



Moved by: Gail Ardiel                      Seconded by: R.J. Gamble

Whereas, John Nichols, the voice of 95.1 the PEAK FM was an integral supporter of the Town of The Blue Mountains, its community organizations and its citizens; and

Whereas, John Nichols must be commended for his diligence, heart, and his ability to motivate those around him by establishing a superb example;

Therefore, we join with other community residents and stakeholders in celebrating John Nichols' 40 plus years of service to the community and his retirement from the PEAK FM, unanimously Carried.

Mayor Anderson then turned the meeting over to Councillor Ardiel to chair the meeting as Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee.

**C.1 James McKinlay, Agricultural Advisory Committee  
Re: Environmental Farm Plan, Enhancement to 2013 Budget**

Chair Ardiel welcomed James McKinlay.

James then spoke thanking Council for the opportunity to appear as a delegation at this Special Meeting of Council. James noted that he is the Chair of the Agricultural Advisory Committee and recognized the Committee members present.

James noted the Agricultural Advisory Committee is appointed by Council. James noted that agriculture is an important economic driver in The Blue Mountains, and that tourism is dependent on agriculture. James noted farmers are stewards of the land and manage water and soil resources.

James noted that the Town has in the last few years, provided a small incentive to farmers through the Environmental Farm Plan initiative to assist with the costs of environmental farm enhancement. James noted that the program was fully subscribed in 2011 and 2012, further noting that additional funds could have been utilized in 2012 if they had been available.

James then requested Council consider supporting the Environmental Farm Plan enhancement of \$5000 in this year's budget discussions. Jacqui Hendry, member of the Agricultural Advisory Committee then spoke noting that when Council supports the Environmental Farm Plan enhancement, that Council is showing its support for farmers and the agricultural community.

Mayor Anderson then spoke requesting examples of projects, James replying that the applications are confidential, but that projects have included bank stabilization, controlled irrigation water usage, enhanced manure storage. James then noted that the Beaver River Committee and the Agricultural Advisory Committee are closely related and may work together.

**D. Presentation**

**D.1 Robert Cummings, Director of Finance & IT  
Re: 2013 Proposed Budget, FIT.12.73  
(continued from December 3 Special Meeting of Council )**

Director of Finance and IT Robert Cummings spoke noting the Recreation and Water and Wastewater budgets will be reviewed today.

Director of Recreation Shawn Everitt then spoke noting Recreation includes eight areas. Shawn noted that \$10,000 has been allotted toward special events in the past, with such funds supporting Olde Fashioned Christmas, Canada Day, Peak to Shore and the Beaver Crawl events. Shawn confirmed there are no capital projects proposed.

### **Beaver Valley Community Centre (“BVCC”)**

Shawn then spoke noting the largest significant shift is in salary and benefits. Shawn noted that BVCC staff work closely with Tomahawk and that timesheets now track hours at each location. Shawn confirmed that a single hired lead hand person has been hired at Tomahawk and that there is no increase in staffing proposed.

Shawn noted that insurance has increased at BVCC by \$7660, and that a reduction in revenue will be realized in 2013 as part of the BVCC will be closed for renovations in the front hall. Shawn confirmed that \$125,000 in grant funding was received for the renovations, and that the hall will be closed for an eight week period this summer.

Shawn noted the cost of utilities has decreased by \$11,000 because of efficiencies realized in the replacement of the condenser and improved lighting. Shawn confirmed that a 2% increase in user fees is proposed in 2013. Shawn noted that Saturday and Sunday evenings are low rent times and that the goal is to generate additional revenue on these days.

Shawn noted that the BVCC roof is to be replaced and that a staff report will be included on the December 17 Council Agenda regarding the roof replacement.

Councillor Gamble then spoke noting the final net position of the BVCC is \$169,000 at the end of 2012 and that \$229,000 is proposed in 2015, noting that this is a significant jump and questioned if there is any potential to reduce the impact on the taxpayer. Shawn spoke in response noting staff are working to improve efficiencies, further noting that with the changes in regulations by the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario and the increase in insurance costs, that there are stresses on revenues. Shawn noted he is looking creative ways in which to increase programming at the BVCC to increase revenues.

Councillor Halos then spoke thanking Shawn for his presentation and noted he is pleased to see efficiencies at the BVCC, and that staff are looking at ways to increase revenues. Shawn then noted that the \$6000 vending machines are included with rental of the concession booth.

Chair Ardiel then questioned the increase in salaries, Shawn replying that this is because of the reallocation of Tomahawk wages.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay then spoke questioning if BVCC staff are participating in the benefits review, Shawn replying yes.

### **Cemetery**

Shawn reviewed the cemetery budget noting that all cemetery services are now performed in-house, including the burial digs, sale of internments, and close of the committal. Shawn noted he is pleased with the work at the cemetery. Shawn noted there is an increase in training and travel for the purposes of training staff on the shoring device, further noting that staff need to be trained so that the Town is compliant with the Ministry of Labour regulations.

Joe then referenced sales and rentals of \$42,000 and questioned if this revenue will continue consistently, Shawn replying that the cemetery has been surveyed and that have determined that there is approximately 20 – 25 years of capacity remaining at the cemetery. Shawn confirmed that the placement of the columbarium has been positive and that a percentage of burials are cremation that saves capacity at the cemetery and staff time. Shawn noted fees will be increased in 2013, and that it is competitive with other municipal cemeteries.

Bob then questioned the increase in wages and salaries by one-third, Shawn replying that he is proposing a lead hand role from the Harbour to provide assistance with the burials, further noting that the shared harbour position requires a backup.

Gail then questioned if the shared person is for the harbour only, Shawn replying that the roads, park, harbour staff have been utilized through cross-training.

### **Craigeleith Heritage Depot**

Shawn then reviewed the Depot budget. Shawn noted through a shared staffing agreement with the Town of Collingwood there is a reduction in the Depot budget. Shawn noted that \$20,000 has been identified for other staff for shared services with the Georgian Triangle Tourist Association. Shawn noted the Depot deficits will be reduced, and confirmed the three day per week schedule has been working well.

### **Harbour**

Shawn spoke regarding the Harbour noting the Harbour had a good year despite the low water levels. Shawn noted in January we will see water levels lower than the record set in 1964. Shawn noted that he and Harbour Manager Ryan Gibbons have been in discussions with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to determine if funding is available for dredging. Shawn noted they are concerned with the depth of the channel and noted that funding may be available in the future. Shawn noted that the dock replacement project will be completed in two years, and that the lifespan of the new docks is 70 years.

Mayor Anderson then spoke questioning what process is to be followed to apply for funding to assist with the costs of dredging, Shawn replying that application is made through the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, further noting that a large number of applications are anticipated.

Councillor Gamble then spoke questioning the fees and charges for the harbour projected at \$36,000 in 2012 and \$304,000 in 2013, Robert spoke in response noting that the year-end forecast accounts for all revenue. Bob then questioned if the rates are increased if it will reduce the number of vessels in the harbour, Shawn spoke in response noting that he anticipates the same number of boats in 2013, further noting that \$55/foot is the proposed rate for 2013.

Councillor Halos then questioned if slip owners have been renewing their slip application earlier, Shawn replying yes that the Harbour has a good practice in place, and that the seasonal mooring revenues are good as well. Shawn noted there are not many open slips in the Harbour and that any empty slips can be rented out.

Chair Ardiel then questioned if staff call slip owners to renew, Shawn replying no, that calls are made only to those on the waiting list if a slip becomes available. Gail then questioned the age of the docks being replaced, Shawn replying the replaced docks are 25 years old, further noting that Dock "A" was replaced earlier this year and that the Town received \$5000 from the sale of the steel in the docks.

## **Parks and Trails**

Shawn then reviewed the Parks and Trails budget. Shawn noted that the Leisure Activities Plan was completed in 2006 and that he believes that the review of the development charges plan should be moved to 2013.

Shawn spoke regarding the fund related to expenses includes \$20,000 to be applied to the Town's portion of Georgian Trail funding, and \$40,000 to parks and trails. Shawn confirmed there are no new parks or trails being added in 2013. Shawn then spoke regarding user fees at parks, noting there has been an interest by commercial enterprises to use waterfront parks, and confirmed this should be considered, including rental for the use of the pavilions. Shawn noted the proposed 2013 user fees will reflect actual costs and will amount to significant revenues.

Bob then referenced the significant increase in the parks and trails budget over the next three years, Shawn replying that the biggest concern is the revenue, further noting that many parks and trails were added to the Town's inventory in the last six to seven years. Shawn noted that all efficiencies are being used and that revenue should offset the costs of parks and trails. Shawn noted that a cost analysis was done to gain efficiencies, and advised that with the construction of the new Town Hall that three times the amount of sidewalk maintenance was taken on by Parks and Trails.

Bob then questioned if expenditures could be reduced, Shawn replying that the Parks storage could be pushed out to 2015. Shawn noted that the Master Site Plan should be included with the Leisure Activities Plan to have good public dialogue of what it should be in the future. Shawn then noted there is interest in moving events to the harbour. Bob then spoke noting he is looking for revenues to finance expenses, further noting that the general taxpayer should not fund this type of expenditure. Shawn spoke in response to Bob noted that having all partners at the table is beneficial and that it may not be the general taxpayer that funds the expenditures, that there could be other partners involved and referenced the Yacht Club.

Chair Ardiel then spoke questioning if the Georgian Trail fee is split equally between the three municipalities, Shawn replying no, that it is based on assessment. Shawn then noted that the Town has 23 km of the 33 km of Georgian Trail, and that the Town pays close to what the Town of Collingwood pays.

## **Small Halls**

Shawn then spoke regarding Small Halls. Shawn noted there has been an increase in the number of rentals at the Ravenna Hall in 2012. Shawn spoke regarding the \$15,000 capital project at the Ravenna Hall for parking noting that it came in under budget at \$7000 and that staff are proposing that the balance of \$8000 be used to improve the water at Ravenna.

Shawn noted that both the Ravenna Hall and the Craigleith Hall have strong boards of management.

Mayor Anderson then spoke regarding the upgrades to the Cenotaph at the Ravenna Hall, asking that the walkway be extended further down the lawn to allow more level standing areas for those in attendance at the Remembrance Day Service.

Chair Ardiel then spoke noting she thanks the members of the Board of Management at each Small Hall for their work and dedication to the Small Halls in both Ravenna and Craigleith.

## **Tomahawk**

Shawn then spoke regarding Tomahawk, noting that the corporate sponsorship idea to offset costs at Tomahawk was not utilized. Shawn noted that increased revenue of \$28,000 was received at Tomahawk this year and that it is estimated that there are 5000 paying customers, being approximately 75% of those actually using the facility.

Shawn noted that staff have found many efficiencies at Tomahawk and referenced the Integrated Pest Management. Shawn noted that the lead person at Tomahawk can operate Tomahawk, further noting that it is proposed that the \$5 user fee continue. Shawn then spoke regarding a silent auction is proposed to assist with the costs to operate Tomahawk. Shawn confirmed that the goal is to ensure that Tomahawk is maintained as a family-oriented facility to allow families an opportunity to affordably introduce golf to children.

Mayor Anderson then questioned if staff could look at the possibility of selling seasons passes, Shawn replying that a number of ideas were considered through the 2012 budget, and confirmed that seasons passes will be considered in 2013.

Councillor Halos then questioned if the loan for the purchase of the property is paid off, Shawn replying yes. Shawn spoke noting the one capital project being proposed at Tomahawk is the purchase of a defibrillator. Gail questioned if funding is available for this, Shawn replying that staff are looking at funding possibilities, further noting that the Town has a good relationship with the Gretzky Foundation and Grey County and that this could be a possibility to assist with the costs.

Bob then referenced the recent construction of the Nipissing Ridge washroom facilities noting the washrooms were funded through development charges and suggested washrooms be constructed at Tomahawk. Shawn spoke in response noting that the lack of servicing at Tomahawk is a problem, and confirmed that port-o-potties will be used until services are in place at Tomahawk. Shawn noted he has not received much complaint about the use of port-o-potties at Tomahawk.

Gail then questioned the level of maintenance of the Tomahawk grounds, Shawn replying that the golf course is maintained at low level of maintenance standards, further noting that the t-decks and greens are troubling. Shawn noted that artificial t-decks could remedy the problem.

Joe then questioned the number of golfers this year, Shawn replying it is estimated, through donations received, that there were 5000 to 5500, but through video surveillance believes there were approximately 7200 golfers this year.

Ellen then questioned if there are wheelchair accessible port-o-potties at Tomahawk, Shawn replying no, but confirmed he will look into this in 2013.

## **Water and Wastewater**

Robert then reviewed the Town's annual water and wastewater bill with comparator municipalities and spoke regarding the infrastructure deficit gap.

Manager of Water & Wastewater Services John Caswell spoke regarding the increase to the water and wastewater budget and noted there has been some reallocation of wages because of the changes in positions from operator to supervisor positions, and salary step increases. John then spoke regarding the Collingwood water supply contract confirming that discussions with the Town of Collingwood will continue. John confirmed there is an increase of \$571,000 over the 2012 budget.

John then noted expenses have increased by 8%. John noted the capital project included in the water budget is for a small building at the water tower for cold storage. John confirmed the building will be similar to the new building at Tomahawk so that equipment can be stored inside out of the weather.

John noted the engineering for the replacement of the watermain on Lakeshore down from the Harbour Club is included in the budget and is included in the asset management plan. John confirmed that reconstruction of the road is not proposed at this time.

John noted that the water meter installations and monitoring is working well.

Councillor Halos then questioned if another department can house the Water Department's equipment rather than building a new building, John replying that the new building has been proposed for some time and that other areas and buildings have been looked at, but are not in the condition to house equipment. John noted that currently the water department is sharing space with the roads department, further noting this system is working well, but is tight for space.

### **Wastewater Operating**

John then reviewed the contract services of \$35,000 noting this was an error and will be removed from the budget. John referenced the recent resignation of a wastewater operator and noted this position was filled from within the organization with training ongoing at this time.

John noted the wastewater department is in a good position, further noting that \$266,000 in revenue was received from Simcoe County, but this amount is not guaranteed annually. John noted that the Ministry of Environment is satisfied that The Blue Mountains Wastewater Treatment Plant is treating the leachate, further noting it is low strength material.

Chair Ardiel questioned if this is the same rate or increased, John replying it is the same rate as last year, further noting that no set increase is proposed on an annual basis.

Duncan then questioned if the wastewater treatment plant receives septage, John replying yes, some locally.

Joe then questioned if staff need to be present to receive the septage, John replying that the contractor generally calls ahead, further noting a credit card system is in place.

Bob then questioned the amount of interest being received, Robert replying that the interest identified is interest and penalties for late payment of accounts receivables, further noting that interest income is directly attributable back to that reserve fund for future replacement.

Bob then noted significant increases are proposed in water and wastewater rates to try to build up reserves, and noted that the current users should not pay for the infrastructure for future development.

Duncan then responded to Councillor Gamble, confirming that the Town holds a separate reserve of \$3.5M for the water and wastewater system and that interest earned on these funds goes directly back into the said reserve for infrastructure replacement. Duncan confirmed this is how the Town is legislated by the Province to hold reserves.





Robert confirmed that the landfill hours will be updated and an update provided to Council at the next meeting.

**Enhancements:**

**Environmental Farm Plan**

Moved by: Joe Halos

Seconded by: D.R. McKinlay

THAT the draft 2013 Budget include the Environmental Farm Plan Enhancement in the amount of \$5000 for final consideration by Council, Carried.

**Bridge Repairs**

Director of Engineering and Public Works Reg Russwurm spoke referencing discussions at the Infrastructure and Recreation Committee, that efficiencies were realized in the construction of the Slabtown Bridge and that other projects are being considered. Darcy then spoke noting that bridge repairs are proposed in 2016 and 2017, and confirmed that the Town would not have the means to pay for additional bridge work at this time, and if additional bridge repairs proceeded, that they would be funded through unfinanced debt. Duncan confirmed the proposed work would have an impact of .8% on taxation. Darcy then spoke noting this can be funded through debt, unless Council makes a decision to fund the work through taxation.

**Guard Rail Program**

Reg spoke regarding the guard rail program and confirmed that this is similar to the bridge repairs and noted staff are proposing that the culvert and guard rail work be combined.

Joe then questioned if the culverts have guard rails, Reg replying that some do and some do not. Darcy then spoke noting the guard rail program is similar to the bridge project further noting the project is proposed to be moved forward.

Bob then spoke noting this should be a discussion at the Infrastructure and Recreation Committee meeting, further noting the bridge and guardrail and culvert program should be moved back. Joe then spoke with respect to the gravel enhancement and the significant increase in the operating budget and questioned why gravel is included as an enhancement, Robert replying extra gravel was included as an enhancement last year, further noting that maintenance gravel is falling behind in service levels for gravel maintenance. Duncan then spoke noting there are many miles of gravel roads that need gravel right now, further noting that Finance addresses the maintenance capital on roads.

Reg then spoke identifying the locations of the culverts to be replaced and guard rails, Duncan questioning if the proposed work has an impact on taxation. Darcy spoke in response noting this work is not currently in the reserve fund use plan, further noting that the Town effectively contributes to the roads and bridges reserves and noted this work would mean a contribution to the reserve and then payment out. Darcy noted that \$225,000 is being put into the roads and bridges reserve this year and that this amount would be taken out if the proposed work proceeds.

Reg then noted the bridge and guard rail work are ideas brought forward by Engineering and Public Works, further noting that there will be no impact on taxation.

Ellen then spoke reminding Council that the Town has an enormous infrastructure deficit.

### **Increase to Maintenance Gravel**

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

THAT the draft 2013 Budget include the Increase to Maintenance Gravel Enhancement in the amount of \$73,500 for final consideration by Council

In speaking to the Motion, Councillor Martin noted that the maintenance gravel should be included in the draft budget as a standard item, not as an enhancement. Michael then noted he cannot support the inclusion of the guard rail and bridge enhancements at this time, as they are in the future plan and questioned why they are being brought forward at this time.

Robert then spoke noting the draft budget before Council includes the same level of service and the same budget as was adopted by Council last year, further noting that the budget includes gravel, but staff are including an increase to maintenance gravel as an enhancement to determine if Council wishes to place more gravel with the enhanced levels of gravel.

Robert then spoke regarding the bridge repairs enhancement and the guardrail program work have been spread out over the next five years, but staff would like to take advantage of the low construction costs in the industry at this time, if it is the wish of Council.

Bob then spoke noting infrastructure is deteriorating and that all municipalities are in the same situation, further noting that Council need to look at areas of service and noted he does not support significant increases in spending.

Duncan then spoke noting the roads and bridges budget have been influenced over the last few years by water and wastewater needs, further noting this is a good time to consider roads that have not been improved by maintenance over the last few years across the municipality.

Council then voted on the Motion, Carried.

Duncan then questioned if the bridge repairs and guard rail program is work that needs to be done now that the municipality will have to pay for later, Darcy replying that this is a Council decision, further noting the costs can be paid for by taxation or pay interest and paid for in debt financing. Duncan then noted Council may realize savings if the work is performed now in this construction climate.

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

THAT the Bridge Repair Enhancement in the amount of \$80,000 be included in the draft 2013 Budget and brought forward as a project for 2013 financed from debt, for final consideration by Council

In speaking to the Motion, Councillor Halos noted he will not support the motion to bring additional work forward at this time, Councillor Martin concurring.

Council then voted on the Motion, Lost.

Mayor Anderson then requested further information on the Guard Rail Program enhancement, Reg replying that the Guard Rail Program could be funded from reserves or through debt financing, as Council wishes.

Ellen then noted if some Guard Rails need to be placed and some need to be replaced, that prolonging this work could leave the Town subject to future litigation.

Duncan then questioned if there is a breakdown available of the guard rails to be repaired or replaced, Reg replying that this is part of the five to ten year plan and that this information could be brought forward.

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

THAT the Guard Rail Program Enhancement as proposed in the 2013 draft Budget be deferred pending Council's receipt of a further breakdown of the program from staff, Carried.

Communications and Economic Development Coordinator Lisa Kidd spoke regarding the Webcast Technology enhancement noting this is being brought forward for Council discussion and consideration. Lisa noted that webcasting will provide additional opportunities to engage the community and that people could be live-streamed in to meetings. Lisa confirmed that the cost is \$21,000 to start-up and \$5000 annually thereafter.

CAO Troy Speck spoke confirming that the Municipal Act prevents Council members from being live-streamed in to meetings, but that deputations could appear via live-streaming.

Duncan then spoke noting he likes the idea of webcasting meetings, but is concerned that this brings another level of service forward and an additional \$5000 annually on the budget. Joe spoke concurring with Duncan.

Duncan then questioned why this was enhancement was brought forward, Lisa replying that a discussion at the Council table questioned how Council can further engage the community, further noting that webcasting is consistent with the Town's Strategic Plan and thrust with staff and Council to communicate with the community. Lisa noted that this is a decision of Council as to whether webcasting proceeds.

Ellen noted she is in favour of webcasting and that many residents watch the Town of Collingwood and City of Owen Sound Council meetings, further noting that webcasting would allow those who are unable to attend Council meetings an opportunity to watch the meetings.

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

THAT the draft 2013 Budget include the Webcast Technology Enhancement in the amount of \$21,000 for final consideration by Council

In speaking to the Motion, Councillor Martin spoke noting that some municipalities are provided with free broadcasting of Council Meetings by Rogers. Michael then questioned who would be in control of where the material is stored, further noting this is premature at this time, and that there is less expensive ways to broadcast meetings. Michael noted he is concerned with Council's exposure with webcasting.

CAO Troy Speck spoke in response to Councillor Martin noting that webcasting is no different than the minutes of a meeting, further noting that Council members are public officials and the meetings are public meetings.

Council then voted on the motion, Carried.



Roads and Drainage division are achieving the work they need to do, but are falling behind on duties that should be done.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay then spoke questioning the Administrative Assistant position, Reg replying that this position is included in the 2015 budget for a Roads and Drainage Administrative Assistant.

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

THAT Council receive the Roads & Drainage Administrative Assistant information as included as a Budget Enhancement Report in the draft 2013 Budget, for information, Carried.

Mayor Anderson spoke requesting further information on the Roads and Drainage Operator position, Reg replying that the proposal is to assist with summer duties, and move the winter position to a full-time position. Reg noted currently this position plows roads in the winter and noted that this position would augment the summer work of the roads crew.

Councillor Gamble then spoke noting that summer students were hired last year by the Public Works department and noted summer students could offset the requirements of this position. Reg spoke in response noting that the proposed position would be to increase the operator-related work to a full-time position, further noting that good value is received in hiring students. Reg noted that the roads division could reduce the number of summer students hired if this position is approved.

Moved by: Joe Halos    Seconded by: Ellen Anderson

THAT Council receive the Roads and Drainage Operator information as included as a Budget Enhancement Report in the draft 2013 Budget, for information, Carried.

Robert then spoke confirming the budget meeting schedule.

**E. Adjournment**

Moved by: Michael Martin                                      Seconded by: Ellen Anderson

THAT this Council does now adjourn at 5:40 p.m.

.....  
Gail Ardiel, Acting Chair

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Corrina Giles, Town Clerk