

Robert noted that the Town has partnered with Grey County in a software sharing agreement, and that the GIS budget has been reduced by \$30,000 over last year.

Robert noted that GIS is undergoing development of a corporate GIS system and ongoing development.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay then spoke questioning what part of the Town's GIS system can be accessed by the public, Robert replying that he will check on this and report back to Council. Director of Planning and Building David Finbow then spoke noting much of the GIS work supports the Planning and Building Divisions and referenced the Official Plan and the new Official Plan and zoning by-laws. David confirmed that the Town of Thornbury zoning by-law is currently on-line and that the Collingwood zoning by-law is a work in progress project that should be completed within twelve months.

Robert then spoke regarding the Guardrail Program confirming that the details of this program were discussed at the December Infrastructure and Recreation Committee meeting.

Robert noted that at this moment, the 2013 draft budget proposes that \$12,252,610 is required to maintain the current levels of service, plus additional enhancements. Robert spoke regarding lost revenue and the loss of the OMPF Funding by all Ontario municipalities.

Robert reviewed the budget updates from the last meeting, noting a reduction of \$8,672 from the budget presented at the last budget meeting.

Robert then spoke regarding budget enhancements passed by Council noting the enhancements add \$139,500 to the draft 2013 budget, plus the possibility of adding Volunteer Firefighter benefits for half of the year.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay then spoke seeking input from the Fire Department regarding the Enhancement of Volunteer Firefighter Benefits, further noting that recruitment and retention of volunteer Firefighters is a concern to the Town.

Fire Chief Ron Doherty then spoke regarding the partial benefit package for volunteer firefighters and confirmed that recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters is a challenge. Ron noted that the benefit package is an option that may attract and retain volunteer firefighters.

Councillor Halos then spoke questioning how long a volunteer would have to serve before being eligible to participate in the proposed benefit program, Ron replying that a volunteer firefighter would be eligible on the anniversary of completion of the two year training program, further noting the benefit program may aid in recruitment and retention.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay then spoke questioning if there are procedures in place that the volunteers must attend a specific number of calls, Ron replying yes, that the volunteers must attend 50% of fire calls and 75% of fire practices to maintain their status as a volunteer firefighter.

Mayor Anderson then spoke noting she appreciates the need to offer benefits to the volunteer firefighters, and noted this is precedent setting for other municipalities in Ontario. Ellen noted offering benefits to the volunteer firefighters may assist in the recruitment and retention of the Town's volunteer firefighters.

Moved by: D.R. McKinlay Seconded by: John McKean

THAT the draft 2013 Budget include Volunteer Firefighter Partial Benefit Program for one half year as an enhancement to the budget in the amount of \$25,000 for final consideration by Council, unanimously Carried.

Guardrail Program

Director of Engineering and Public Works Reg Russwurm circulated a map including a list of projects identified for the Guardrail Program. Reg confirmed that the funding in the amount of \$235,000 will come from reserves, if that is Council's direction. Duncan spoke in response to Reg, noting that Council can perform the guardrail work now or later, Reg replying that the guardrail program was identified in the roads needs study and confirmed the Town can realize some efficiencies if the same contractor is used.

Duncan then questioned what efficiencies could be realized this year, versus performing the work in the next three to five years, Councillor McKean replying that the Town may realize up to 30% in savings.

John the spoke regarding the resurfacing program and noted that some of the roads should be resurfaced sooner than later, Reg concurring.

Councillor Gamble then spoke questioning if the proposed cost of \$235,000 is taking the potential 30% savings into consideration, Reg replying no, that the cost could be 30% lower than \$235,000. Chair Ardiel then spoke noting she would like to see current pricing for the project, John noting that a tender could be sent out that notes that award of the contract is subject to budget constraints so that Council can be made aware of the cost to perform the guardrail work, Reg replying that this language is always included in tender documents.

Duncan then spoke noting there is good reason to proceed with the project at this time.

Moved by: D.R. McKinlay Seconded by: Ellen Anderson

THAT the draft 2013 Budget include the Guardrail Program enhancement of \$235,000 for final consideration by Council, unanimously Carried.

Councillor Halos then spoke questioning the budget increase in 2012, Robert replying just under 3%, blended rate.

Mayor Anderson then spoke noting this is the time that Council should be considering pulling items from the budget enhancements, if that is Council's wish. Joe then spoke noting he would like the blended budget increase to be under 2%.

Joe then spoke noting he has concern with the maintenance gravel enhancement and webcast technology enhancements. Joe confirmed that he supports the environmental farm plan enhancement and market salary adjustment enhancement.

Duncan then spoke noting he would like to receive input from the public before Council makes a decision to cut items from the enhancements, further noting these cuts can be made at the January 28 Special Meeting of Council where Council will be reviewing the comments from the Public Meeting.

Councillor McKean then spoke noting there are significant projects not included in the enhancements and that Council should be reviewing other portions of the budget to make budget cuts.

John noted that Council should consider making cuts from the budget now, not after the Public Information Centre and Public Meeting. John noted he would like to get the budget down to a 2.5% increase over last year.

Councillor Gamble then spoke noting he agrees with Councillor McKean and Councillor Halos, further noting that he would like to cut the webcast technology from the enhancement list. Bob then noted that the firefighter benefits is a concern, and that the 2% cost of living increase should be prorated to assist with the cost of the enhancements.

Moved by: R.J. Gamble Seconded by: Michael Martin

THAT the webcast technology enhancement in the amount of \$21,000 be removed from the draft 2013 Budget

In speaking to the Motion, Councillor Martin noted that he supports cutting the webcast technology from the 2013 budget.

Council then voted on the Motion, Carried.

Moved by: Joe Halos Seconded by: Michael Martin

THAT the increase to maintenance gravel enhancement in the amount of \$73,500 be removed from the draft 2013 Budget

In speaking to the Motion, Deputy Mayor McKinlay noted that he cannot support the motion as the Town has been in a deficit in the maintenance of rural roads in the past few years because of the needs of the water and wastewater projects. Duncan noted that the rural roads need to be reestablished and maintained.

Councillor Gamble then spoke noting he appreciates Deputy Mayor McKinlay's comments, and noted that roads should be reconstructed in coordination with water and sewer projects. Bob then noted that street lighting should be reviewed as well.

Councillor Martin spoke noting the Engineering and Public Works Department has compiled a budget, that includes an enhancement for maintenance gravel. Michael noted that the increase to maintenance gravel enhancement is an enhancement to the budget and confirmed that maintenance gravel is already included in the base budget. Michael noted that if the additional gravel was of importance, that it would have been included in the base budget.

Mayor Anderson then spoke noting the enhancement is to bring the supply of the gravel and general maintenance to the level it was at a few years ago, further noting this increased placement of gravel will save the Town in the future. Reg then spoke noting that many tonnes of gravel were put down five to six years ago, but noted that the tonnage was decreased when the Town no longer had gravel from its own pit and had to purchase gravel. Reg noted that we are trying to get to where the rural roads should be, further noting that a little maintenance now saves the road infrastructure costs.

Councillor McKean then spoke noting the Town is deficient in its gravel placement, and that the corduroy roads have rails coming through the surface making it difficult to grade.

Duncan then questioned how the amount of \$73,500 was arrived at, Robert replying that the same amount was budgeted for in the base budget as last year, plus the enhancement of \$73,500.

Ellen then noted that Council should look at other projects included in the budget that are noted as flexible.

Council then voted on the Motion, Lost.

Councillor McKean then spoke regarding the Heritage Drive and Pioneer Lane resurfacing project noting that he recently travelled these roads and is of the opinion that this project should be removed from the draft budget at this time.

John then spoke regarding the inclusion of \$30,000 in the Economic Development 2012 Budget, with only \$300 being spent in 2012, and noted \$35,000 is proposed in 2013 with a carryover of the \$29,700 from 2012.

Chair Ardiel then spoke noting the Napier Street resurfacing should be postponed to be improved when the development in the area proceeds.

Darcy then spoke noting the projects are included in the budget and noted as "flexible" so that Council can debate, further noting that improvements at Napier, Clark, Monterra, Heritage and Pioneer are all at the top of the list to be resurfaced. Darcy noted that projects should not be removed from the budget, that if Council decides not to proceed with a specific project, that another project should be selected in its place, or Council will find itself in a backlog of road repairs. Reg then spoke echoing Darcy's comments, that roads to be improved have been identified in the roads needs study. Reg noted Napier is a development charges road that is ready to be resurfaced, further noting that the road resurfacing does not affect the development and it is unknown when the development will move forward.

Duncan then spoke questioning what road is next on the list of roads to be improved, Darcy replying Elma Street needs to be repaired before Louisa Street and that the water and wastewater connections need to be looked at. Darcy confirmed that money will be budgeted until the work needs to be done.

Duncan then questioned if the shoulders of the road could be shaved along Pioneer Lane as an interim improvement, Manager of Roads and Drainage Jim McCannell replying yes, this could be done.

Bob then spoke noting Council need to look at the capital expenditures to determine if a project is a need or a requirement and to look at reducing the infrastructure deficit. Bob noted that Louisa and Elma Streets are not in bad condition, further noting that the roads that require attention, referencing the 6th Sideroad, should be improved. Bob then noted that the projects identified as flexible should not proceed, and that the moneys budgeted for those projects should be put elsewhere.

Bob then referenced the inclusion of a carpeted floor replacement at a Town facility and noted this item is a want and not a need, further noting that Council need to reconsider capital projects.

Ellen then spoke noting when a project has been identified as flexible, that it means the project can be moved to another year, further noting that the roads will require repair at some point and that money will be put into reserves to fund the repairs. Ellen then noted that staff have prepared the budget and have identified projects to complete, further noting that projects should not be put off to become the responsibility of future taxpayers. Bob spoke in response to Ellen noted that he is suggesting reallocating the timing of the work.

Moved by: Joe Halos Seconded by: D.R. McKinlay

THAT the \$30,000 rate reserve contribution be removed from the 2013 draft Budget, Carried.

Councillor Gamble then spoke noting Council needs to be moderate in their demands on users.

Robert then reviewed the wastewater budget, noting there is no change in the consumption rate, and that the average bill will be increased by approximately \$30 per year.

Moved by: D.R. McKinlay Seconded by: Ellen Anderson

THAT Council direct staff to move forward with the draft 2013 budget as revised, including the water and wastewater budget, as revised, to the meeting schedule as follows:

- Wednesday, January 23, 2013, 3:00–6:00 pm Public Information Centre;
- Wednesday, January 23, 2013, 6:00 pm Special Meeting of Council, Public Meeting;
- Monday, January 28, 2013, 1:00pm Special Meeting of Council Re: Budget

Carried.

D. Adjournment

Moved by: D.R. McKinlay Seconded by: John McKean

THAT this Council does now adjourn at 6:02 p.m., Carried.

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Gail Ardiel, Acting Chair

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Corrina Giles, Town Clerk