

B. Public Meeting

B.1 Public Meeting: 2012 Budget and 2012 Water and Wastewater Rates

Mayor Anderson read the Notice of Public Information Session and Public Meeting with regard to the 2012 Proposed Budget and Notice of Public Information Session and Public Meeting with regard to the 2012 Water and Wastewater Budget and Rates.

Ellen noted a Statutory Public Meeting to review the estimates and proposed rate changes for water and wastewater will be held in the Council Chamber at The Blue Mountains Municipal Office at the regularly scheduled Council meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 23, 2012. Any person may attend the Public Meeting and / or make written or verbal representation regarding the 2012 Proposed Budget and 2012 Proposed Water and Wastewater Rates.

Ellen noted notice is given that the Council of The Corporation of the Town of The Blue Mountains, at its regularly scheduled Council Meeting of Monday, February 13, 2012, intends to adopt the Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for all departments of the Town for the year 2012 and intends to adopt the 2012 Water and Wastewater Budget and Water and Wastewater Rates.

The Clerk then read correspondence received from Robert Winters, Janis Burton, William and Linda Sheppard, Joan Teskey, Doug Norman, Jim and Janis Kaufman, Art Cross, Mitchel Freedman, John Lewitt, Dennis Beallor, Bill and Robin Pittaway, Syd and Doreen Chamberlain, Lee Wallace, Penny and Peter Jerred, Kim Kruger Posen, Diane Diane Hanoski, Rick Bergmann, Larry Rogers and Margaret Royds, Zoe Foster, Dick Edmunds, James Hindle, Patricia Yeager

Director of Finance and IT Robert Cummings spoke regarding the proposed budget and reviewed the budget timeline, including service delivery. Rob noted discretionary expenses are down 2% excluding enhancements and spoke regarding service levels, landfill mining and expansion, roads and drainage works, short term enforcement and additional grants to community organizations.

Rob spoke regarding the proposed budget dollars, being an operating budget of \$24.8 million and a capital budget \$6.6 million and reviewed the 2012 expense by service, tax levy calculation being 3.75% per year for a blended rate.

Rob spoke regarding the landfill mining and expansion and full user pay versus partial user pay waste collection system.

Rob spoke regarding staffing levels and noted the only new staffing position included in the 2012 budget is the by-law short term accommodation officer, further noting staffing levels are the same as in 2011.

Rob spoke regarding the new Town Hall, noting the project was a \$8.6M project with \$4.9 M in grants and noted \$75,000 servicing of this debt is on the tax levy, which is funded by reserves.

Rob spoke regarding the Town's fleet of vehicles and noted one additional light duty vehicle is proposed in 2012 plus an additional light duty vehicle for the proposed short term accommodation by-law officer.

Mayor Anderson then asked if any member of the public would like to speak regarding the proposed 2012 draft budget and 2012 water and wastewater rates.

Michael Seguin, President of Blue Mountain Ratepayers and resident at 209 Peel Street spoke commending the Director of Finance and IT Robert Cummings for preparing the budget reports and for posting the same to the website. Michael noted that he does not believe that budget restraint was used in preparation of the 2012 budget and reiterated that this budget is based on a year of lost revenue.

Mr. Seguin noted this year's budget is based on last year's budget plus enhancements and noted he believes the budget has been padded. Mr. Seguin noted the deficit of the building department is being protected against operating expenses. Mr. Seguin expressed concern for residents' ability to pay increased taxes, then referenced unnecessary enhancements in the budget.

Mr. Seguin then spoke regarding the landfill mining and expansion and his concerns of the demolition of the old town hall and the impact of this construction waste being sent to the landfill. Mr. Seguin referenced concern with \$353,500 being spent from taxes over the next five years to pay for the acquisition of lands adjacent to the landfill.

Mr. Seguin then spoke regarding garbage and noted the proposed user pay system should not proceed and questioned if bi-weekly pickup had been considered.

Mr. Seguin then spoke regarding the proposed water and wastewater rate increases and noted a full audit of the Town's reserves should be conducted, and noted the entire municipality should share the burden of the future infrastructure costs for water and wastewater, not just the actual users.

Mr. Seguin requested Council reconsider the proposed 2012 budget and water and wastewater rates.

Diane Hanoski, resident at 132 East Ridge Drive, Unit 1, spoke noting Town employees should be provided with a job description and that all employees should be aware of Council protocol. Ms. Hanoski expressed concern with the increased cost of food and transportation and the proposed increase in taxes, water and wastewater rates and garbage as most retirees are on fixed incomes. Ms. Hanoski questioned if the materials from the old town hall could be reused rather than being sent to the landfill.

Terry Thompson, resident at 112 Indian Circle and President of Georgian View Ratepayers Association spoke thanking Council and Staff for the Public Information Session. Mr. Thompson noted his taxes have doubled in the last ten years and is concerned with the proposed increase in water and wastewater rates. Mr. Thompson believes the proposed waste bagtag charges is unconscionable and that Council should direct Staff to reduce costs and that free garbage collection should be offered. Mr. Thompson noted he is concerned with the water and wastewater rates, but noted his main concern is with respect to the increase in taxes.

Terry Howell, resident of 100 Stevens Court, Thornbury, spoke expressing concern with the proposed bagtag charge and believes the cost of collection of the first bag of garbage should be included in property taxes. Terry noted residents do not want to be charged for every service provided by the Town.

Ron Hartlen, resident at 138 Russell Street West, spoke questioning debt servicing and questioned the cost of the new Town Hall, Director of Finance and IT Robert Cummings spoke in response noting \$1.7M came from reserves over a number of years, with \$73,000 to \$75,000 per year financed over a number of years.

Tony Dundas, resident at 135 East Ridge Drive spoke noting the budget presentation was a well thought out presentation and asked that Council respond to the questions raised by Mr. Seguin.

Mr. Dundas expressed concern with the proposed garbage collection fees and the proposed increase in taxes, noting Council should adopt best practices to keep costs down. Mr. Dundas suggested the cost for infrastructure replacement should be kept at 2.5% to 3% and that Council should try to beat the rate of inflation as keeping taxes low will make The Blue Mountains a place where people want to live.

Mike Stoneham, resident at Bayview Avenue, spoke noting Council did not mention a proposed 8% increase in taxes at the 2010 all-candidates meeting. Mr. Stoneham noted Council needs to identify the problems at the Town and come to an increase of 2%.

As no one further wished to speak Mayor Anderson thanked the members of the public for attending this evening's public meeting and for their input.

Councillor Halos then spoke noting Council has concern for the residents of the community and confirmed that many things have been done to reduce costs at the Town. Joe noted he originally sought a zero increase in taxes, but this was not the consensus of Council. Joe noted the Town should get back to its core services and noted 50% of the budget is for salaries, and noted this has not been reviewed. Joe noted Council should reduce the number of vehicles in its fleet and the number of staff, when staff leave the employ of the Town or retire, and get back to its core services.

Joe noted Council needs to be prudent with the Town's finances. Joe then spoke regarding water and wastewater rates noting the Town is legislated by the Province to provide clean drinking water for the betterment of public health and the rate increase is necessary. Joe noted Council should not charge for the first bag of garbage collected.

Fred Barnes, resident at 106 Aberdeen Court spoke noting he has not received a response from Council and that the public wants a zero increase in taxes.

C. Correspondence as previously circulated

Author

Recommendation/Action

C.1 Crime Stoppers of Grey Bruce Inc.
Re: Request for support

For Council Direction

Moved by: John McKean

Seconded by: Gail Ardiel

THAT the request of Crime Stoppers of Grey Bruce Inc. be received for information, Carried.

C.2 Municipality of Clarington
Re: Special Provincial Funding to Cover
Municipal Deficits

For Council Direction

Moved by: R.J. Gamble

Seconded by: John McKean

THAT the correspondence from the Municipality of Clarington be received for information, Carried.

C.3 Town of Collingwood
Re: Request to Waive Fees for BVCC
Rental for 2012 Ontario Winter Games,
Sledge Hockey

For Council Direction

Moved by: R.J. Gamble

Seconded by: John McKean

THAT the Town of The Blue Mountains will absorb the rental costs of the Beaver Valley Community Centre for the 2012 Ontario Winter Games Sledge Hockey event, Carried.

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| C.4 County of Grey
Re: Support for Circulation of Bibles
to public school age children with parental
or guardian consent | Receive for information |
| C.5 MPAC, Re: Settlement with OPSEU
Ratified | Receive for information |
| C.6 Municipality of Clarington
Re: Request for Provincial Regulations
Regarding Commercial Fill Operations | Refer to Planning & Building
and to EPW |
| C.7 Town of East Gwillimbury
Re: Request for Provincial Regulations
Regarding Commercial Fill Operations | Refer to Planning & Building
and to EPW |
| C.8 Nottawasaga Police Services Board
Re: Traffic Enforcement – Use of Photo
Radar | Refer to Police Services |
| C.9 County of Huron
Re: Request for support of its findings and
recommendations regarding low frequency
noise | Refer to Planning &
Building |

Moved by: Michael Martin

Seconded by: John McKean

THAT this Council does hereby receive the Correspondence included at Agenda Item C.4 to and including C.9 of January 23, 2012 and further does support the Staff Recommendation made with regard to the Correspondence items, including any additional direction given to Staff through discussion, with an appropriate Staff action or response awaited for report back to Committee or Council where indicated, Carried.

D. Motions and Staff Reports

D.1 County of Grey Broadband Initiative and Proposed Telecommunications Tower Consultation Process, PL.12.13

Director of Planning and Building David Finbow spoke noting this Report is before Council as a result of a Grey County broadband initiative, and noted consultation must be completed by March 31 to be eligible for provincial funding. David noted at the request of Council, the Town has developed a protocol for telecommunications tower construction.

David noted the Town's protocol and Industry Canada's protocol on tower construction differ, further noting that land use needs to be addressed and that environmental constraints may necessitate an environmental impact statement and any visual impacts is of concern to the Niagara Escarpment Commission.

David noted a significant amount of work is required before an application is submitted to the Town and confirmed Staff is required to address the needs of The Blue Mountains.

Geoff Hogan, Director of Information Technology, spoke regarding the County's Broadband initiative and expressed concern with the Town's protocol for telecommunications tower construction. Geoff noted he was not aware the Town required a building permit for tower construction, but confirmed the County will pay any requisite fees. Geoff noted timing is crucial and confirmed the County is seeking a location for a tower and an obliging landowner, and further noted the County would like to co-locate on another tower, if possible.

Planner Bryan Pearce spoke noting there are other telecommunications towers in the proposed area, referencing an existing Hydro One tower.

Councillor Ardiel spoke questioning if potential fees to co-locate is the reason why the County cannot co-locate on an existing tower, David replying he has no information on this, nor has the County indicated a financial hardship. Gail then noted that residents will have an issue if there are too many towers erected in this area. David then noted the County has indicated they have exhausted all co-locate options.

Geoff then spoke noting the County does not get involved with site selections and further noted that Explornet has been successful in co-locating in other municipalities.

Gail then questioned if Explornet could come directly to Council to provide Council with further information on the broadband initiative.

Councillor Gamble then spoke noting the March 31 deadline will not be met regardless of which protocol is followed and questioned if the County could request a deferral of this deadline, Geoff replying that The Blue Mountains could follow Industry Canada's default protocol to allow the set timeline for construction to be met. David spoke in response noting the Town would have to be satisfied with the location and further noted proper notice to residents in the Banks area should be provided with advertisement in both the Enterprise Bulletin and Courier Herald newspapers.

Bob confirmed proper notice must be provided to all affected residents.

Councillor McKean then spoke noting this matter should be deferred until Explornet can present to Council and noted the Town should follow the protocol approved by Council.

Geoff then spoke noting if the March 31 deadline is not met that the Province of Ontario may not fund the project, further noting he will request an extension of the deadline.

David then spoke noting he will include Explornet as a deputation at the February 6 Planning and Building Committee meeting.

Councillor Halos then spoke questioning how far would this tower reach, David replying slightly more than the line of site, further noting Gibraltar and Banks have poor cell internet service.

Moved by: John McKean Seconded by: Gail Ardiel

THAT Planning Staff Report PL.12.13, "County of Grey Broadband Initiative and Proposed Telecommunications Tower Consultation Process" be deferred to the February 6, 2012 Planning and Building Committee Meeting, Carried.

