June 18, 2008

The special meeting of the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Huron Shores was held on Wednesday, June 18, 2007 and called to order by Mayor Ted Linley at 7:10 p.m.

PRESENT WERE: Mayor E.W. Linley, Councillors Gord Campbell, Fred Eldner, John Fullerton, Al Pritchard, Gil Reeves and Kent Weber.

ALSO PRESENT: Treasurer Sandra Leach and Clerk Deborah Tonelli.

The special meeting was called in order to conduct a review of the 2008 proposed budget.

Mayor Linley requested that Treasurer Leach and the Finance Committee review with Council the Budget package previously provided. Treasurer Leach reported that if all items that have been previously discussed by Council and referred to the Finance Committee were included in the 2008 budget, the Municipality would be realizing a 13.9% tax rate increase. The following items were discussed and adjusted as identified.

Roads Projects:
Treasurer Leach noted that based on the tenders received for the Dayton Road Cement Bridge Project and change quotations requested by Newton Bridge Solutions Ltd. regarding the Dean Lake Bridge Rehabilitation, she recommended that an additional $55,000.00 be placed in Roads Bridges Capital expense.

Working Fund Reserve:
Mayor Linley recommended that an additional $20,000.00 be placed in the working fund reserve, to bring it to a total of $386,137.92. This was revisited prior to adjournment and Council concurred.

Fire Department Capital:
Because we were not successful in receiving the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP) funding for two new equipment vans, the Fire Department requested that $150,000.00 be placed in this year's budget for said purchase. Treasurer Leach recommended that one new van be purchased this year and financed as follows: $12,000.00 in the 2008 budget and $24,000.00 per year until paid off. Council concurred and recommended that staff request one van under the JEPP funding for the 2009 Budget year. This will result in a $138,000.00 reduction to the proposed budget.

Fire Department Reserves:
The Fire Department requested that $71,500.00 be placed in equipment replacement reserves. Council agreed to $56,500.00, which will bring the equipment reserve to $72,249.43. This will result in a $15,000.00 reduction to the proposed budget.

Recycling Depot:
It was decided not to place a recycling depot in Thompson Township as it could not be placed at the Waste Disposal Site because Municipal Waste & Recycling Consultants will not travel to that location. This will result in a $3,600.00 reduction to the proposed budget.

Municipal Road & Bridge Infrastructure Investment:
It was decided to offset the construction budget with the Municipal Road & Bridge Infrastructure Investment funding. The remainder of the funding, being approximately $555,000.00, will be placed in reserve until funding particulars are received (expected end of June), which will allow Council to best determine the projects to be undertaken with these funds. This will result in a $140,000.00 reduction to the proposed budget.

Homes for the Aged Reserve:
The Municipality raised the dollars anticipated to be needed for the Homes for the Aged move to a not-for-profit facility in previous taxation years, but when the final figures were provided from the Board of Management, this Municipality was required to pay $99,495.00 less than the original estimated figures, leaving that balance in reserve. It was decided to move this reserve to revenue for the 2008 taxation year.

New Sault Area Hospital Contribution:
It was decided that a total contribution of $100,000.00 will be made to the new Sault Area Hospital. $10,000.00 currently sits in reserve. An additional $30,000.00 will be raised in the 2008 taxation year and $6,000.00 per year for the budget years 2009 – 2018.

Food Banks:
Council decided to budget a total of $3,000.00 toward food bank requests. Clerk is to inquire as to the criteria for individuals to be able to obtain food from this source prior to committing to any contribution. This decision reduces the proposed budget by $2,000.00.

Roads Equipment Reserves:
On recommendation from Treasurer Leach, Council chose to support the proposed $140,000.00 transfer to reserve for Roads Equipment. This will result in a total reserve of $246,517.02.

Roads Summer Maintenance - Brushing:
It was agreed to leave the Brushing line item at the proposed budgeted amount of $23,000.00 to allow for heavy brushing this season.

Parks and Grounds Capital:
Councillor Weber identified that this line item should read $8,900.00, thereby allowing for a $1,000.00 reduction to the proposed budget. Councillor Reeves broke down the $5,700.00 in parks improvements as follows: $1,800.00 for portable privy rentals; and $3,900.00 in parks signage.

Human Resources Review:
Council agreed to leave the $3,800.00 set aside in Consultant Fees for the Human Resources Review, but will consult with staff as to whether the review would be better to take place early next year following asset management implementation.

Council Chambers Upgrade:
It was decided to remove from the proposed budget the $5,000.00 set aside for the Council Chambers upgrade. Councillor Fullerton questioned if the cabinetry could be completed by volunteers.

Business Retention and Expansion Committee:
Clerk reported that she had attended a meeting earlier this day and was asked if the Municipality would partner with the group to make application to FedNor for a Youth Intern, whose job description would be to survey the local employers to capture labour needs data. The group was requesting a total of $680.00 from this Municipality, but it was recognized at the meeting that other requested partners may not be able to contribute. Council chose not to participate. Councillor Reeves will provide information to the Clerk with respect to a proposed similar survey that he understood was to be conducted in this area by Algoma Workforce Development.

Fire Department and Fire Prevention Officer Remuneration:
Clerk advised that the Fire Department will be seeking an increase in honoraria, which has been included in the proposed budget. Also, the Fire Prevention Officer (FPO) is now tasked with checking fire extinguishers for all the Municipal Buildings and has advised that this will require an additional 8 hours per month to his current remuneration. Councillor Campbell questioned if the checks could be completed at the recreation centres by their volunteers. Clerk noted that this activity had been conducted by the previous FPO and why she had asked the current FPO to assume the duty. She stated that having one person look after all buildings assured consistency. It was decided to add $2,000.00 to this line item with further consideration to be given to this matter.

Signage:
Council supported having a new sign made and making application to MTO for the welcome sign on the east side of Iron Bridge. Discussions are ongoing with Susan McCooeye, MTO, with respect to issues surrounding the sign at the westerly edge of Village. It was agreed to add $3,000.00 to the budget for this purpose.

With all of the above-noted additions and deletions taken into account, Council reduced the total proposed budget by $369,100.00. It is estimated that the review this evening will equate to a 1.8% tax increase to the residential tax rate. Council requested that Treasurer Leach make the necessary changes to the proposed budget and have ready for passage at the June 25, 2008 meeting.

Tax Ratios and Education Taxes:
Treasurer Leach discussed with Council tax ratios and the proposal to increase the commercial ratio from 0.98 to 1.00 this year, to make it equivalent to the residential property class. Education tax rates for commercial are down slightly this year and residential remains the same.

ADJOURNMENT:

08-14-01 THAT we do adjourn at 9:05 p.m. CARRIED.
G. Campbell
K. Weber

MAYOR CLERK