

further noting the Town is already in a \$500,000 shortfall position for water and wastewater reserves.

John then noted that he agrees with Deputy Mayor McKinlay that someone is going to have to pay for the replacement system in the future, and that the cost of replacement is more manageable if smaller regular contributions are made, further noting that a shortfall in the future may cause a severe hardship when the water and wastewater systems require replacement.

Councillor Halos then spoke noting reducing the fixed rate fee is an option to offset increases in the budget, and noted delaying some of the water and wastewater capital expenditures may also reduce the proposed property tax increase. Joe noted it is up to Council to make changes to reduce the increase.

Councillor Gamble then spoke referencing the effect a reduction in contribution to the water and wastewater reserves may have on future generations and noted he has strong concerns for the current taxpayers and the stress the proposed increases are placing on this and the next generation in this current economic condition.

John then spoke noting the current economic times have been in existence since 2008, and noted that better economic times may never come and that the current economic times may become the norm. John noted he is concerned for the burden on the next generation and noted he believes we are in for a long period of low growth.

Duncan then spoke in response to Councillor Halos regarding the review of capital projects from year to year and noted that deferring a capital project means that the project still needs to be done. Duncan noted that deferring a project, generally does not make a huge difference in the budget, but that not contributing \$200,000 to reserves this year and next will make a difference in the future.

Capital Accountant Darcy Chapman then spoke further to Councillor Halos that capital projects will need to be completed at some point and that when a project is pushed out, that another project should advance forward. Darcy noted that the Town generally keeps vehicles for 8 – 10 years and that the vehicles get substantial use. Darcy noted that if vehicles are kept for longer than 8 – 10 years, that the maintenance budget would have to be increased.

Darcy then spoke in response to Councillor Gamble regarding the effect on future generations, and noted if the past generations had been responsible and put money into reserves for the current assets, that the Town would have the money to replace its assets, but because the past generation did not put money into reserves, the Town is now catching up.

Mayor Anderson then spoke noting her position has not changed, further noting that it is important to put money into reserves for the future.

Bob then spoke noting of the assets to be replaced in the draft budget, that 10 – 15% are discretionary, further noting that anything discretionary should be deferred to a later date.

CAO Troy Speck spoke noting there are no discretionary items in the budget, and confirmed that the projects identified in the budget need to be completed.

Michael then spoke noting the Town has a healthy budget sheet and noted that he does not believe this reduction will change the credit rating for the Town, and noted in these poor economic times, that the Town can afford this reduction at this time.

