

**THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF HURON SHORES**  
**June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014 (14-13)**

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The special meeting of the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Huron Shores was held on Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014, and called to order by Mayor Gil Reeves at 7:00 p.m.

**PRESENT WERE:** Mayor Gil Reeves, Councillors Jane Armstrong, Georges Bilodeau, Gord Campbell, Debora Kirby, Ted Linley (arrived at 7:04 p.m.), Kent Weber and Dale Wedgwood.

**REGRETS:** Councillor Eloise Eldner

**ALSO PRESENT:** Clerk/Administrator Deborah Tonelli; Treasurer Sandra Leach; Assistant Treasurer Kevin Philipow.

**AGENDA REVIEW**

No changes.

**DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

None.

4a. Award the Municipal 2014 RG-1R Gravel Tender  
Clerk/Administrator Tonelli advised of the one tender received.

**14-13-01**  
*J. Armstrong*  
*D. Kirby*

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council accepts the tender of Gilbertson Enterprises for the total amount of \$105,265.15 to fulfill the requirements of **Gravel Contract 2014 RG-1R** being comprised of:

- (1) A price of \$13.87/cu. yd. to supply, haul and place, 3,000 cu. yds. on various roads in Ward 1;
- (2) A price of \$14.62/cu. yd. to supply, haul and place, 2,000 cu. yds. on various roads in Ward 2;
- (3) A price of \$14.87/cu. yd. to supply, haul and place 1,500 cu. yds. on various roads in Ward 4.

CARRIED.

4b. 2014 Municipal Budget Review

Mayor Reeves provided Council with an overview of: the 2014 assessment increase over 2013; the budget levy of \$2,540,590.00, as presented, representing a 1.63% decrease to the residential tax rate; and the potential impact on the average residential tax bill. He also reported that each 1% change in the budget represents \$28,000.00.

Treasurer Leach reported the following matters, of which she was advised following delivery of the budget, as presented:

- AMO additional Gas Tax Revenue of \$2,780.00, realized through AMO lower administration costs: These funds will be placed in the reserve for Federal Gas Tax;
- Various Building Repairs Quotation: Treasurer Leach reported that the Library repairs are already factored into the budget. Council supported postponing the Little Rapids dug-outs replacement until 2015 and approved all other repairs with the requirement that the expense come from reserves allocated for each of the buildings.
- Energy Audits: Council supported adding an expenditure of \$1,000.00 to the budget for energy audits. This estimate is based on audits of approximately 10 municipal buildings.
- Energy Plan: As part of the Energy Plan, to be completed by July 1, 2014, the Treasury Department has sent letters to each of the Committees that oversee Municipal facilities, asking that the Committees assess the

buildings for potential energy savings and to conduct any minor works that can be completed under their 2014 budgets and provide energy savings proposals with their 2015 budget submissions. The Plan will include information respecting the attic insulation already installed at the Thessalon Twp. Recreation Centre and the new windows for the Municipal Office, included in the presented budget.

- Tax Sale Write-offs / Bad Debts / Working Fund Reserve: Council supported Treasurer Leach's proposal to transfer \$100,000.00 from the working fund reserve to offset the loss of tax revenue from the tax sale properties that did not sell. Any revenue realized from a future sale of the properties will be transferred back to the working fund reserve. Mayor Reeves reported that this transfer will still keep the working fund reserve in line with a recommendation from former Auditor Dennis Thompson. Council briefly discussed this reserve.
- Fire Department Honoraria / Social Fund: Council authorized an increase of 5.1% (representing \$1,942.00), as requested by Fire Chief Medve. Mayor Reeves reported on his investigation into honorariums paid to volunteer firefighters across Canada and confirmed that this Municipality is low compared to the average.
- Fire Department Minor Equipment: at the request of the Finance Committee, Fire Chief Medve supported the deferral of purchasing 50 pocket fire hose wrenches to the 2015 budget, representing a savings of \$1,050.00 to the budget.
- RAT 3 Truck Replacement (utilized by the Fire Prevention Officer): Council acknowledged the need to replace this truck. Because Fire Chief Medve is seeking a 4-wheel drive crew cab, he has offered to investigate potential used vehicles. Council authorized a maximum of \$30,000.00 to be spent for this vehicle, with the expense to be transferred from reserves.
- McCreight's Bridge: Councillor Weber reported on findings to-date by the Public Works Commissioners respecting the usage of the bridge. It was agreed to leave the \$65,000.00 in the budget, to be offset with the bridge replacement reserve and not to add any additional budget allocations for repairs. Council will review the matter further following a report from the Public Works Commissioners.
- Gravel Tender: an adjustment will be made to the budget to include the actual gravel tender amount as approved earlier this evening.
- Waste Site Closure Study: Treasurer Leach reported that she has budgeted consulting fees to update the waste site closure study. Council agreed that any additional fees associated with waste site closure preparations in 2014 will have to come from the Waste Site Closure and Expansion Reserve.
- Ward 1 and Ward 3 Waste Sites: Treasurer Leach reported that the insurance company's request for wells at these locations has not yet been resolved. A meeting will be requested with insurance and Ministry of Environment representatives and Council agreed that any work required as a result of that meeting, conducted in 2014, will have to come from the Waste Site Reserve.
- Sidewalk Design: Clerk/Administrator Tonelli confirmed that Tulloch Engineering advises it can complete the concept design as originally quoted. Council agreed to leave this design project in the budget.
- Storm Drains: Clerk/Administrator Tonelli reported that following approval to proceed with the camera inspection work at the May 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Council, the company reported that a flusher truck would also be advisable. CamSpec is offering a special rate of \$280.00 per hour for both units. Council agreed to the increased cost but, did not allocate an additional expenditure for possible repairs to the storm drainage system. This will be reviewed following receipt of the CamSpec photos.

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- Clean Yard By-law: Without an actual cost for consulting services, an extra \$5,000.00 has been allocated to Consultant Fees.
- Grants to Others: Treasurer Leach provided the list to Council to be reviewed later in the meeting.
- Tax Tools: Treasurer Leach provided to Council the following: Tax Rates Summary; Tax Impact by Property sheets for Residential, Commercial Occupied and Industrial Occupied properties; and the Tax Impact on Median/Typical Property, all based on the presented budget.

Treasurer Leach then offered the following recommendations to further decrease the levy:

- utilize the Ontario Aggregate Royalties to offset expenses rather than transferring to reserves (\$35,000.00);
- reduce the Public Works training hours as they will not be fully utilized (\$5,000.00);
- transfer the cost of the waste site closure study from reserves for waste sites (\$4,400.00);
- transfer the cost of the storm drainage camera inspections from road reserves (\$6,000.00);
- review the grants to others for possible savings. As there is no student residing in Huron Shores, graduating from Jeunesse Nord, Council reduced the bursaries awarded by \$200.00. Council also reviewed the \$8,000.00 request for donation from the Thessalon Library Board. It was agreed to increase the annual donation from \$5,500.00 to \$6,000.00. Council also instructed Treasurer Leach to request an accounting from the Town of Thessalon to substantiate this Municipality's \$10,000.00 donation towards that facility.

On the query from Mayor Reeves as to any other savings measures to be discussed, Council Armstrong questioned the budgeted amount to surface treat Chiblow Lake Road, as it had been previously agreed not to proceed with any surface treatment this year. Council agreed that because the road was prepared for the application, that it be completed this year.

On a query from Mayor Reeves, Council supported transferring \$5,000.00 from the Library Reserve to offset its expenditures.

On a query from Councillor Armstrong, it was confirmed that there were both maintenance and capital budgets allocated for Roe Park.

Council reviewed the recommendations offered by Treasurer Leach and addressed by Council and supported all except transferring the cost of the waste site closure study from reserves.

The changes to the budget, as presented, represent a tax levy decrease of approximately \$53,200.00 and adjust the residential tax rate decrease from 1.63% to approximately 3.3%.

**14-13-02**  
*G. Bilodeau*  
*G. Campbell*

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council directs the Municipal Treasurer to make the necessary **adjustments to the proposed 2014 Municipal Budget** as per the Minutes of the Special Meeting held this date, Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014;  
AND THAT the adjusted 2014 Municipal Budget be presented to Council for final approval at the June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Regular Meeting. CARRIED.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**14-13-03**

*G. Campbell*  
*D. Wedgwood*

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council does adjourn at 8:37 p.m.  
CARRIED.

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MAYOR

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CLERK