

MINUTES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HURON

BUDGET MEETING



Date: Wednesday, January 3, 2018
Time: 6:07 p.m.
Location: HELD IN THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MEMBERS PRESENT: Reeve Neil Vincent
Deputy Reeve James Campbell
Councillor Ray Hallahan
Councillor Yolanda Ritsema-Teeninga
Councillor Trevor Seip
Councillor Brock Vodden
STAFF PRESENT: Dwayne Evans, CAO
Richard Al, Clerk/Manager of IT
Donna White, Director of Finance
Pat Newson, Director of Recreation and Facilities
Sean McGhee, Director of Public Works

1. Call to Order

Reeve Vincent called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.

2. Confirmation of Agenda

M01/18

MOVED BY: Y. Ritsema-Teeninga

SECONDED BY: B. Vodden

THAT the Council of the Township of North Huron hereby accepts the Agenda for the January 3, 2018 Budget Meeting; as amended to include 2018 Draft Budget Presentation under Item 4.

CARRIED

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

Councillor Seip noted that should discussion take place regarding wages for Childcare department staff, he would be declaring a pecuniary interest.

4. 2018 Draft Budget

CAO Dwayne Evans and Director of Finance Donna White presented details of the first draft of the 2018 Draft Budget.

D. White noted that various changes to the layout of the budget have been made including the separation of capital items.

D. Evans reviewed items previously presented at the November 13, 2017 Budget Meeting such as the amount of funds raised from taxation, capital requirements and current debt obligations.

D. Evans noted that a 1% tax increase generates \$48,916.40 and the first draft of the 2018 Draft Budget is currently indicating a 14.49% increase in spending which equates to \$708,715.88.

D. Evans noted that a number of decisions by Council will be required regarding proposed projects such as the Mill Street project in Blyth and renovations to the North Huron Museum.

Discussion took place regarding the Mill Street project.

D. Evans noted that the policing review that is also taking place may have an impact on the 2018 Budget. In addition, the results of the Pay Equity / Market Review, Howson Dam review, and Airport Feasibility study may also impact the budget.

D. Evans noted that the costs associated with renovations of the North Huron Museum and the Mill Street OCIF project are not currently included in the Draft Budget.

D. Evans provided an overview of the 2018 commitments including the Arthur Street project, Hospital renovation donation, Memorial Hall commitment, and LED Streetlight project. In addition, it was noted that the results of the Pay Equity / Market Review may require a budget commitment in 2018 as well as the impact associated with Bill 148 Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act, 2017.

D. Evans noted that North Huron received an increase to OMPF funding in 2018.

D. Evans provided highlights of some of the 2018 Budget items.

D. White provided details of the Public Works capital items included in the first draft of the 2018 Draft Budget including work on Westmoreland Street, work on Arthur Street, continuation of the rural tar and chip program, replacement of various fleet items, and further studies regarding the Howson Dam.

Discussion took place regarding the Public Works capital items.

Director of Public Works Sean McGhee provided an overview of various capital items relating to the Public Works department including cemetery software, Wingham Cemetery Niche Wall, water and sewer items related to Arthur Street, LED Streetlighting, collection system repair, and Wingham Sewage Treatment Plant sludge project.

D. White provided details of other capital items included in the first draft of the 2018 Draft Budget including replacement handguns for the Wingham Police and Wingham Way Finding signs.

Director of Recreation and Facilities Pat Newson provided an overview of various capital items relating to the Recreation and Facilities department including Wingham Town Hall theatre renovations, replacement of Wingham Fire Hall grates, repairs to the Police Station roof, engineering for repairs the North Huron Children's Centre roof, Blyth Trail bridge, a replacement treadmill for the fitness centre, replacement of the fitness centre/courts area HVAC system, a replacement floor scrubber, CO Monitors for one arena, and roof repairs to the North Huron Westcast Community Complex.

Discussion took place regarding the presented Recreation and Facilities capital items.

D. White summarized the details of capital items noting the amount to be raised by various funding sources.

D. White provided an overview of transfers from Reserves noting various proposed projects to be funded by Reserves.

D. White provided an overview of transfers to Reserves noting various proposed transfers to reserves.

D. White summarized the reserve balances and noted that the year end transfers to and from reserves will be completed as part of the year end process.

D. Evans provided details of the Financial Information Return (FIR) categories, noting the staff associated with each category as well as the revenue and expenses associated with each category.

D. White noted that the Miscellaneous line item under the Members of Council budget has been moved to the Administration budget as discussed during the 2017 budget process.

Discussion took place regarding the various Committees of Council and Council Honorarium.

D. White provided details of items included in the Administration budget.

D. Evans provided details of items included in the Planning and Development budget which includes Economic Development, Planning, and Drainage Superintendent.

P. Newson provided details of items included in the various Recreation and Facilities related budgets noting the inclusion of budget funds for a Recreation Master Plan and the impact of Bill 148 on the Recreation and Facility budget.

P. Newson noted that in the 2018 Draft Budget, the Recreation Admin and Complex Admin line items have been combined to simplify administration of the budget.

P. Newson provided an overview of staff associated with the Recreation and Facilities department.

P. Newson highlighted changes to Recreation and Facilities department related budgets.

Discussion took place regarding Bill 148 including the impact on areas of the department such as concession booths in Blyth and Wingham as well as the proposed Recreation Master Plan.

Discussion took place regarding the operations of the Belgrave Community Centre and the possibility of similar Board arrangements for other facilities.

Discussion took place regarding duplication, prioritization and sustainability of services.

D. Evans provided details of items related the Social and Family Services category which includes the North Huron Children's Centre and associated

services, noting the staff associated with the category as well as budgets related to departments in the category.

D. Evans noted that various programs within the Social and Family Services category achieve some surplus which offsets deficits related to other programs in the category.

Discussion took place regarding the use of private sector comparators in addition to public sector comparators when determining user fees.

D. White noted that the next category is Health which is related to Cemetery operations and will be addressed by Director of Public Works Sean McGhee.

S. McGhee provided details of items related to the various Public Works department budgets noting that the department has a number of studies which are completed or will soon be completed and explained that these studies will complement each other to provide a clearer overall picture for the future.

S. McGhee noted that various changes have been made to the allocations within the Public Works budgets.

S. McGhee provided an overview of the Cemetery budget noting structural concerns regarding the Wingham Chapel.

S. McGhee provided details of items related to the Environmental category noting that the category is primarily related to water, wastewater, and waste services.

S. McGhee noted that Veolia currently maintains the water and wastewater systems in North Huron and both organizations work together closely.

S. McGhee provided details of budget items related to the landfills and curbside collection services.

S. McGhee noted that a portion of Public Works administration wage is recovered through user fees due to the workload associated with items such as water billing.

S. McGhee provided details of the environmental services costs noting the revenue and expenses related.

D. White thanked Council and staff, and noted that the meeting tomorrow evening, January 4, 2018 would begin at the Transportation category and requested that Council provide feedback or request clarification on the information that they have received tonight.

5. Next Meeting

January 4, 2018 at 6:00pm in the Township of North Huron Council Chambers

6. Confirmatory By-law

- 6.1 By-law No. 01-2018; being a By-law of the Township of North Huron to confirm generally previous actions of the Council of the Township of North Huron

M02/18

MOVED BY: Y. Ritsema-Teeninga

SECONDED BY: J. Campbell

THAT By-law No. 01-2018; being a by-law to confirm generally 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

7. Adjournment

M03/18

MOVED BY: T. Seip

SECONDED BY: Y. Ritsema-Teeninga

THAT the Council of the Township of North Huron agree that there being no further business before Council; the meeting be hereby adjourned at 9:03 pm.

CARRIED

Neil Vincent, Reeve

Richard Al, Clerk