



## Minutes of the Special Town Council Meeting

Place: Council Chambers

Date: Monday June 24, 2019

Presiding Officer: Mayor Patricia Stewart

Councillors Present: Councilors Brenton Colborne, Dave Clark, Dawn Thompson, Wendy Sweet-Kontuk, Wade Adshade and Deputy Mayor Rick Draper

*A quorum was present throughout the meeting*

Staff in attendance: CAO Rachel Jones and Deputy Clerk Linda Cloney (recording secretary)

Public in attendance: Mark Rushton

Call to Order: Mayor Patricia Stewart call the Special Town Council Meeting to order at 6:00 pm

### **Item for Discussion: Draft General Operating Budget 19-20 – vs.1**

#### **Highlights of the Discussion**

- Commercial Tax Assessment is less than previous years.
- The overall assessments values are lower than anticipated.
- Heritage Gas Revenue – Is higher than 18-19
- Interest on Taxes Revenue has decreased
- Tax Certificates – is legally binding, many law offices don't ask for these anymore.
- Sales of Materials – needs to be broken down into more detail
- We were not awarded a Community Gardens Student this year – through public health
- Municipal Election – we are anticipating approximately \$10,000.00 next year.
- Natural Gas costs seem high.
- Bad debts - we may have some to bring forward this year.
- Staff will look interest on the Backhoe Loan – seems high
- Crosswalk Guard positions was discussed.
- Fire Inspection Costs – We currently do not have a cost for this
- Fire Hall Water – staff will need to look into this, there is nothing allocated.
- Animal Control is high due to more calls and more service
- Staff to look at Theatre Property Tax expense
- It was discussed to have an end date for the MFC principals on a quick sheet
- Building Permit process – staff will look into this
- Discussion on Surplus Transfer
- CAO Jones presented to Council the Tax Rate Summary 2019/2020 – *a copy of this is filed in the Council package*
- Council asked CAO Jones to come back to council with different scenarios
- Council discussed increasing taxes by 2% and sewer by 2%

- Council asked CAO Jones to research other towns to compare the tax rates.
- Discussion on the Fire Budget
- Discussion on the Lions Club – credit for 50%
- Discussion on organizations financial requests – Oxford Pioneer Club, VON, PeeWee baseball team
- Collection of Commercial Waste – may be a discussion for a future meeting
- Council directed CAO Jones to apply the changes made to the General Operating Budget and bring back to council at the next scheduled Special Meeting.
- Council directed CAO Jones to look at two different scenarios. First with 50% of our monies going to reserves and second the increase of 2% to taxes and 2% to sewer.

#### **Decisions made**

- Change the Deed Transfer Tax to \$12,000.00
- Arena Ice Rentals – change to \$120.00 / hour
- Fish & Game Show – change to \$1500.00
- Medical Centre Rents – CAO Jones will talk to Kevin regarding this
- Medical Centre Rents – change to \$25,000.00
- Increase the Town Hall Maintenance from \$5,000 to \$10,000.
- Valuation Allowance – Taxes – change to \$1,500.00
- School Crosswalk Guard – change to \$8,700.00
- Fire Chief's Convention – change to \$3,000.00
- Communities in Bloom – change to \$7,000.00
- Mural Lights – change to \$500.00
- Change the Recreation – Strawberry Festival to the Berry Bolt
- Add \$5,000.00 to NSCC
- Change the Probation rent to \$26,000.00
- Sales of materials – change to \$3,000.00
- Office Supplies – reduce to \$1,200.00

#### **Item for Discussion: Capital Budget 2019 – 2020**

##### **Highlights of the discussion**

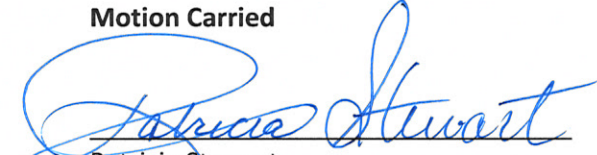
- Discussion on the Gas Tax
- Discussion on expiring long term debt – there is one expiring next year \$53,800.00
- Discussion on replacing puck boards, rubber matting, stall doors in the washrooms and shot clocks.
- Discussion on signage at the arena for helmets, look for more quotes.
- Discussion on promotion of arena signage
- Discussion on a corporate sponsor for shot clocks
- Discussion on paving – focus on fixing the worse spots, concentrate on sidewalks, storm drains need maintenance.
- Discussion on water utility – these budget items are part of the water rate study.
- Council directed CAO Jones to put together some priorities around some storm drains along with costing.
- An update on the Main Street Renewal was given, it is anticipating to start this project around Labour Day

- The reservoir is complete

Next scheduled Special Town Council Meeting is July 8 at 6:00 pm.


At 9:35 pm, it was moved and seconded to adjourn the Special Town Council Meeting.

**Motion Carried**



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Patricia Stewart  
Mayor



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Linda Cloney  
Recording Secretary