

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF HURON SHORES
May 31st, 2017 (17-12)

The special meeting of the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Huron Shores was held on Wednesday, May 31st, 2017, and called to order by Mayor Gil Reeves at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT WERE: Mayor Gil Reeves, Councillors Gord Campbell, Nancy Jones-Scissons, Debora Kirby, Blair MacKinnon, Leo Persia, Darlene Walsh and Dale Wedgwood.

REGRETS: Councillor Jane Armstrong

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

AGENDA REVIEW

No changes.

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None.

Municipal Budget Review 2017

Mayor Reeves thanked Treasurer Leach, Treasury Assistant Philipow and Clerk/Administrator Tonelli for the budget preparation; and Treasurer Leach and Treasury Assistant Philipow for the workshop conducted on March 31/17 for all committees and departments of Council.

Mayor Reeves provided budgetary introductory comments as follows:

- Assessment x Tax Rate = Tax Bill
- 2017 overall Taxable Assessment is up 1.56% as compared to 2016
- A 1% levy increase = \$28,000.
- OPP + Algoma Public Health + Land Ambulance requisitions = \$78,500. increase as compared to 2016, which equates to a 2.75% levy increase
- Although the same tax rate increase will be applied to each class, the percentage increase of each property tax bill will fluctuate depending on their change in assessment. The proposed budget, as provided and recommended by the Finance Committee, will represent a 2% residential tax rate increase. An example provided to the Mayor earlier this date by Treasurer Leach, offered that a 2% residential tax rate increase will result in a 5%⁺ tax bill increase to the specific exemplified property due to its increased assessment this year.

Mayor Reeves advised that the Finance Committee met with both Fire Chief Kent and Public Works Superintendent Hadikin and both Departments made budgetary amendments which are reflected in the package provided to Council. The Finance Committee is recommending that, due to the work required to our bridges in the coming years, that the transfer to bridge replacement reserve be increased this year and that any monies found or needed as a result of the budget review be placed in or taken from the bridge replacement reserve.

Mayor Reeves then requested Treasurer Leach to guide Council through the 2017 proposed budget. Treasurer Leach reported that the assessment increase, reduced education tax rate and draw from reserves has kept the proposed levy from increasing significantly.

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Treasurer Leach outlined the materials provided in the Council packages as follows:

- 2017 Proposed Budget;
- Continuity of Reserves and Reserve Funds – 2016;
- 2017 Budget – Reserves Transfers Summary;
- Grants and Donations to Others
- Assessment Summary 2009 to 2017;
- 2017 Tax Rates Summary; and
- Online Property Tax Analysis for the proposed levy.

She then highlighted various line items of the budget, including increased and new expense items, revenue and summary of the amount needed from taxation.

Treasurer Leach reviewed the grants and donations to others.

Council briefly discussed the amount budgeted for the Central Algoma Freshwater Coalition (CAFC) and Councillor Jones-Scissons reported on the May 25th roundtable session she attended. It was decided to budget a contribution but, not authorize payment until further information is received from CAFC.

Council also discussed the proposed increase to the Thessalon Town and Township Cemetery Board.

Council addressed the Thessalon Library Board request. Councillor Jones-Scissons reported a conversation she had with a Board member regarding the increased costs due to computer systems and an increase in users from Thessalon Twp. Councillor Walsh noted that the requested usage statistics had not yet been received. Councillor MacKinnon noted the budget information that had been received. It was agreed to reduce the proposed budgeted contribution of \$8,000.00, as requested from the Board, back down to the previously established contribution of \$6,000.

Council discussed the \$10,000.00 proposed contribution to the Thessalon Arena. Staff noted that a request for the annual contribution had not yet been received from the Town of Thessalon. Councillor Kirby suggested that should a letter be received, Council further deliberate if the contribution should be towards recreation and not specifically toward the Arena. It was agreed that the figure remain in the budget, but no contribution be made until a request is initiated and addressed by Council.

Councillor Campbell expressed his opposition to the increased contribution to the Thessalon Town and Township Cemetery Board. Councillor Walsh discussed the high columbarium fees. Councillor Campbell also expressed his opposition to providing grants to private clubs and stated that no contribution should be provided prior to receiving rationale and data from each organization. The \$11,000.00 contribution to the Town and Township Cemetery Board was approved, pending by-law amendments to allow for all of Huron Shores to be included in the definition of "resident", and with a request that the Board review its columbarium and plot fees.

Mayor Reeves agreed that letters received from organizations that includes hard data does better assist Council in assessing its decisions regarding its generosity.

Council discussed the proposed budgeted contribution to Iron Bridge Lions Club. Mayor Reeves provided the history behind the donation. Councillor

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Wedgwood addressed the current memorandum of understanding (MOU) regarding usage of the Hall for meetings, etc. Mayor Reeves added information respecting the use of the facility as a warming centre. Councillor Campbell suggested that the Municipality consider eliminating the donation and paying for usage of the Hall. Councillor Walsh noted that a payment should be allotted for the Municipality's use of the facility as a warming centre but, did not know what that amount should be. Councillors Kirby and Jones-Scissons noted that a precedent has been set. Mayor Reeves noted that the MOU is independent of the donation. It was agreed that the budgeted donation of \$4,000.00 remain as proposed.

Mayor Reeves requested Council input respecting the proposed budget, on any items not yet addressed.

Councillor Persia identified no concerns.

Councillor Walsh sought clarification respecting the surface treatment of Station Road. Councillor Campbell and Clerk/Administrator Tonelli responded to the concern. It was agreed that the 5-year road plan needs to be updated as soon as possible and, at the request of Councillor MacKinnon, that roads usage numbers be included in the plan. Treasurer Leach reported that the Asset Management Plan (AMP) update will drive the 5-year road plan update. She also noted that usage numbers are included in the AMP.

Councillor Walsh also queried if the amount budgeted for steel guide rails was sufficient. She reported that the guide rails on the MacDonald Bridge need to be replaced. Clerk/Administrator Tonelli will report this to Public Works Superintendent Hadikin to ensure it is on the list of work to be done this year. It was agreed to keep the amount in that line item as proposed.

Councillor Kirby queried the following: Fire Dept. - hydro budget and call-out remuneration; Roads - communication, drainage work, maintenance agreement for graders, royalties/permits; Economic Development budget; and Transfer from Water System Upgrades. Treasurer Leach and Clerk/Administrator Tonelli provided context. No changes were made to proposed budget regarding those items.

Councillor Jones-Scissons queried if any money was being budgeted through taxation for the Ward 4 Recreation Centre renovation. Mayor Reeves and Treasurer Leach confirmed that there is no levy impact as a result of the planned renovation. Mayor Reeves noted that the Partnership Reserve will be reduced to approximately \$100,000.00, which is the target for that reserve.

Councillors Wedgwood and Campbell had no further queries and reported that Treasurer Leach had presented a good budget.

Mayor Reeves noted the staged work planned at the Potomac River to allow for the Fire Dept. to install a dry hydrant at that location. He noted that it has come to light that work is required at the Centennial Park boat launch in order for the Dept. to gain better access to draw water from the Mississagi River. The work required at this location has not been budgeted and Mayor Reeves recommended that \$1000.00 be added to that line item to allow for said work to be completed this year. Clerk/Administrator Tonelli inquired as to ownership of the boat launch. Councillor Wedgwood confirmed that the boat launch is owned by the Municipality and that Brookfield Power has an easement for its use. Council agreed to add \$1,000.00 to the proposed budget to complete this work.

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Mayor Reeves reiterated that the proposed budget, as presented, will result in a residential tax rate increase of 2% and asked if Council wished to make any further amendments to the proposed budget.

On a query from Councillor Jones-Scissons, Mayor Reeves explained that although the residential tax rate would increase by 2%, each property owner will realize a different percentage increase or decrease to his/her tax bill, depending on that property's change in assessment from 2016 to 2017.

Treasurer Leach briefly discussed the 2017 Budget - Reserves Transfers Summary and that many of the draws from reserves are a result of projects that were previously budgeted but, unspent. The monies for those projects were placed in reserves to be spent at a later date.

Clerk/Administrator Tonelli, as requested by Councillor Armstrong in her absence, briefly spoke to the proposed budget for the fence replacement at the Iron Bridge Recreation Centre and potential concept of using large rocks rather than fencing. The budget for this item was left as proposed, with the understanding that a decision on type and style of barricade has not yet been finalized.

4-1. Approve 2017 Tax Levy

17-12-01 BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approves the proposed
N. Jones-Scissons **2017 Budget**, authorizing **\$2,857,097.00** to be raised
D. Kirby through taxation for Municipal Expenditures. CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT

17-12-02 BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council does adjourn at 8:45 p.m.
D. Kirby CARRIED.
B. MacKinnon

MAYOR

CLERK