

**MINUTES**  
Budget Meeting  
May 24, 2017  
7:00 p.m.

Present:

Reeve: Rodney Wood

Councillors: Pat Garside

Dianne Holt

Robert Jerrard

Dave Leask

Road Superintendent: Lyn Garside

Clerk Treasurer: Valerie Obarymskyj

Absent:

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

Moved by Robert Jerrard

2017-64

Seconded by Dave Leask

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

Council reviewed the 2017 Museum Board budget (\$1,000 less than 2016). The municipal levies were reduced this year with the Township's share being \$600 less.

Moved by Dianne Holt

2017-65

Seconded by Dave Leask

Resolved that we do approve the St. Joseph Island Museum Budget for 2017 as presented in the amount of \$47,850 with Hilton Township's share being \$5,352. \*Carried\*

Council reviewed the 2017 Library Board budget (\$7,600 more than 2016). It was noted that with substantial transfers from reserves and application of the multi-year \$5,500 HST rebate, the Board had been able to maintain the same municipal levies as in 2016. Concerns were raised however that future levies could increase dramatically unless certain expenses were reduced or additional revenue sources found.

Moved by Dave Leask

2017-66

Seconded by Robert Jerrard

Resolved that we do approve the Hilton Union Public Library Board Budget for 2017 as presented in the amount of \$35,078.56 with a Hilton Township municipal levy of \$10,324.17. \*Carried\*

Council reviewed the Clerk's report addressing the draft budget for 2017. The budget as presented resulted in an increased levy of approximately \$33,300 over 2016 and a 1.22% increase to the combined municipal and education tax rate. The increase to the levy resulted from a combination of factors: Policing increased \$19,000 from \$66,700 in 2016 to \$85,500 in 2017; Social Services levy increased \$13,000 from \$261,500 in 2016 to \$274,200 in 2017; Transportation Operations increased \$10,000 from \$138,000 in 2016 to \$148,000 in 2017. Road construction projects for 2017 will total \$169,000 compared to \$155,000 in 2016, however, this increase will be offset by an additional \$25,000 in OCIF funding this year. The Clerk recommended that Federal Gas Tax savings in the amount of \$30,000 also be applied to the road projects to reduce the negative impact on the municipal levy. In a further effort to reduce the tax increase for residents, the Clerk recommended the annual transfer to Office Equipment Reserves, as well as, Physician Recruitment Reserves be reduced this year. In addition, the annual \$5,000 transfer to Municipal Building Reserve Fund was recommended this year instead of increasing it to \$25,000, as was done last year, in anticipation of generating the savings necessary to construct a new satellite firehall.

While discussing the detailed budget in terms of Road Projects, the Road Superintendent advised there was a trade show being held in southern Ontario in a couple weeks and it would be a good opportunity to see what was available in terms of new trucks. Given the plans to modify the current plowtruck to serve as a tanker, such work could only be done if the Township already has a new truck in service. Council authorized the Road Superintendent to attend the show and distribute tenders, understanding the timeline for acquiring a new plowtruck could be 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 be \$931.10 in 2017 compared to \$919.91 in 2016. However, given the approximate 3.48% average assessment increase to most residential properties, taxes on the increased assessed value of \$103,480 for 2017 would result in taxes of \$963.51, an increase of \$43.59. The Clerk confirmed that if a resident's assessed value increased more than the average 3.48%, the increase in taxes would be greater than previously noted.

Council reviewed a detailed summary of all Reserves and Reserve Funds balances from 2010 to 2017. The Clerk noted that a number of these savings would be reduced substantially in the near future given various planned

purchases. The Fire Department's Building Reserve Fund will be used to cover the \$22,000 upgrade; the Road Department's Equipment Reserve Fund will be used to purchase a new plowtruck; the Parks Reserve Fund was reduced by over \$60,000 last year to buy the W Line property; the Fire Department's Equipment Reserve Fund will be used for modification of the plowtruck or purchase of a newer tanker or pumper-tanker.

The Clerk presented a summary of Algoma area municipalities' tax rates for 2016 that was provided by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs. The Township of Hilton continued to have the lowest tax rate of the twenty-two communities.

The Clerk advised that if Council agreed with the budget as presented, it could be formally approved along with a by-law detailing the final tax rates for 2017 at the next regular meeting of Council.

Moved by Pat Garside 2017-67

Seconded by Robert Jerrard

Resolved that we do approve in principle the 2017 Budget as presented in the amount of \$996,002 and schedule formal adoption of the 2017 Budget and 2017 Tax Rates at the regular meeting of June 7, 2017. \*Carried\*

Moved by Dave Leask 2017-68

Seconded by Dianne Holt

Resolved that we do pass By-Law No. 1187-17 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of this meeting.  
\*Carried\*

Moved by Pat Garside 2017-69

Seconded by Robert Jerrard

Resolved that we do adjourn at 9:37 p.m., Council to meet again at the Hilton Township Municipal Office at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 7, 2017 or at the call of the Reeve. \*Carried\*

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Reeve, Rodney Wood

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Valerie Obarymskyj, Clerk Treasurer

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