

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON

## Finance Committee Meeting

April 18, 2012

There was a Meeting of the Finance Committee held in the Municipal Council Chambers on Wednesday, April 18, 2012. Present were Co-Chairs Mayor Don Eady and Councillor Jamey Larone. Staff present was Jennifer Barr, Finance Manager and Mackie McLaren, CAO/Clerk.

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Eady called the Meeting to Order at 2:35 p.m.

### 2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There was no declaration of pecuniary interest by members of the Committee or Staff present.

### 3. MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 16, 2012 COMMITTEE MEETING

Mayor Eady reviewed the February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Finance Committee Meeting minutes.

Mayor Eady asked for a review of the heat and hydro costs. The CAO/Clerk said this will be done as part of a mandate of the Provincial Government. Municipalities have to report their 2012 energy consumption and Green House Gas Emissions by July 1 2013 and by July 1 2014 develop energy conservation and demand management plans.

Councillor Larone asked when a decision will be made on keeping or selling the Township beach property. Mayor Eady noted that there are no funds in the draft budget to work on the beach property. Ms. Barr suggested that someone needs to be mandated to prepare a report/business plan. Mayor Eady suggested a committee consisting of the Recreation Chair, Recreation Program Manager and one or two Recreation Committee Members. The CAO/Clerk said he should have a part in the preparation of the business plan. Mayor Eady said the other Council Members should prepare a list of questions to be answered in the business plan.

Moved by Jamey Larone, Seconded by Don Eady

That the Finance Committee recommend to Council that they appoint an Ad-Hoc Committee to investigate the future of the beach property.

**Carried.**

### 4. LIBRARY CONTRACT

The Finance Committee Members received a letter dated March 4 2012 from the Chair of the Renfrew Public Library Board requesting an increase in funding from \$10,050 to \$63,000. They offered an option of reaching this increased funding over two years (\$10,050 plus \$26,475 in 2012 and \$10,050 plus \$52,950 in 2013) and over three years (\$10,050 plus \$17,650 in 2012, \$10,050 plus \$35,300 in 2013 and \$10,050 plus \$52,950 in 2014). The Chair of the Library Board based the increase on the following data:

954 Horton Library patrons – equals 16.6% of total library patrons.  
16.6% of 2010 operational budget of \$383,376 equals \$63,640.

Mayor Eady noted that our draft budget proposes a 2% increase in funding from \$10,050 to \$10,350. He noted that the letter indicated that if Council did not accept this increase that our users would have to pay a user fee but did not set out this fee. He said there is no way there is room to add the minimum request of \$17,650 to the draft budget.

After further discussion, the Committee members agreed that there was no room for an increase this year. **The CAO/Clerk was requested to contact the Chair of the Library Board and find out what the user fee amount would be.** The Committee suggested that we could offer the same grant as in 2011 and the difference requested could be paid for by the Horton users in a form of user fee.

**The Committee Members requested our Recreation Program Manager report on the Library access available in the local schools.**

The Committee Members agreed not to increase the Library Board budget at this time.

#### **5. INVOICING OF WASTE FEES**

Ms. Barr said the system doesn't work as she wants it to. She suggested that she and the Municipal Infrastructure Manager discuss a solution. She suggested that there was no need for any company to be invoiced, they should know a head of time what the tipping fees will be for the load they bring in and have a cheque or cash ready to leave with the attendant. **After discussion, Ms. Barr was requested to review and make recommendations on improvements to the process.**

#### **6. 2012 PROPOSED BUDGET**

The Finance Manager presented a draft of the Power Point Presentation to be used for the public meeting. It outlined the 4.6% overall impact to residential ratepayers inclusive of the County rate and Education rate.

Ms. Barr noted in the Minutes of the Health and Safety Committee that up to 6 employees are to be trained on CPR and First Aid this year as required by the Health and Safety policy. She noted that the funds are not set out in the draft budget. The Committee Members agreed that the training costs will be charged against each department that sends an employee(s) rather than creating a new budget line.

Ms. Barr informed the Committee Members that the recent Provincial Budget called for a wage freeze for Provincial Employees. When the Provincial Government did this in the 1990's, municipal wages were frozen the following year. She said she expected that the Province will mandate a municipal wage freeze in 2013.

#### **7. RESERVES AND RESERVE FUNDS**

The Finance Manager reviewed the proposed reserves and reserve funds as presented in the proposed line by line budget.

#### **8. CONFIRMING RESOLUTION**

Moved by Jamey Larone, Seconded by Don Eady That the Committee pass this confirming resolution to cover any actions or directions given during the open portion of this Committee Meeting which are minor in nature and which were not set out in By-law or Resolution. **Carried.**

#### **11. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Don Eady, Seconded by Jamey Larone.  
That this Committee Meeting be adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

**Carried.**