Subject: Bruce County Levy Due Date Deferral

Report Number: Treasury-2020-05

Meeting Date: Monday, April 20, 2020

Recommendation: THAT Council approve Bruce County’s request to defer the Bruce County Tax Levy Due Dates as put forward in the attached County Staff Report.

Date to be considered by Council: Monday, April 20, 2020

Report Summary:

Bruce County Council has passed a resolution to defer its County tax levy due dates to match the deferral of Education tax due dates recently announced by the Province of Ontario. This deferral will benefit the lower-tiers and will provide much-needed cash flow relief. Staff is recommending that Council approve the County’s request as presented.

Origin: COVID-19 Pandemic; TRE-2020-04

Existing Policy:

Background/Analysis: In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Council approved several financial relief options at the April 6, 2020 Council meeting, including interest deferrals on 2020 property tax billings and utility billings.

At its meeting on April 9, 2020, Bruce County Council was presented with a staff report with a recommendation to defer County taxes in line with the deferral granted by the Province of Ontario for education taxes. The following resolution was approved:

That the Bruce County Levy Due Dates be deferred to match the deferral in the Education tax due dates recently announced by the Province as follows: Instalment #1 due March 31, 2020 be deferred to June 30, 2020, Instalment #2 due June 30, 2020 be deferred to September 30, 2020, Instalment #3 due
September 30, 2020 be deferred to December 15, 2020 and that Instalment #4 continue to be due on December 15, 2020; and,

That this request is subject to approval by the lower-tier municipalities as set out in the Municipal Act and is to be forwarded for consideration to the 8 lower-tier municipalities of which at least 5 of the 8 lower-tier municipalities must approve by resolution representing at least two-thirds of Bruce County’s weighted assessment; and,

That a by-law is to be prepared to bring these amendments into force once sufficient lower-tier municipalities have provided their approval.

As per the County Treasurer’s report, “At least 5 of the 8 lower-tier municipalities must approve the change of the due dates for 2020 representing at least two-thirds of the weighted assessment. The two-thirds requirement could require up to 7 municipalities to agree depending upon their portion of the assessment. At least one of Kincardine or Saugeen Shores must approve due to their representing more than 40% of the weighted assessment.”

The deferral of the County tax levy will significantly benefit the lower-tiers and will reduce the cash flow constraints that will soon be realized. Staff is recommending that Council approve the County’s due date deferral as a matters arising.

Community Plan and Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) Considerations:

Financial Implications: Deferring the County tax levy due dates will alleviate the cash flow constraints that lower-tiers will soon be experiencing.

Attachments: Bruce County Staff Report