

**THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF HURON SHORES  
(10-15)**

**June 23, 2010**

The special meeting of the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Huron Shores was held on Wednesday, June 23, 2010 and called to order by Acting Mayor John Fullerton at 7:02 p.m.

**PRESENT WERE:** Councillors Gord Campbell, Fred Eldner, John Fullerton, Al Pritchard, David Ratz, Gil Reeves, Archie Roach and Kent Weber.

**REGRETS:** Mayor Ted Linley

**ALSO PRESENT:** Treasurer Sandra Leach; Clerk/Administrator Deborah Tonelli; Public Works Superintendent Tom Dumont

**Agenda Review:**

It was agreed to address Item No. 5 prior to review of the Budget. Councillor Ratz requested permission to promote the Green Expo and was so granted.

**2010 Green Expo:**

Councillor Ratz advised that the 2010 Green Expo will be held **July 23-24** at the Johnson Township Community Centre, Desbarats. He also reported that the Central Algoma Freshwater Coalition will be hosting a fundraising Dinner on Friday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> and asked that as many councillors as possible attend to support the Coalition.

5. To set a special meeting date re: Dean Lake Bridge with representatives from Newton Bridge Solutions and M.R. Wright and Associates.

**10-15-01** THAT Council hold a **Special Meeting** of Council on *G. Campbell* **Wednesday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 3:00 p.m.** to discuss *F. Eldner* matters involving the **Dean Lake Bridge**, providing representatives of Newton Bridge Solutions and engineering firm M.R. Wright and Associates, are available to attend. **CARRIED.**

4. Budget Review

Councillor Reeves provided an overview of the current assessment and how the tax rate to be established will impact the tax billing. He reported that the draft budget, as presented, would cause a 3.56% drop in the tax rate as compared to 2009. However, the overall assessment has increased by 9% from last year, largely due to the phase-in. If this budget were struck, 1,429 residential tax bills would increase and 675 would decrease. If Council wishes to cause an overall zero tax increase this year, there needs to be a further budget reduction of approximately \$152,000 (based on the calculation that \$28,000 equals approximately 1 percentage point on the tax rate).

Acting Mayor John Fullerton thanked the Finance Committee for the work done to prepare the budget. He reported that he had attended a Rural Health Care Meeting and the direction provided from both the Federal and Provincial Governments was that they are not going to bail out the hospitals. He reported that as a Municipality, it would be prudent on our part to manage what we have, be innovative and not burden our taxpayers with a tax increase.

Councillor Campbell sought confirmation that the City of Sault Ste. Marie had announced a tax bill increase of slightly over 3% this year. Councillor Reeves confirmed this. Councillor Ratz reported that if there were no further

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changes to the draft budget as presented, it would have about the same impact on the taxpayers as last year's budget.

Acting Mayor Fullerton then asked Treasurer Leach to proceed with the Budget Review. Mrs. Leach reminded Council that there are additional expenses to the budget this year that did not occur last year (i.e. election costs) and recommended that Council not reduce the levy such that it causes a zero increase to the overall tax billing.

### **COUNCIL INQUIRIES:**

Mrs. Leach advised that she had received a number of inquiries from Councillors and would address those first.

Mrs. Leach first addressed the **Partnership Reserve**. Due to the need for repairs to a number of the Municipal facilities, initially staff suggested adding reserves to each facility budget. Upon review by the Finance Committee, it is recommended that those monies instead be added to the Partnership Reserve and allow for each committee to request funds for specific projects, with each request to be reviewed by Council and addressed in order of priority. Mrs. Leach pointed out the low reserves for both the Museum and Thompson Twp. Recreation Centre. Council discussed how the Partnership Reserve was created and that it was intended to be used as the municipal share for grant applications. Council recognized that there may be certain facility requirements that will not qualify for a grant and any such requests will be reviewed by Council as received. The proposed budget allowed for \$100,000.00 to be placed in this reserve. It was agreed that this figure be dropped by \$28,000.00 to \$72,000.00.

Mrs. Leach advised that an additional \$5,000.00 has been requested for a fridge, pop cooler, stove, motion lights, etc. in addition to the \$5,000.00 already included in the draft budget for topsoil, for the **Ward 1 Gazebo**. Council supported the topsoil expense, but did not support the additional \$5,000.00. With respect to the appliance needs, it was noted that Sowerby Hall has an extra stove and Thompson Recreation facility has an extra stove and fridge. This information will be relayed to the Thessalon Twp. Committee.

With respect to **Lake Capacity Studies**, it was noted that the budget includes studies for both Bright Lake and Big Basswood Lake to be done this year. Councillor Ratz requested that Council keep in mind the need to continue to budget monies every year until all lake studies have been completed.

Mrs. Leach discussed the dollars currently identified in the draft budget for **Beaver Control**. It was agreed that the number be reduced by \$5,000.00.

On the topic of **Roads sweeping/water truck** requirements, Mrs. Leach reported that the Municipality has already spent \$11,800.00 of the budget. Mr. Dumont advised that there should be no further expenses in this regard. Council will discuss the possible drop in this budget by \$3,000.00 later in the meeting.

Public Works Superintendent Dumont addressed the need to keep additional funds, beyond the contract, in the **Brushing** Budget should there be a need for equipment beyond the capabilities of the contracted unit and/or need for additional works by the contractor. Council agreed to a total of \$24,000.00, reducing the draft budget by \$13,500.00.

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Council agreed to leave the **Summer Maintenance Project #1** budget as presented.

The **Street Light Capital** will be left as proposed in the draft budget, with consideration to be given to a Policy and possible project for next year, in order to start the required research in 2010.

Councillor Campbell requested that Council provide an additional \$500.00 to the budget to allow for digital photos to be taken by Laird Signs of the **Dean Lake History Illustration**, created by Gabriella Rosilius several years ago, before it fades. Council agreed to this request.

Treasurer Leach reported that two **Roads Donation** requests were made after the May 31<sup>st</sup> deadline. The expense is included in the draft budget and Council approved the late submissions.

On the recommendation of the Human Resources Committee, staff obtained an estimate to add **voice mail** to the existing phone system to allow for discussion of the item this evening. Although a firm quote has not yet been received, it is estimated to cost between \$3000.00 - \$5000.00. This will be given further consideration later in the evening.

Treasurer Leach provided Council with a letter just received from the Ontario Good Roads Association requesting \$1,000.00 to be applied to a **Minimum Maintenance Standards (MMS) Litigation Fund**. Council supported this addition to the budget.

Treasurer Leach reported that the quotes for the **Museum Board Laptop** are coming in higher than budgeted. Councillor Ratz spoke to this matter and it was agreed that any extra cost could be taken from reserves if required.

**ITEMS DEFERRED TO BUDGET DELIBERATIONS:**

Mrs. Leach then proceeded through other items which had been deferred to budget deliberations from previous Minutes of Council.

The Town of Thessalon requested an additional \$5,000.00 for the **Thessalon Arena** this year. Council did not support the request. The donation will remain at \$10,000.00 to be provided only after the Municipality receives a copy of the Arena's 2009 financial summary from the Town of Thessalon. Council Campbell also requested that a usage update be provided.

Regarding **Grants to Others**, it was agreed that all unapproved requests as at this date must go to Council for consideration.

Clerk/Administrator Tonelli advised that, although included in the draft budget, any expenses beyond those already approved by Council for the **East Algoma GIS Partnership** will go to Council for review.

Council instructed Mrs. Leach to remove the expense of \$82,500.00 for a potential **property acquisition**.

At this time, Council did not support the Fire Department request to **purchase property**. Councillors, who have not seen the Ward 1 Fire Station, will tour the facility and this matter will be readdressed at a later

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date. It was noted that this expenditure, if approved, will be taken from reserves.

Council endorsed increasing the **Fire Prevention Officer** work week to 24 hours. An Audit by the Fire Marshal and pay equity comparison is to be completed prior to further consideration of this position becoming full-time.

Council did not support including the \$19,360.00 received for the sale of the 1996 plow truck in the **Transfer to Reserve for Road Equipment**.

The matters retained for discussion to later in the evening were addressed as follows:

- Council instructed Mrs. Leach to reduce the **Roads sweeping/water truck** budget by \$3,000.00.
- Council directed Mrs. Leach to add the estimated **voice mail** expenditure of \$5,000.00 to the budget.

Treasurer Leach reported that **monitoring well installations** recommended by AECOM, to be established at Ward 1 and Ward 3 Waste Disposal sites, will be researched and possibly completed this year, with the expense to come from Reserves.

It is estimated that in calculating all draft budget adjustments recommended this evening, the tax rate will be approximately 9% lower than last year, thereby allowing for no change, overall, to the residential tax billing between the years 2009 and 2010. It was noted that individual tax billings will fluctuate depending on assessment activity.

Treasurer Leach will finalize the budget for approval at the June 30, 2010 Meeting of Council.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**10-15-02** THAT Council does adjourn at 9:18 p.m. CARRIED.  
*G. Campbell*  
*F. Eldner*

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MAYOR

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CLERK