

MINUTES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HURON
BUDGET MEETING



Date: Monday, April 10, 2017
Time: 7:03 p.m.
Location: HELD IN THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MEMBERS PRESENT: Reeve Neil Vincent
Deputy Reeve James Campbell
Councillor Yolanda Ritsema-Teeninga
Councillor Trevor Seip
Councillor Brock Vodden
Councillor Bill Knott

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councillor Ray Hallahan

STAFF PRESENT: Sharon Chambers, CAO
Kathy Adams, Director of Corporate Services / Clerk
Donna White, Director of Finance
Pat Newson, Director of Recreation and Facilities
Jeff Molenhuis, Director of Public Works
Ryan Ladner, Director of Fire and Emergency Services
Richard Al, Manager of Employee and Business Services

OTHERS PRESENT: Adam Bell, CKNX

1. Call to Order

Reeve Vincent called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

2. Confirmation of Agenda

M178/17

MOVED BY: T. Seip

SECONDED BY: J. Campbell

THAT the Council of the Township of North Huron hereby accepts the Agenda for the April 10, 2017 Budget Meeting; as presented.

CARRIED

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None disclosed.

4. Action Items from Previous Meeting**4.1 Community Partnership Donation Listing**

Donna White, Director of Finance, presented the listing of donation requests from community groups and organizations.

Discussion took place regarding Council's position pertaining to donations to community groups and organizations. It was noted that the Wingham and District Hospital donation commitment equates to a 1.06% increase.

M179/17

MOVED BY: T. Seip

SECONDED BY: B. Vodden

THAT the Council of the Township of North Huron hereby agree that donations to community groups and organizations included in the 2017 Budget, be limited to the \$50,000 commitment to the Wingham and District Hospital.

DEFEATED

M180/17

MOVED BY: B. Knott

SECONDED BY: J. Campbell

THAT the Council of the Township of North Huron hereby agree that the following donations be included in the 2017 Budget;

- *Elementary School Fair \$300*
- *Huron County Plowmen's Association \$125*
- *United Way \$500*
- *North Huron Community Food Bank \$500*
- *Wingham and District Hospital \$50,000*

DEFEATED

Further discussion deferred until next Budget Meeting.

4.2 Fire call revenue inquiry from Council

Donna White, Director of Finance, reported back to Council regarding fire call revenue.

- Fire Marque revenue is recorded as received - billed out and collected by Fire Marque - not at risk
- Two calls at risk in the amount of \$1,372.50 - one sent to Central Huron for collection

5. Budgets to be Presented

5.1 Maitland Valley Conservation Authority

Donna White, Director of Finance, presented details of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority budget.

5.2 Council

Donna White, Director of Finance, presented details of the draft Council budget.

Discussion took place regarding the draft Council budget and the impact of Shared Services meetings on the Honorarium line item. Council requested that the Director of Finance report back regarding the costs associated with Shared Services meetings in 2016.

Discussion took place regarding items included in the Council Contingency and Miscellaneous lines and it was suggested that the amounts in these lines be reduced.

M181/17

MOVED BY: T. Seip

SECONDED BY: B. Knott

THAT the Council of the Township of North Huron hereby agree that the Council Contingency and Miscellaneous items included in the draft 2017 Council budget be reduced to \$3,000 and \$2,000 respectively.

CARRIED

5.3 Administration

Donna White, Director of Finance, presented the draft Administration budget.

Discussion took place regarding the Training/Travel/Workshops and Clothing Allowance line items. It was noted that the clothing allowance policy is currently being reviewed as part of the Human Resources Policy review.

5.4 General Government

Donna White, Director of Finance, presented details of the draft General Government budget.

5.5 Planning and Development

Donna White, Director of Finance, presented details of the draft Planning and Development budget. It was noted that the engineering amount has been further reduced to \$5,000. This amount is used when engineering or third-party advice is needed to protect the Township's interest in new development. These costs are recovered from the developer when possible.

5.6 2017 Borrowing Costs

Donna White, Director of Finance, presented details of the 2017 Borrowing Costs.

5.7 2017 Capital Summary

Donna White, Director of Finance, presented the 2017 Capital Summary, detailing how projects are being funded. The Director advised that the Gas Tax Annual Investment limit is \$1,281,000 in capital assets after grants and gas tax and the current version of the draft budget will comply for 2017.

6. 2017 Draft Budget

7. Budget Changes

7.1 Budget Highlights

Donna White, Director of Finance, highlighted various 2017 projects and notable budget items. The current state of the 2017 Draft Budget equates to a tax increase of 4.97%.

7.2 Budget Cuts/Changes

Donna White, Director of Finance, presented details of the changes and reductions made by staff to the 2017 Draft Budget since the previous Budget Meeting held March 27, 2017.

7.3 Budget Additions

Donna White, Director of Finance, presented items that have been added to the 2017 Draft Budget since the previous Budget meeting held March 27, 2017.

8. Borrowing Costs for Plow Truck - 5/10 year term

- 5 year - \$58,772.97
- 10 year - \$33,510.72

Donna White, Director of Finance, discussed borrowing costs for the purchase of a plow truck.

9. Council Direction and Priorities

Discussion took place regarding various items including;

- The expected duration of usability for plow trucks
- Weekly versus biweekly garbage collection in urban areas - Director of Public Works to report back to Council
- Economic development
- Service reductions / levels of service

Donna White, Director of Finance, provided examples for properties in Blyth, Wingham and East Wawanosh to illustrate what a 4.97% tax increase would equate to in terms of additional costs to the owner.

Discussion took place regarding growth and development. It was noted that the A2A development has requested an extension to their draft plan approval which CAO Sharon Chambers will be detailing in a future report to Council.

Donna White, Director of Finance, inquired as to whether Council is comfortable with a 4 to 5% increase.

Discussion took place regarding tax increases and how they be communicated to the public. It was noted that Council is comfortable with the May 1, 2017 Regular Council Meeting being the target date to adopt the 2017 Budget, this allows staff adequate time to advertise the meeting to adopt the budget in newspapers.

10. Next Meeting

Monday April 24, 2017 at 7:00 pm

Monday May 1, 2017 - Proposed date of Adoption - Presentation prior to Regular Council Meeting

11. Confirmatory By-Law

- 11.1 By-law No. 32-2017; being a By-law of the Township of North Huron to confirm generally previous actions of the Council of the Township of North Huron.

M182/17

MOVED BY: T. Seip

SECONDED BY: B. Vodden

THAT By-law No. 32-2017; being a by-law to confirm general previous actions of the Council of the Township of North Huron; be introduced, read a first, second, third and final time, signed by the Reeve and Clerk and be engrossed in the By-law book.

CARRIED

12. Adjournment

M183/17

MOVED BY: T. Seip

SECONDED BY: B. Knott

THAT there being no further business before the Township of North Huron Council, the Budget Meeting be hereby Adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

CARRIED

Neil Vincent, Reeve

Kathy Adams, Clerk