

MINUTES

Special Budget/Firehall Review Meeting

May 21, 2014

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.

This special meeting was called to address the 2014 Municipal Budget, as well as, recommendations from the Hilton Union Fire Board to proceed with renovations to the current firehall.

Moved by Robert Jerrard 2014-71

Seconded by Dave Leask

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

Council had reviewed the report from the Firehall Building Committee which addressed two phases of renovations to the current firehall. This same report had been presented to the Fire Board at its May 13, 2014 meeting with recommendations to the Councils of Hilton Township and the Village of Hilton Beach that authority be given to proceed with Phase 1 of the renovation. "Phase 1" of the renovation includes lifting the current firehall 3' to 4' and installing new 12' garage doors. The proposed second phase is for a two storey 26' x 32' addition to the back of the firehall. The Road Superintendent, Lyn Garside, confirmed he had met with Wes Terry, Algoma Public Health that day and there were various options available regarding the installation of a full septic system to service the renovated firehall. The different options will be reviewed by the Fire Board with the decision including both the cost and effect on snow removal for the township property. The following resolution of support was passed.

Moved by Robert Jerrard 2014-72

Seconded by Dianne Holt

Resolved that Council for the Township of Hilton, in accordance with the recommendation of the Hilton Union Fire Board, does authorize proceeding with Phase 1 of the Firehall Building Committee's Report as presented at the May 13, 2014 Fire Board meeting. *Carried*

Council had reviewed the Clerk's report summarizing the draft budget for 2014. As the result of various decreases to Revenue and increases to Expenses, it was being proposed that the municipal levy increase by approximately \$13,000. The reasons for the increase included the projected cost of \$4,000 for this year's municipal election; an increase of \$7,000 to policing; a proposed contribution of \$4,600 to Matthews Memorial Hospital Association for physician recruitment. While the \$13,000 increase to the municipality levy represents a 3% increase over 2013, the combined municipal/educational tax rate will still be reduced 2.2% as a result of the average 4% increase to residential assessment.

The proposed budget includes capital projects totaling approximately \$103,000: completion of 20th Side Road (\$48,000); Neal Drive reconstruction (\$45,000); Milford Haven Boat Launch (\$10,000). In addition, \$35,000 in resurfacing will be carried out on Base Line from the S and T to Highway 548.

Council reviewed the 2014 Hilton Union Public Library budget submitted by the Library Board. This year's budget totals \$28,000 and requests municipal levies of \$11,596 from both the Village of Hilton Beach and the Township of Hilton. Council asked for additional clarification regarding both the \$6,000 utilities estimate as well as the \$1,300 audit fee. The establishment by-law for the shared service was reviewed and the Clerk was asked to confirm the status of whether or not the library's book collection was jointly owned. Approval of the Library Budget will be postponed until the next meeting of Council.

Council reviewed the Township budget on a line by line basis raising the following questions:

- Why had the Provincial Offences revenue been increased from \$500 to \$1,500
- Why was \$8,000 shown under "Other Revenue" with an offsetting expense entry of \$8,000 shown under Administration – Legal Expense
- Why did the Township need to direct French School Board taxes to that board when there wasn't a french school in our area
- Why had the training expense for the Fire Department increased so dramatically
- What was the expected life of the plowtruck and was the amount being set aside for replacement cost considered adequate
- Why was interest on the Parks Reserve Fund term deposit not included under Revenue
- Was the amount allocated to Municipal Tax Writeoffs sufficient

- What did the budgeted figure under Office Building Repairs include
- Why did the budget not address the replacement of the office’s printer or photocopier
- Had other area municipalities committed to the proposed contributions to MMHA physician recruitment
- Why was there such a fluctuation in the Compressor Maintenance expense from one year to the next
- Why wasn’t there any figure shown under Culverts in the Roads Operation budget
- Why wasn’t there any expense shown under Brushing for the year 2013
- Have the dump and recycling expenses been confirmed by the Village of Hilton Beach
- Should power to the Milford Haven Rest Stop be maintained
- Could some improvements be made to the buildings at Big Point Park and funded through the Parks Reserve Fund

The Clerk provided answers to all of the questions and the following resolution was passed.

Moved by Dianne Holt 2014-73
Seconded by Robert Jerrard

Resolved that we do approve in principle the 2014 Budget, as presented, in the amount of \$867,070 resulting in a municipal tax levy of \$452,250 including grant-in-lieu payments with formal adoption of the required tax rates to take place at the June 4, 2014 meeting of Council. *Carried*

Provided no changes are made to the budget prior to final adoption, the proposed tax rate of 0.008925 would result in total taxes of \$1,338 on a \$150,000 assessed property, a decrease of approximately \$30 in taxes on the same valued property in 2013. However, if that same property’s assessment increased by 4%, as did most residential properties, the 2014 assessment would now be \$156,000 and the 2014 taxes \$1,392, an increase of \$24 over 2013 taxes. Council considered such an increase to be in line with how costs have increased for both municipalities and residents.

Moved by Pat Garside 2014-74
Seconded by Dave Leask

Resolved that we do pass By-Law No. 1103-14 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of this meeting. *Carried*

Council reviewed the updated Five Year Roads Capital Plan emphasizing once again that the order of proposed projects could change subject to grant availability and other factors.

A summary of the municipality’s Reserves and Reserve Fund balances was provided by the Clerk, including projects totals for December 2014.

Moved by Dave Leask 2014-75
Seconded by Dianne Holt

Resolved that we do adjourn at 11:30 p.m., Council to meet again at the Hilton Township Municipal Office at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 4, 2014 or at the call of the Reeve. *Carried*

Reeve, Rodney Wood

Valerie Obarymskyj, Clerk Treasurer
