

MINUTES

Budget Meeting

July 12, 2023

7:00 p.m.

Present:

- Reeve: Rodney Wood
- Councillors: Mike Garside
- Janet Gordanier
- Mike Trainor
- Road Superintendent: Lyn Garside
- Clerk Treasurer: Valerie Obarymskyj

Absent: Councillor Dave Leask

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

2023-78

- Moved by Mike Trainor
- Seconded by Mike Garside
- Resolved that we do accept the Agenda as presented. *Carried*

Council reviewed the Clerk’s Report on the Draft Budget for 2023. Once again, this year there is a need to substantially increase the tax levy for the municipality. This year’s levy will be \$763,700 which is \$80,370 more than 2022. The reasons behind the new levy include the following increases: Algoma District Services (\$14k); Building Inspection (\$4k); Insurance (\$11k); Landfill (\$12k); Library (\$3k); Road Construction Projects (\$40k more funded by taxation in lieu of grants); Wages re additional administration assistance and COLA for all employees (\$17k). We did receive an additional \$28k this year in OMPF funding, as well as, an additional \$5k in OCIF funding which will be put towards 2023 road construction projects.

The new tax rate resulting from the 2023 increased levy will mean an increase of 8%. The combined municipal and education rate that applies to residential assessments will be 0.010182, up from last year’s rate of 0.009423. Given the continued freeze on MPAC’s property value assessments, a property owner with a \$100,000 assessment will pay \$76 more in 2023 than they did in 2022.

Council reviewed several items in the budget requesting clarification regarding year-to-year variances. The recent increase to our building permit fee structure will help to reduce the annual deficit in building inspection services but continued review/increases will be necessary in the coming years.

Council inquired about adopting an online payment system for residents for all municipal services (taxes/building permits/entrance permits/etc). The Township currently accepts payment by etransfer or online bill payments but does not offer debit or credit card options. The Clerk will investigate this further to determine the cost of implementing such a system.

The Clerk advised there remains an approximate \$30k balance of Covid Funding originally received in 2020 and 2021. The intent of the funding was to ensure we could operate in a safe manner during the pandemic and was used to cover the purchase of sanitizers/masks/plexiglass barriers and other efforts to maintain the safety of municipal staff and the public visiting the office. The Clerk will explore other areas for use of the remaining funds which satisfy the intent of the funding. The original agreement will be reviewed to confirm any deadline for full use of the funding or if it is permissible to remain in a Reserve pending a future Covid-related need.

The Clerk advised the 2022 Audit still needs to be finalized by BDO. Provided there are no changes to the year-end surplus, the recommendation would be to direct those funds to a Landfill Reserve to prepare for future increases to our share of the operating costs.

2023-79

- Moved by Janet Gordanier
- Seconded by Mike Trainor
- Resolved that we do approve the 2023 Budget as presented in the amount of \$1,322,860 including a municipal tax levy of \$763,700 (including Payment in Lieu of Taxes). *Carried*

A by-law adopting the final tax rates for all classes will be presented at the regular meeting in August 2023.

2023-80

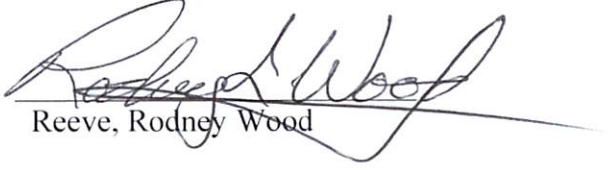
- Moved by Mike Garside
- Seconded by Janet Gordanier
- Resolved that we do pass By-Law No. 1378-23 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of this meeting. *Carried*

2023-81

Moved by Mike Garside

Seconded by Mike Trainor

Resolved that we do adjourn at 8:44 p.m., Council to meet again at the Hilton Township Municipal Office at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 26, 2023 to further review a Short Term Rental regulation strategy and on Tuesday, August 8, 2023 for the next regular meeting of Council. *Carried*


Reeve, Rodney Wood


Clerk, Valerie Obarymskyj