



Minutes of the Special Town Council Meeting

Place: Conducted through Zoom, per the authority provided by direction by the Minister of Municipal Affairs while under a State of Emergency on March 22, 2020, under the authority provided in Section 14 of *the Emergency Management Act*.

Date: Monday, June 22, 2020

Presiding Officer: Mayor Patricia Stewart

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

Regrets: Nil

A quorum was present throughout the meeting.

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

1. Call to Order

Mayor Patricia Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Mayor Stewart shared a note of thanks from Valentina Scotton, an international student from Trento, Italy, for the sponsorship of her 2020 grad banner. Mayor Stewart and Council also sent out their condolences to the family of the late Bill Park. Bill Park was a Councillor for Oxford in 1980 – 82 and 1985 – 91. Mr. Park was also the Mayor of Oxford in 1994-98.

2. Approval of Agenda

It was moved and seconded that the agenda of the Special Town Council Meeting for June 22, 2020 be approved, as presented.

Motion Carried

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Regular Town Council for June 15, 2020 be approved, as presented.

Motion Carried

4. New Business

4.1 Draft 2020/21 Operation Budget

During the 2020/21 budget process, Council noted that this budget has been one of the more challenging budgets to date.

Council thanked the public for engaging with Council regarding the decision of the season 2020/21 of the Oxford Arena.

Based on the discussion and direction from Council from the last Council meeting, CAO Jones presented to Council the balanced draft 2020/21 Operation Budget. This budget reflects the closure of the Oxford Arena for one year and leaving the Recreation Director position vacant for the remainder of the year.

The actual for arena expenses for 2019/20 is \$196,968.00 and the draft budget amount for 2020/21 is \$162,317.00. Due to COVID-19 the arena has already lost between \$30,000 and \$40,000.

CAO Jones presented to Council a comparison report to reflect the amount of increased taxes Oxford would need to apply to offset the costs of the arena and the Recreation Director Position ranging between 14 and 18 cent increases spread across residentially and commercially assessed properties, or ranging between 21 and 29 cents on residentially assessed properties only.

The first line item that will need to be paid in the 2020/21 budget is the deficit of \$99,458.00

Council asked if the Town of Oxford opens the arena, could they get by with one employee?
Response: No, the Collective Agreement responsibilities calls for two employees. Also, if there are tournaments or over time, there would need to be two employees.

Council asked where the County of Cumberland and the Town of Amherst give minor hockey and figure skating free ice time, what would the Town of Oxford lose for revenue with the ice times we currently have?

Response: Regarding Own Source Revenue we may lose close to \$50,000.00 in ice time revenues alone due to free ice time being offered in neighbouring municipalities.

Council asked what is the agreement between the Oxford Agriculture Society and the Town of Oxford regarding the Oxford Arena?

Response: There is a 99-year lease on the property. The Oxford Arena belongs to the Town of Oxford. The Oxford Agriculture Society uses it every year for four weeks during the Cumberland County Exhibition. Staff have thoroughly reviewed the lease agreement and nowhere in it does it say it would revert to the Oxford Agriculture Society if the arena is not used.

Changes that were made to the Draft Budget 2020/21: Communities in Bloom – from \$2,000 to \$750.00; NSCC – from \$5,000 to \$0 (deferred for one year); Community Economic Development – from \$18,780 to \$12,000. Following these changes, up to \$41,767 would be transferred to Reserves.

Moved and seconded that the Council of the Town of Oxford estimates that the sum required for the lawful purposes of the Town for the year 2020/21, after crediting probable revenues from all sources, other than the rates for the year, is the sum of \$2,411,150.00 and;

Further resolved that the Town Council hereby authorizes the levying and collection of a rate for the current year of \$4.1557 per \$100 on the value of the property assessed in the assessment roll as Commercial property and \$1.6874 per \$100 on the value of the property assessed in the assessment roll as Residential and Resource property, a sewer service charge per the Town's Sewer Charges Bylaw calculated at the 2019/20 fiscal year rate per connection, these being the rates the Council deems sufficient to raise the sum to defray the expenditures of the Town for the current year and;

Further resolved that the rates and taxes be due and payable September 30, 2020 and;

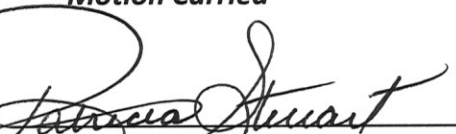
Further resolved that an interest rate of 1.5% per month, or 18% per annum, compounded, be charged on the 2020/21 final tax bills still outstanding after September 30, 2020, and that interest charges are applied on the first day of each month for outstanding amounts.

Motion Carried

5. Adjournment

At 7:15 pm, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion Carried


Patricia Stewart, Mayor


Linda Cloney, Recording Secretary