

MINUTES
Special Meeting
May 30, 2018
7:00 p.m.

Present:

Absent:

Reeve: Rodney Wood

Councillors: Pat Garside

Dianne Holt

Robert Jerrard

Dave Leask

Road Superintendent: Lyn Garside

Clerk Treasurer: Valerie Obarymskyj

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

The Clerk asked that a few road issues be added to the Agenda given the likelihood of the Road Superintendent's absence at the regular meeting to be held on June 6, 2018.

Moved by Pat Garside

2018-55

Seconded by Dave Leask

Resolved that we do accept the Agenda as amended. *Carried*

Council reviewed the 2018 Hilton Union Fire Board Budget noting levies for both communities will be reduced by \$1,700 each. The annual transfer of \$20,000 to the Fire Equipment Reserve Fund was maintained to ensure adequate savings are in place for future pumper/tanker/bunker gear replacement.

Moved by Robert Jerrard

2018-56

Seconded by Dianne Holt

Resolved that we do approve the Hilton Union Fire Board Budget for 2018 in the amount of \$52,170 which includes municipal levies from the Township of Hilton and the Village of Hilton Beach in the amount of \$24,912.50. *Carried*

Council reviewed the Clerk's report addressing the draft budget for 2018. The budget as presented includes an additional levy of approximately \$34,000 over 2017; however, with the increased assessment this results in a decrease of 0.1% to the combined municipal and education tax rate. The increase to the levy resulted from a combination of factors: Our OMPF funding was reduced \$5,000 from \$304,000 to \$299,000; Social Services levy increased \$8,000 from \$274,345 to \$281,894; Algoma Public Health increased almost \$2,000 from \$8,500 to \$10,325; the municipal election added \$4,000 to the levy; the municipal share of projects to be funded through the new Main Street Revitalization grant was \$5,000 greater than the \$38,000 grant; the \$164,000 Capital Road Projects represented an additional \$10,000 to be funded by taxation. The Clerk recommended that this year's transfer of Federal Gas Tax funds (\$16,000) be applied to the road construction costs to reduce the negative impact on the municipal levy. Transfers to Reserves and Reserve Funds were maintained with \$2,000 to Office Equipment Reserves; \$20,000 to Fire Equipment Reserve Fund (our share \$10,000); \$5,000 to Municipal Building Reserve Fund and \$10,000 to Roads Equipment Reserve Fund.

While discussing the detailed budget in terms of road projects, the Road Superintendent advised there was a trade show being held in southern Ontario during the upcoming week. The Township's truck is now 19 years old and despite adequate funds having been set aside to replace the vehicle, there is hesitation given the ongoing problems the new models present re emission controls. Council authorized the Road Superintendent to attend the event if he considered it would yield productive results. The Road Superintendent confirmed any tender for a new truck would involve a timeline of several months.

Council reviewed details explaining the effect of the proposed tax rate on residential taxes and noted that total taxes on a \$100,000 assessed property would decrease to \$930.54 in 2018 when compared to \$931.10 in 2017. Given, however, the approximate 4.31% average assessment increase to most residential properties, taxes on the increased assessed value of \$104,310 for 2018 would result in taxes of \$970.65, an increase of \$39.54. The Clerk confirmed that if a resident's assessed property value increased more than the average 4.31%, the increase in taxes would be greater than noted.

Council reviewed a detailed summary of all Reserves and Reserve Funds balances from 2011 to 2018. The Clerk noted that the total for Reserve Funds was reduced substantially given the anticipated purchase of a new plow truck at an estimated cost of \$250,000.

The Clerk advised since the announcement of the Main Street Revitalization Grant in March 2018, considerable dialogue had occurred on what projects would be acceptable given our municipality did not have an obvious Main Street. It had been understood that improvements to municipal infrastructure such as accessibility and energy efficiency would be acceptable if the public infrastructure was located in the Main Street area. Accordingly, projects had been planned including a new furnace and an accessible washroom and front door. Only recently has

it been confirmed these projects will not be considered eligible. The Association of Municipalities (AMO), the party administering the grant on behalf of OMAFRA (Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs), has now released additional information regarding eligibility to address those small communities such as ourselves that lack a discernible ‘main street’ area and any significant commercial activity. A number of project ideas have now been presented for consideration which includes improvements to public spaces and buildings (exclusive of routine repair and maintenance) that enhance the aesthetic appeal of the community. Specifically, the renewal or restoration of an historic or heritage site, monument or public space owned by the municipality was listed. The Clerk had already questioned and confirmed the jointly planned restoration of the Cenotaph in the Village of Hilton Beach would qualify. At a recent joint meeting with the Village Council, plans to proceed with the restoration of the Cenotaph had been agreed upon with the hope of completing the work prior to Remembrance Day this year. Due to the Cenotaph being situated on a property owned by the Village of Hilton Beach, our Township would need to pass a by-law confirming the transfer to the Village of whatever funds were deemed necessary. A meeting will be requested with the Village Council as soon as possible to further discuss proceeding with the Cenotaph project.

The Clerk presented a summary of Algoma area municipalities’ tax rates for 2017 that was provided by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs. The Township of Hilton continued to have the lowest tax rate of the twenty-one communities.

The Clerk recommended that approval of the budget be postponed to allow time for changes to be made to the Main Street Revitalization projects so that they are more accurately reflected within the budget.

Moved by Pat Garside 2018-57
Seconded by Dave Leask
Resolved that we do enter Closed Meeting at 10:20 p.m. in accordance with the Municipal Act 2001, Section 239 (2) (f) that a meeting may be closed to the public for the purpose of discussing advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose. *Carried*

Moved by Robert Jerrard 2018-58
Seconded by Dianne Holt
Resolved that we do return to Open Meeting at 10:40 p.m. *Carried*

Moved by Dave Leask 2018-59
Seconded by Robert Jerrard
Resolved that we do accept the Clerk’s report and Solicitor’s correspondence presented in Closed Session regarding a land transaction. *Carried*

Two road issues were addressed by Council. One involved a situation where a local resident residing on Highway 548 was experiencing a flooding issue on his property as the result of a beaver dam on private property across the road. If the road was being negatively impacted the Ministry of Transportation would address the situation. The resident whose land is being flooded will be advised to contact the owners across the road to ask if the dam could be broken to alleviate the backflow of water. In addition, another property owner with a lot on W Line and the corner of an unopened road allowance, has requested permission to install an entrance off the unopened road allowance instead of the highway. The Road Superintendent noted this issue had been addressed by Council in 2012 with a recommendation at that time that the entrance be off of Highway 548. A civic number cannot be issued for an unnamed road and one for which there is no civic numbering range in place.

Moved by Dianne Holt 2018-60
Seconded by Dave Leask
Resolved that we do pass By-Law No. 1215-18 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of this meeting. *Carried*

Moved by Pat Garside 2018-61
Seconded by Robert Jerrard
Resolved that we do adjourn at 11:03 p.m., Council to meet again at the Hilton Township Municipal Office at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 6, 2018 for the next regular meeting of Council. *Carried*

Reeve, Rodney Wood

Valerie Obarymskyj, Clerk Treasurer

2018 Budget Adoption

Council for the Township of Hilton is planning to adopt both the 2018 Municipal Budget and 2018 Tax Rates at its regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, July 4, 2018, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at 2983 Base Line, Hilton Beach, Ontario, P0R 1G0.

All Council meetings are open to the public and everyone is welcome to attend.