

Minutes - Special Finance and Administration Committee Meeting



MEETING DATE: February 13, 2007, 6:35 pm
LOCATION: The Blue Mountains Council Chamber
PREPARED BY: Serena Wilgress, Deputy Clerk

A. Call to Order

- Chair Gamble called the special meeting to order with all members of Council in attendance for ongoing initial review of the 2007 municipal budget.
- The Committee then concurred to approve the Agenda.
- Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

No member declared a pecuniary interest with regard to any matter on the Agenda.

- Previous Minutes – None

B. Deputations / Presentations

2007 Engineering & Public Works Budget Review, including Engineering, Roads, Water & Sewer, Solid Waste, Parking and Streetlighting – Acting Director of Finance Rob Cummings, Manager of Revenue Teresa Oakley, Financial Analyst Kris Kinsman, Director of Engineering & Public Works Reg Russwurm, Manager of Environment Services John Caswell, Superintendent of Roads & Drainage Don Hutchinson and Manager of Solid Waste & Environmental Initiatives Jeff Fletcher

Acting Director of Finance Rob Cummings then distributed a Water Scenario to be added to the budget binder.

Director of Engineering & Public Works Reg Russwurm reviewed the Engineering Overview, noting the Operating Budget minus Revenue equalled an overall increase of 7.7%.

Mayor Anderson questioned the role of the Receptionist Clerk and tracking of messages, Reg noting that role was being considered in the role of Communications Co-ordinator.

Acting Director of Finance Rob Cummings noted an inquiry tracking mechanism is being proposed as a capital budget item.

Chair Gamble questioned the amount of engineering services billed out to developers in 2006, Reg noting about \$36,000.

Bob then questioned if that amount would increase in 2007, Reg replying no.

Councillor Martin questioned office space for new positions, Reg noting another trailer is proposed for the Design Technician and Construction Inspector/Designer to move into.

Reg then reviewed the Roads Overview.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay questioned extra costs for extra men due to the maximum number of hours a person can work in a vehicle, Reg noting if men are needed from another department the hours will be billed back accordingly.

Michael then questioned if a Provincial Grant was received in 2006, Rob noting it would be corrected out of Federal Grants.

Councillor Kennedy questioned insurance rates going down with the new Insurance supplier, Rob noting Staff was trying to keep rates the same and build up a risk management reserve fund.

Councillor McGee noted concern that insurance premiums be shown as one amount and a reserve as another, Rob noting that could be done.

Ellen questioned communication and training expenses, Reg noting the amount was in keeping with the actual amount spent.

Duncan noted concern with not decreasing the Infrastructure Deficit, Reg agreeing and adding that Staff resources are a concern at this time.

Reg noted there is a push on drainage plans this year, adding that the plans are ready to move ahead to the RFP stage upon approval of the Budget.

Duncan questioned if the County would be part of the studies due to County roads and ditches being a part of the study area and if Development Charges would cover any of the study, Rob to confirm.

John McGee questioned the Comprehensive Transportation Strategic Plan grant noted on the information sheet, Reg noting the study would be a three way partnership with the Town, County and MTO to study growth & traffic patterns.

Ellen then questioned the Town's bridge deficit, Duncan noting approximately \$25 million.

John McGee questioned rural versus urban standard for streetlights, Manager of Environment Services John Caswell noting all new subdivisions should be at urban standards, however, they are usually dealt with on a case by case basis.

Duncan then questioned the transfer of the old backhoe to the Landfill site and purchase of a new backhoe, Rob noting the information would have to be confirmed.

Due to the amount of information still to cover, Council concurred to deal with Water & Sewer budgets at a subsequent meeting.

Manager of Solid Waste & Environmental Initiatives Jeff Fletcher then reviewed the Solid Waste Overview.

Michael questioned if glass collection would fall off now that the LCBO is taking returns, Jeff noting that had yet to be determined.

Jeff then noted the Town ranks among the best for tonnes per household and diversion percentage.

Michael questioned the percentage, Jeff noting a 35% diversion rate.

C. Staff Reports

2007 Draft Budget Binder

D. Correspondence

None

E. New and Unfinished Business

None

F. Next Meeting Date

Special Meetings February 14 and 15, 2007
Regular Meeting February 20, 2007

G. Adjournment

Moved by: Duncan McKinlay Seconded by: John McKean

THAT this special meeting do now adjourn, Carried.