

MINUTES
Budget Meeting
May 27, 2015
7:00 p.m.

Present:

Reeve: Rodney Wood
Councillors: Pat Garside
Dianne Holt
Robert Jerrard
Dave Leask

Absent:

Road Superintendent: Lyn Garside
Clerk Treasurer: Valerie Obarymskyj

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

Moved by Robert Jerrard 2015-70
Seconded by Dave Leask
Resolved that we do accept the Agenda as presented. *Carried*

Council reviewed the resolution from a recent Fire Board meeting which recommended acceptance of the Hilton Union Fire Department budget for 2015 in the amount of \$117,000. The budget is higher than normal because it includes capital purchases of bunker gear (\$8,000) and renovations and heating upgrades to the firehall (\$50,000). Both of these capital expenditures are to be funded with transfers from the Fire Department Working Capital Reserves and Fire Building Reserve Fund so municipal levies will remain relatively the same as the past few years. The current year's levy for each municipality will be \$29,050 with this amount including a \$20,000 contribution to be evenly split between the Equipment and Building Reserve Funds. The intent of the transfers to savings is to increase the funds earmarked for a new(er) tanker and to help cover the cost of a satellite within the Township to service all those residents currently well beyond the recommended distance from a firehall. Council was advised that Village Fire Board members had confirmed at the Fire Board meeting that their municipality had decided it was not willing to contribute toward the cost of the satellite. The agreement regulating the operation of the Hilton Union Fire Department states that all capital and operational expenses will be shared on a 50/50 basis as the assets are jointly owned by both municipalities. Given the Township's established need for the satellite and recognition that under the current 'joint' operation the majority of Township residents are not receiving adequate fire coverage, the continuation of this shared service has now come under question. Council resolved that the budget be approved as presented and that further discussion would need to take place on how to move forward.

Moved by Robert Jerrard 2015-71
Seconded by Pat Garside
Resolved that we do approve the Hilton Union Fire Board Budget for 2015 in the amount of \$117,000. *Carried*

Council was advised by our municipal representative on the Hilton Union Library Board that Library Board members had been invited to an Administration and Finance Committee Meeting of the Village of Hilton Beach to discuss options for the funding of future library building improvements. The Village proposed that the Board would either have to do its own fundraising to cover such costs or the Village would begin charging a monthly rental fee of \$400 with the funds being deposited in a reserve for future building improvements. The Library is different to the shared fire services as the library building is owned entirely by the Village. The funding of capital upgrades to the library building was addressed in 2014 and Hilton Township Council confirmed at that time it would not contribute to such costs for an asset in which it held no ownership. The Clerk advised she had requested a copy of the Village Minutes for its Administration and Finance Committee Meeting but they had not been received to date. Council noted it would wait until the options outlined by the Village Council were received in writing before making a decision on how to proceed.

Council reviewed the Clerk's report addressing the draft budget for 2015. The budget as presented resulted in an increased levy of approximately \$37,000. This was the result of a combination of factors including increased OPP, WSIB, utilities, tax program IT maintenance and Roads 2014 vacation/on call payout costs. The construction projects planned for 2015 total \$146,000, however, the OCIF grant in the amount of \$25,000 will reduce taxpayers' share. The Clerk recommended \$20,000 also be transferred from the Roads Infrastructure Reserve to maintain the standard annual \$100,000 road improvement investment and ease the tax burden for residents. New tires and a replacement window are required for the grader at an expected cost of \$7,000. The Clerk recommended transferring this amount from the Roads Working Capital Reserve as it was currently at a level greater than suggested by our auditor.

Despite the transfers from reserves noted above, the new levy results in a 2.2% increase to the combined municipal and education tax rate. The Clerk noted that this increase is the same amount that the Township's tax rate was decreased in 2014. It was also pointed out that the proposed increase will be the first tax rate increase in eight years. During that period our assessment continued to increase while our financial needs remained relatively constant but that is not the case this year.

Council reviewed details explaining the effect of the tax rate on residential taxes and noted that total taxes on a \$100,000 assessed property would be \$912.40 compared to \$892.49 in 2014. However, given the increase of 3.97% to our overall assessment, taxes on the increased assessed value of \$104,000 for 2015 would result in taxes of \$948.89, an increase in taxes of \$56.40.

The Clerk advised a performance evaluation had been carried out with Sherry Hoover, Deputy Clerk and a recommendation was made that this individual move from Level 7 to Level 8 of her wage grid. Council unanimously supported the recommendation noting how fortunate the Township is to have such a capable and service-oriented individual willing to provide assistance during peak periods and vacation relief for the Clerk.

Moved by Pat Garside 2015-72
Seconded by Robert Jerrard
Resolved that Sherry Hoover move from Level 7 to Level 8 within the Deputy Clerk Wage Grid and that this change be retroactive to January 1, 2015. *Carried*

The Clerk advised that if the budget was approved as presented, a by-law detailing the final tax rates for 2015 would be presented at the next regular meeting of Council.

Moved by Dave Leask 2015-73
Seconded by Dianne Holt
Resolved that we do approve in principle the 2015 Budget as presented, in the amount of \$888,888.00 resulting in a municipal tax levy of \$489,263 including grant-in-lieu payments with formal adoption of the required tax rates to take place at the June 3, 2015 meeting of Council. *Carried*

Council reviewed a summary of Algoma area tax rates for 2014 provided by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs. The Clerk noted that even with the proposed increase of 2.2% to last year's rate, Hilton Township will still remain with the lowest tax rate of the twenty-two municipalities.

Moved by Pat Garside 2015-74
Seconded by Dianne Holt
Resolved that we do pass By-Law No. 1134-15 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of this meeting. Carried

Moved by Robert Jerrard 2015-75
Seconded by Dianne Holt
Resolved that we do adjourn at 10:43 p.m., Council to meet again at the Hilton Township Municipal Office at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 3, 2015 or at the call of the Reeve. *Carried*

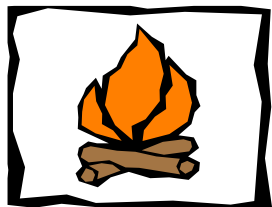
Reeve, Rodney Wood

Valerie Obarymskyj, Clerk Treasurer



***** Building Inspection *****
Ron LeBlanc – Building Inspector - Call 1-800-797-2997
Email: ron.leblanc@tulloch.ca

**IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE OWNER TO OBTAIN A BUILDING PERMIT
IT IS ILLEGAL TO START WORK WITHOUT A PERMIT**



It is necessary to obtain a Fire Permit at the Municipal Office for Small Brush Burning and Incinerator Burning during the months from April to October.
There is no fee for this permit.
A reminder that burning is only permitted two hours before sunset and two hours after sunrise.
(Exception: campfires for cooking/warmth allowed anytime.)

Dump/Recycling (M and N Road):



SUMMER Hours in Effect from May 15/15 – Sept 15/15:
Wednesday: 2:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Saturday: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Sunday: 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Holiday Mondays: 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm
**Note: New Tipping Fees applicable as of July 1, 2015.
Clear Bags will be required as of January 1, 2016.**