

Minutes - The Blue Mountains Special Council Meeting



MEETING DATE: March 2, 2009

LOCATION: L. E. Shore Memorial Library

PREPARED BY: Stephen Keast, Clerk

A. Call to Order

- Mayor Anderson called the Special Meeting of Council to Order with all members in attendance.
- Also in attendance was CAO Paul Graham, Director of Finance Rob Cummings, Deputy Treasurer Elizabeth Thompson, Director of Planning and Building David Finbow, Director of Special Projects Peter Tollefsen, Director of Recreation Shawn Everitt, Manager of Water & Wastewater Services John Caswell, Director of Engineering and Public Works Reg Russwurm
- Council then paused for a moment of Personal Prayer or Reflection.
- Approval of Agenda:

Moved by: Michael Martin Seconded by: Cameron Kennedy

THAT the Special Meeting Agenda of March 2, 2009 be approved as circulated, including any items added to the Agenda, Carried.

Mayor Anderson then noted she would like to add further consideration of the 2015 Pan Am Games equestrian venue submission made by Cedar Run Horse Park as an addition to the Agenda, Council concurring.
- No member declared a pecuniary interest with any matter as listed on the Agenda save Councillor McKean regarding item D.2, Grey Road 19 Roundabout and Mountain Drive Construction Contract Award and his place of employment.

B. Deputations

Council Discussion – Proposed 2009 Budget

Director of Finance Rob Cummings then reviewed Staff Report FIS.09.11, "2009 Budget Impact Statement", prepared in response to previous budget discussions.

Rob then reviewed the capital investment over time, declining through 2009 but projected to increase in 2010 and 2011.

Rob noted the proposed 2009 Budget is now showing a 2.2% increase based on previous Council direction.

Councillor Kennedy then questioned an indicated Tomahawk pond cost, Rob noting the project would proceed only through donations.

CAO Paul Graham then reviewed the implication of the no new staff direction earlier provided by Council, referencing the Occupational Health and Safety Coordinator position, noting progress has been made toward creating a full-time position following a Town OHS audit which resulted in a score of 13%. Paul further noted removal of the full-time position would save a little more than \$29,000.

Paul then reviewed the Youth Advisor position to date, including involvement with the Georgian Bay Secondary School Co-Op program, public and high school student surveys, as well as the decision not to replace the former Manager of Development Planning.

Paul then reviewed increased operating cost projections at the Landfill Site regardless of whether a trash compactor was purchased.

Paul then reviewed the Road Operator position moving from 70% to a Full Time Equivalent and the 5 month winter maintenance contract and water and wastewater student positions.

Councillor Gamble then noted earlier funding consideration of the Youth Advisor position was significantly lower than is proposed and questioned any increase in service levels.

CAO Paul Graham then clarified the Youth Advisor position was initially established as a 30 week contract and this is now as a proposed Full Time Equivalent position.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay then questioned the OHS Coordinator, stating the position is now shared with Planning and Building and if made full-time a 0.5 position would be hired for Planning and Building.

Councillor McKean then proposed Council consider each position independently.

Councillor Martin then noted Council was now seeing the impact of the previous direction to Staff by Council.

Paul then reviewed prior direction regarding Training and Travel cost reduction.

Rob then reviewed historical tax rate changes year over year and turned the discussion over to Council.

Councillor Martin then requested the Budget Impact clarification numbers, Rob verifying it is a reduction to date of \$141,000.

Mayor Anderson then questioned individual Council members on each hire position.

Regarding the OHS Coordinator position, Councillor Kennedy had no comment.

Councillor Gamble then noted all Staff and Council are responsible for Occupational Health & Safety and further noted there should be more emphasis on Senior Staff efforts versus a single, full-time position.

Councillor McKean then noted support for a full-time Occupational Health and Safety Coordinator.

Councillor McGee then questioned what are the least important things the Town needs to do and then Council should consider the Staff levels required to complete the most important things, adding perhaps a salary cap should be considered.

John then noted the Water and Wastewater student hires were user-fee based and not taxation and should be considered during the user-fee Budget discussions.

Councillor Martin then noted it is difficult to consider each position independently and perhaps Council should consider a reduction in salary and let staff review programs.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay then noted the Budget Report was requested from Staff and is now before Council given previous direction.

Duncan then noted at least one day per week should be added to the Occupational Health and Safety position.

Mayor Anderson then noted support for a FTE 1.0 Occupational Health and Safety position.

Council then dealt with the following Resolution:

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

THAT there be an inclusion of a 1.0 Occupational Health and Safety Coordinator position in the 2009 Budget, Carried.

Regarding consideration of a Youth Advisor position, Councillor McGee had no comment, nor Councillor Martin.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay then noted support for keeping the position in the form of the three year plan first presented.

Councillor McKean then noted there is already money earmarked for the contract position, however, perhaps a review of services could result in other Staff that could take up the position, adding he would not support an FTE position.

Councillor Gamble then noted there is already a full-time Library youth position and several youth programs are presently operated in the area and all youth would not be engaged at any rate, adding he could support the previously approved level.

Councillor Kennedy then noted support for the current position.

Mayor Anderson then spoke in support of a full-time Youth Advisor position, noting a great deal of work has been completed in a short time.

Ellen then noted it would be easier to decide if the current contract position could be extended, Councillor Kennedy then noting support for an extended contract position.

Councillor Martin then noted the original three year position at \$25,000 per year was an example of leading and coordinating efforts regarding youth, adding he believed it was important to do something with the initiative.

Council then dealt with the following Resolution:

Moved by: Michael Martin Seconded by: Cameron Kennedy

THAT the Youth Advisor position in the 2009 Budget be amended to "Full-time Contract" position from "Full-time".

In speaking to the Motion, Duncan requested clarification, Paul noting with a contract position there would be approximately 25% savings versus full-time, approximately \$13,800.

Councillor McGee then noted it could be considered as a full-time position at a later date with a contract now proposed.

Duncan then questioned what an additional 22 weeks per year would result in without realizing what is intended.

Councillor McKean then noted the existing contract would expire in April, 2009 and if Council is going to review staffing and programs the April date would focus Council on the matter.

Duncan then questioned if the contract was 30 straight weeks ending in April or a few days per week, Director of Recreation Shawn Everitt noting the position was originally 2.5 days per week shared with the Library, the current position five days per week.

Council then voted on the Resolution, Carried.

Regarding the Information Services Technician, Rob noted there is a current I/S support contract at a cost of \$20,000 to June, 2009, noting some level of support is needed.

Bob then noted if a person was hired in July and contract services continued we would have the equivalent of two positions.

Councillors Kennedy and McGee had no comment.

Michael then noted if a Staff person was not hired there would be an increase in contract costs, Rob noting the contract was currently seven hours per week.

Duncan then noted by increasing contract services we would avoid new hires and Council would have more flexibility to prevent lay-offs of full-time employees.

Council then dealt with the following Resolution:

Moved by: Michael Martin Seconded by: Cameron Kennedy

THAT Council supports no new hire of an Information Service Technician.

In speaking to the Motion, Duncan noted he would prefer to defer the hire.

Council then voted on the Resolution, Carried.

Regarding a proposed Waste Disposal Operator, Duncan noted the Town would be spending more at the Landfill regardless of whether a compactor and operator are hired given MOE requirements, CAO Paul Graham noting Staff are recommending leaving funding in the Budget and referring the matter back to the Engineering and Public Works Committee to come up with a recommendation on operations.

Paul then noted salary for the proposed position is presently contained in the Budget.

Michael then noted he does not know enough background on the topic but increasing the life of the Landfill is important.

Councillor McGee then noted no comment, Cameron then recommended the amount stay in the Budget.

Bob then stated it is premature to consider purchase of a compactor and the matter should be addressed in the near future.

Councillor McKean then noted costs will increase even with use of a contractor and recommended leaving the funds in the Budget and letting the Committee consider the matter.

Council then dealt with the following Resolution:

Moved by: D.R. McKinlay Seconded by: Michael Martin

THAT the decision to hire additional Waste Management Staff be deferred;
and

THAT the Engineering and Public Works Committee explore options to meet the requirements of the Ministry of Environment; and

THAT the amount of \$70,000.00 remain in the Budget.

In speaking to the Motion, Duncan noted there should be options to consider to maximize operations at the Landfill.

Council then voted on the Resolution, Carried.

Mayor Anderson then briefly retired from the meeting, Deputy Mayor McKinlay assuming the Chair.

Regarding the Roads Operator from 70% FTE to Full-time, Michael noted no comment.

Councillor McGee then noted it could be deferred or taken out as it is related to the previous consideration, Cameron agreeing.

Bob then noted he would support removing the position and remaining status quo, Councillor McKean agreeing.

Council then dealt with the following Resolution:

Moved by: John McGee Seconded by: John McKean

THAT regarding the proposed Roads Operator moving from 70% FTE to Full-time, Council directs that the current program be maintained, Carried.

Mayor Anderson then returned to the meeting and assumed the Chair.

Regarding Roads Operator five month winter control position, Councillor McKean stated he believed it was a necessity and noted support.

Bob then requested clarification that if this position is filled, the Lead Hand would be able to leave snowplowing, Director of Engineering and Public Works Reg Russwurm replying yes, with the Lead Hand able to carry on with other duties but would still be available.

Cameron noted he would defer to EPW Committee members, Councillor McGee noting no comment, Mayor Anderson and Councillor Martin noting support.

Council then dealt with the following Resolution:

Moved by: Ellen Anderson Seconded by: John McKean

THAT Council recommends the new hire of a Roads Operator five month winter control position be included in the 2009 Budget, Carried.

Regarding the hire of three Water and Wastewater students, Councillor Martin noted no comment, Councillor Gamble noting three is too many, Councillor McKean noting he is not in support, Councillor McGee noting the matter should be considered during the user-fee Water and Wastewater Budget.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay then questioned previous consideration of the Water and Wastewater Budget, Rob clarifying the rate structure was set and authorization was given to move forward to a Public Meeting.

Council then dealt with the following Resolution:

Moved by: D.R. McKinlay Seconded by: Michael Martin

THAT Council need take no action on the proposed Water and Wastewater students at this time, Carried.

Regarding a reduction to Training and Travel, Councillor Gamble supported the reduction of \$50,000, Councillor McGee noting the reduction was reasonable in this time of restraint, Councillor Martin agreeing.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay noted he did not have enough understanding of the proposal, Councillors Kennedy and McKean noting support for the reduction.

Mayor Anderson then noted support for the reduction if required courses and training were identified and individually approved by Council.

Duncan then questioned if the reduction were per-centages by Department or prioritization, Paul noting there would be reduction in all Departments.

Council then dealt with the following Resolution:

Moved by: R.J. Gamble Seconded by: Cameron Kennedy

THAT Council directs that a reduction to Training and Travel in the proposed 2009 Budget remains.

In speaking to the Motion, Michael noted there should be the option for Staff to bring any additional requests to Council for approval, Duncan questioning if the option would be Staff only or Staff and Council, Rob noting the option would be across the organization.

Council then voted on the Resolution, Carried.

CAO Paul Graham then noted the previous decisions of Council would result in an increase of 2.9% on the mill rate and if a portion of the \$492,000 Investing in Ontario grant was put back in the Budget we could maintain the 2.2% increase.

Council then dealt with the following Resolutions:

Moved by: D.R. McKinlay Seconded by: Michael Martin

THAT Council approve the Proposed Estimates as amended by this day's Motions; and

THAT the Plan 915 project finances be appropriately amended to complete a Budget showing a 2.2% increase to total levy for local purposes; and

THAT a By-law be prepared for Council' s consideration on March 9, 2009, Carried.

Moved by: Michael Martin Seconded by: D.R. McKinlay

THAT Council be hereby authorized to extend past 11:00 pm, Carried.

Grey Road 19 Roundabout and Mountain Drive Construction Contract Award, EPW.09.009

Moved by: D.R. McKinlay Seconded by: Cameron Kennedy

THAT Council approve the Town of The Blue Mountains' portion of the Grey Road 19 Roundabout and Mountain Drive Construction be included within the 2009 Capital Budget at a cost of \$561,530 in the Roads Budget and \$195,112 in the Water Budget for the new servicing of the Blue Mountain Resort Orchard Lodge, and

THAT Council approve the County of Grey to award the Town of The Blue Mountains' portion of the Grey Road 19 Roundabout and Mountain Drive Construction known as Part B: Mountain Drive and New Servicing to E.C.King Contracting for an amount to not to exceed \$456,642.00 subject to the provision of security in a form satisfactory to the Director of Financial Services from Blue Mountain Resorts in the amount of \$195,112, as outlined in Report EPW.09.009 "Grey Road 19 Roundabout and Mountain Drive Construction Contract Award", Carried.

Moved by: D.R. McKinlay Seconded by: Cameron Kennedy

Councillor Kennedy then noted agreement with moving forward at this time but would appreciate being kept apprised of matters.

Duncan then requested agreement preparation moving forward if the bid is successful.

Council then voted on the Resolution, Carried.

C. Discussion and Recommendations

Budget related correspondence previously circulated

2009 Draft Budget Binders previously circulated

Mayor Anderson to Council re: Youth Advisor Position, 2009 Budget

D. New and Unfinished Business

None

E. New and Unfinished Business

None

F. By-laws

None

G. Consent Agenda

None

H. Adjournment

As there was nothing further before the Chair, Council then dealt with the following Resolution:

Moved by: Cameron Kennedy Seconded by: R.J. Gamble

THAT this Special Meeting of Council does now adjourn, Carried.

.....
Mayor Ellen Anderson

.....
Stephen Keast, Clerk