

**MINUTES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE – BUDGET MEETING #2
MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2020
SPENCERVILLE MUNICIPAL OFFICE
2:00 PM**

Present: Mayor Sayeau, Chair
Deputy Mayor Deschamps
Councillor Cameron
Councillor Dillabough
Councillor Hunter

Regrets: Jack Bradley, Advisory Member
Dave Robertson, Advisory Member

Staff: Dave Grant, CAO
Debra McKinstry, Clerk
Melanie Stubbs, Treasurer
Gord Shaw, Director of Operations
Brian Moore, Fire Chief
Mike Spencer, Manager of Parks, Recreation & Facilities
Jim Guest, Roads Superintendent

1. Call to Order

Mayor Sayeau called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: H. Cameron seconded by: J. Hunter that the agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest & the General Nature Thereof – None

4. Business Arising from Previous Committee of the Whole – Administration & Finance

Mayor Sayeau noted that the cell phone expense item for Council members will be further discussed, and suggested that it should not be set up as a taxable benefit.

5. Action/Information Items

a) Review of Revenue

Committee reviewed the report noting that additional year-to-date revenue from interest collected in December 2019 had been recorded.

b) Capital Summary

Committee reviewed the report which had been updated to suggest alternative funding sources for some capital projects.

There was some discussion of the possible impact of the operating budget on the overall picture.

Each item contained within the summary was reviewed with a view to reducing the capital amount to be funded from taxation from approximately \$717,000 to something more manageable. The Committee debated and reached consensus as follows:

- Fire Department Truck Purchase
 - Additional \$100,000 from reserves for a total of \$170,000.
- Recreation –
 - Dehumidifier – It was noted that the \$15,000 for a dehumidifier was the cost for a used one to be purchased from the Town of Prescott and that it was needed to battle humidity at the Ingredion Centre during the hotter months of its operation – May, June and September. The item was deferred for future budget years.
 - Cardinal Pool Filtration – Noted that the work could not be scheduled until after the 2020 season. It was agreed that \$30,000 be put into reserves from taxation and defer the work until early 2021 as a pre-budget approval item. It was noted that the pool liner will need to be replaced in 2021.
 - Ingredion Centre Lighting – It was noted that replacement lights are no longer available and that the Spencerville Arena lights had been switched to LED in 2019. There will be some savings on the operational budget for hydro at the Ingredion Centre. This item will continue to be funded from taxation in 2020.
- Public Works –
 - Purchase of portable signage is deferred.
 - Purchase of a new brush head for the high hoe is deferred.
 - Discussion of the replacement for Truck 11 covered the intent to re-configure plow routes and use one vehicle as a replacement for Truck 11 in 2020 as well as Truck 8 in 2021. Staff will bring forward a more detailed report on the plan at the PW/ES&F meeting. A suggestion was made to contact the Town of Prescott to see if they would plow in New Wexford on a contract basis. Consensus to transfer \$150,000 from reserves towards the purchase of a replacement tandem axle truck.

- Gravel to surface treatment program – discussion of doing Campbell Road instead of Chambers, no change made to plans.
- Pre-engineering budget estimate of Jordan, Rooney and Cedar Grove Roads reduced to \$200,000. Staff will investigate doing the engineering and survey work for Cedar Grove Road only to potentially further reduce this amount.

c) Electronic Sign Purchase – Information Item

Consensus was to not proceed with this item at this time.

d) Latimer Road Surface Treatment – Information Item

This project is shared with North Grenville and funding from taxation is committed if North Grenville includes it in their 2020 budget.

e) Jordan, Rooney and Cedar Grove Roads Reconstruction – Information Item

Further information will be presented at the PW/ES/F committee meeting to determine how much of the project will be undertaken in 2020 and at what cost.

f) Safford Road Resurfacing – Information Item

The Safford Road resurfacing as well as other planned paving projects were discussed. No changes to the program were recommended.

5. Review of Discussion

It was noted that the UCLG Budget had recently been approved with a 0.3% decrease in tax rate and the Provincial school board rate has dropped by approximately 5% for 2020. At this point, following the changes discussed above, the overall Township budget indicates an increase in the Township tax rate of approximately 4.8%. It was noted that approximately 2% of this is needed in order to offset the reduction in OMPF funding from the Province.

It was also noted that the only item in the capital plan towards the riverfront revitalization fund was for docking. Staff indicated that the plan was not far enough along for budget estimates and that the intention was to pursue grant funding through a number of different sources to move the project forward. As well the operational budget contained some funds within the proposed Economic Development Strategy programs line item.

Committee discussed the impact of tax rate increases on households in the Township and requested a report from the Treasurer for the next budget meeting. The effect of phase-in was discussed, as well as the upcoming new assessment base year.

It was noted that an increase of 2.66% in the rate would bring the total tax rate back to the 2018 level.

6. Question Period – None
7. Adjournment

Moved by: S. Dillabough seconded by: J. Hunter that Committee does now adjourn at 4:07 pm.

Carried

These minutes were approved in open Council this 24th day of February, 2020.

Chair

Clerk