines should have effective mufflers and excessive gunning of motors should be banned. Also, in very dry times these machines should be banned from trails since fires in other places have been blamed on sparks they emit. No economic benefit is derived from local ATV and snowmobile users, and visitors do not stop to visit local stores and businesses. All they want is dirt, mud and noise. Police should make their presence known outside of towns where things are getting dangerous for ATVers who make back roads their playgrounds, and where a lack of auto insurance on certain vehicles may place a heavy burden on riders, drivers and families. Studies elsewhere have shown the negative effect of snowmobiles on wildlife in the winter, and there is no good reason why they should be encouraged. Just because a person can afford to do something, isn't enough reason for him to be enabled and encouraged to do so on public land. Thank you.</p>

8	<p>Emergency shelter and housing have become of utmost importance in Northumberland County. COVID dollars have really provided much needed operational dollars and without that, the shelter would have closed. The board continues to struggle with fundraising due to the stigma associated with the shelter and I've watched our community provide so many funds for violence against women, health care and hospice. Our supporter base continues to decline as addictions and mental health increase in our community. It would be ideal to consider funding the program entirely in order to keep those well who provide the services. If the county is responsible for homelessness, yet Transition House's financial statements show only 69% of base funding, how is that the county supporting homelessness? If you cannot make an impact in the economy in order to provide affordable housing for people, then please fund the people who are doing that work. Fund them fully and provide them with benefits and a good wage as all county employees enjoy. That is taking responsibility completely.</p>
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Hospital Funding Question/Comments

Northumberland County is home to two hospitals delivering expert and compassionate care to our residents: Campbellford Memorial Hospital (CMH) and Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH). Health care is a Provincial responsibility. However, the Ontario government does not fund all aspects of hospital equipment needs – this responsibility falls to the community. The hospitals do extensive fundraising each year, however they have identified that community donations will be insufficient to address priority equipment needs over the next ten years. They have therefore approached County Council with a request for funding to support this aspect of hospital operations. They are jointly seeking \$1 million a year for the next 10 years to support community health care. \$1 million a year would equate to an additional 1.7% on the tax levy (an increase of \$20.56 in property taxes in 2022 for a median single family detached home). Do you support adding hospital funding to the County tax levy?

1	Can only support additional funding to the Campbellford Hospital if the quality and range of services increases and improves. Currently, service is inadequate and does not reduce the need to travel further for treatment.
2	This was done before - If we want to donate to the hospital at least we can do it privately and get the tax break for charity.
3	NHH should be asking our MPP for funding, not the County. The shortfalls are not the communities fault. It is the Prov. Government who needs to step up.
4	NHH is a weak hospital. The Emergency room is a laughingstock with long wait times, significantly incorrect diagnoses and the last time my family attended one member picked up a terrible infection due to the unclean conditions. Staffing needs to be fixed FIRST. Taxes here are ridiculously high
5	Federal gov should give more. Fundraising also should provide more.
6	Healthcare is the responsibility of the province. I feel that it is unreasonable that the province does not sufficiently fund the hospitals and that they need to fundraise like this.
7	MPP to Request more funds from provincial government they need to give us priority as they give to other regions
8	There are few physicians in the area so why spend the \$ on new equipment that will not be used. Spend more money on recruiting physicians. There are ways (other than fundraising) to reduce hospital budgets that would allow for more existing money to be spent on equipment.
9	The province is responsible for this. They need to take responsibility for this jurisdiction.
10	With a budget of 124 million damn dollars find in already received money. This is ridiculous
11	We should give the hospital money, just not 10million, 500000 a year would be sufficient. Or start charging people to use the beach and use that money.
12	There are way too many taxes in Cobourg. I am 26 years old and would like to purchase a home one day - that won't be in Cobourg.
13	This is a provincial responsibility
14	Hospitals get lots of funding plus with fundraising
15	We all need the hospital at some point in owner Live's it need support

16	Health care is a Provincial responsibility and should remain so 100%. Any additional tax, be it municipal or regional , would only encourage the Provincial government to gradually disengage from its responsibilities.
17	Absolutely not. Cut funding from other areas then. I think you could easily find some money in the budget if you tried hard enough. For example improve efficiencies in the government to save funds. Cut the large fat salaries of government workers, and the large vacation time they receive. Why impose more tax on hard working citizens just getting by. Stop with the "We need more money so lets raise taxes" and start with the "Lets find ways to cut costs and increase efficiencies.
18	This is a very slippery slope to me - once on the tax roll it becomes another burden - much like income tax and WWII- do i support the hospital yes. Do i sympathize with their needs- yes. What about asking for donations on tax bill?
19	Provincial responsibility.
20	Continuing to tax is not the answer. Attracting development, businesses, jobs, professional services etc. is. Taxing everyone hurts. If you're look looking for a taxation model, tax the development of land towards the hospital as a levy just you would to build infrastructure. Think of implementing a small land-transfer tax
21	I need more information on this topic.
22	Just supports provincial downloading of costs to lower tier governments that do not have the fiscal means other than raising local taxes.
23	Equipment additions need to be accompanied by experts and staff who can use the equipment. Also, priority access by full time Northumberland residents. Need confirmation that this is the plan before agreeing to a levy increase. And, I have heard that each member municipality will also be asked for \$1million each. Clarify overall plan please. Also, need conformation the equipment is repairable versus becoming obsolete in a short time period.

Emails Received during Public Consultations

1	I am retired Ontario govt. employee. I have lived in Trent Hills since 1970. In this time I have seen our health unit office go to Port Hope. We had a criminal court, traffic court, small claims court go South. County offices are all in the South, hence most employees live there. A perfect example of this is the once OPP det in Campbellford. Is now called Northumberland and ran out of Cobourg replacing the administration and Supervision in Campbellford. There apparently is only about five officers that live in Trent Hills with officers coming in doing there twelve hour shifts and leaving. This is not Community policing. Recently the munisipalities voted to have a Northumberland Police Service Board. This means that once again decisions will be made in the South. The County has a couple of retirement homes here but as I understand it, decisions are made in the South. There is no work garages in Trent Hills, hence decisions are made in the South. Garbage staff operating out of the South. Work stations should be spread out throughout the country. We might as well go for the region of Northumberland and get rid of the municipal councils. The only thing the South hasn't, got yet is the Campbellford Hospital.
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	<p>In summation I would like to see a stand alone OPP det in the North, financed by the County. Second a new hospital here in the North. Too many things are run out of Cobourg.</p>
2	<p>Hi,</p> <p>I completed the survey, but I noticed that there was no specific funding to address climate change. What exactly is Northumberland County doing to address climate change? Is the County purchasing electric vehicles for staff? Replacing gasoline and diesel powered vehicles and equipment? Changing zoning to reduce polluting businesses (gas stations,etc.).</p> <p>Climate change is everyone's responsibility at every level of government.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
3	<p>Good morning</p> <p>Before I look at the budget tool, does the finance department have a management discussion and analysis paper that reflects what their recommendations that went into this budget. Like a one pager of words and not so much numbers?</p> <p>Thanks</p>
4	<p>Many Cobourg residents, myself included, pay our taxes to maintain our beautiful beach and have not used it due to overcrowding. We have thousands of tourists daily who pay nothing to use the beach other than parking, with many using side streets or Donegan Park. I propose we adopt a similar approach to Sandbanks and charge non locals a \$10 per person admission fee to use the beach on weekends and holidays. Residents and ratepayers can of course use the beach for free at all times using a beach pass. The initial cost of using attractive fencing that blends with the current railing on the board walk will be offset by the revenue. Limiting access points with an admission stand will help ensure bylaws are being followed (ex. No access with a BBQ) making it easier for bylaw enforcement, it will keep capacity controlled, and turn the beach into a profit maker. It's a win win for everybody! Thanks for your consideration.</p>
5	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am not sure how the following suggestion for Waste & Recycling Management would affect the budget.</p> <p>I suggest that Green garbage is picked up once a week as it now. The recycling and dry garbage can be picked up every 2 weeks, alternating or together on the same day as it can be stored without issue.</p> <p>The garden debris bags, on the other hand, need to be picked up every 2 weeks and the household should know which day of the week it will be picked up and not specify an entire week. This could be the same day as the recycling pickup or the dry garbage pickup. It is not reasonable to put the garden debris out Monday morning only to be picked up Friday. By Friday and after up to a month of gathering the debris, the bags are disintegrating and attract bugs, flies etc., and can have a very foul odor.</p>

	Thank you for your consideration.
6	<p>Hi,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Areas that I would like to see addressed include the Waterfront Trail, starting at the east beach. We have lived here for only 6 years but in that time, there has been flooding and resultant erosion. This could be a beautiful trail along Lake Ontario if monies were put into the budget. 2. The east beach parking lot has been full of potholes. At the very least, it could be graded and potholes leveled and perhaps with more money, it could even be paved? 3. A small paved parking area across from Crawford's restaurant would make the play area and beginning of Waterfront trail more visually accessible for tourists and families of the area. 4. The small side road that runs behind the Harvey's take out and electric vehicle recharge stations. Large 18 wheelers use this road alot as well as those travelling the 401 who wish to stop at Timmy's, Harvey's, Comfort Inn off Highway 28 at exit 464 (Ontario Street). It is in desperate need of attention. 5. West Beach area. We were told once by local police that we could not park down near the beach as the town was trying to grow grass. If this is true, shouldn't there be evidence? There is no grass. And we have lived here for 6 years. Perhaps money could be spent to provide designated parking (paving, lines drawn to show parking spots) instead of bare soil. 6. Pedestrian crosswalk on Walton with lights and indicators. This is important for everyone's safety. The current crosswalk across from Jim's Pizza is an accident waiting to happen. <p>Thank you for allowing me to speak my suggestions.</p>