



Media Advisory

Newmarket Taxpayers Advocacy Group Inc. slams Town of Newmarket for \$256,000 miscellaneous slush fund

Newmarket, ON, March 30, 2015 – At a deputation to Town of Newmarket Council this evening Teena Bogner, President of NTAG, questioned the use of Town accounts and purchases. Ms. Bogner noted the \$256,000 spent in 2014 in the Sundry, Staff Appreciation and Miscellaneous accounts – the 2014 budgeted amount for these accounts was \$146,000.

Ms. Bogner stated during the deputation, *“Of concern is the \$256,000 in 2014 or almost 0.50% annual tax increase (using \$500,000 = 1%) of unbudgeted miscellaneous items charged to taxpayers. More importantly this totals over \$1 Million taxpayer dollars every four years of council, or a 2% increase to the tax base every 4 years. Compounded annually, this is a huge increase to the tax base for items such as charitable donations, airline tickets, construction boots, a departmental “Fiesta” party, Christmas Eve luncheon and the purchase of cakes and flowers.”*

Ms. Bogner stated that taxpayers will not pay 3.5% tax increase from the Town of Newmarket, but rather 4.0% when the miscellaneous account is taken into consideration.

The Town of Newmarket was encouraged to reduce the miscellaneous fund by 50% in the current fiscal year and to have senior management reduce the number of lunches and dinners claimed by staff to legitimate Town business.

“The Town of Newmarket could use the 2%, or \$1 million each term of council, to either reduce property taxes, or save the money in reserve for use during economic downturn, natural disasters, increases in fuel prices, overages in snow removal, etc.” states Ms. Bogner.

A copy of the Freedom of Information request that provided this information can be found at www.ntag.ca.

The Newmarket Taxpayers Advocacy Group Inc. (NTAG) is a provincially incorporated non-for-profit ratepayers group in Newmarket, ON. NTAG is a non-political, non-partisan, advocacy organization dedicated to fair taxes, less waste and transparent and accountable government in all levels of government (town, region and school boards) in Newmarket, Ontario, Canada.

For information on Newmarket Taxpayers Advocacy Group Inc.:

Teena Bogner
President
president@ntag.ca

Doug Brown
Communications Chairperson
Doug@ntag.ca