

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON

**Public Council Meeting to review 2013 Draft Budget**  
May 21, 2013

There was a Public Meeting held in the Municipal Council Chamber on Tuesday May 21, 2013 to present the draft 2013 Municipal Budget for public comments. Present was Mayor Don Eady, Councillor Bob Kingsbury, Councillor Glen Campbell, Councillor Jamey Larone and Councillor Margaret Whyte. Staff present was Jennifer Barr, Finance Manager and Mackie McLaren, CAO/Clerk.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Eady called the Meeting to Order at 7:35 p.m.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There was no declaration of pecuniary interest declared by Members or Staff.

3. CLERK'S REPORT ON NOTICE

The CAO/Clerk reported that our Notice Policy sets out 2 weeks' notice in a local newspaper for a Public Meeting. The ad was published in the May 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the Renfrew Mercury.

4. PRESENTATION OF 2013 DRAFT MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Mayor Eady called on Jennifer Barr to present the draft budget details. She used a power point presentation to set out the changes from the 2012 budget to this draft. The draft budget calls for a levy of \$1,719.378. Combined with the County tax rate and the Education tax rate, this would give an overall tax increase of 4.49%. Mayor Eady pointed out that if you take away the increase that growth gives us and the mandated increases from the Province, this budget comes in at 2% overall.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS

There were no public present.

6. COUNCIL MEMBERS COMMENTS

Councillor Larone noted that as part of the Finance Committee and Council, he has looked at the reserves that have been built up and the reduction in the debt load. He said the common goal is to reduce debt but there were some capital projects that were still in the works to be completed. The Committee used a common sense approach. Mayor Eady has been a good leader in this process as was Jennifer Barr. He added that they tried to maintain a constant level of service to the ratepayers.

Councillor Kingsbury said he doesn't think that anyone would not want a 0% increase, but we all know this is impossible. Unfortunatley the budget may affect some ratepayers more than others, but the budget would be acceptable to the average ratepayer who benefits from the improvements that have been made.

Councillor Campbell said that the debt has come down, more money is in reserves, Asset Management Plan will put us back on the table for grants, Pinnacle Road is completed, lots of work to do yet, example Thomson road. This is his first term of Council and likes the budget process and how it works. Staff provides a great assistance. Knows some sacrifices were made in order to come in with this budget.

Councillor White said she is happy with the reduced debt and moving things in a positive stream to build capital projects. We had several very tight budgets, but with the help of the Mayor and Finance Manager we can succeed. 0% increase is impossible. Pleased with 4.49% increase

Mayor Eady thanked the Finance Manager for creating lots of paper and sorting through the budget numbers. He thanked all staff for their accomplishments. Every meeting contains a comment opportunity to identify any financial red flags. This budget is a good, honest, down to earth budget. It has been a tough year for our ratepayers with reassessment. Some will be lucky if their assessment dropped, but other areas like waterfront where their values go up faster so there will be a pinch there. He said he feels very strongly that the Provincial Government is figuring out new ways to download onto us. A lot is out of our control. If we don't do our due diligence, 0% increases lead to large increases over a few years. As Chair of Finance, he said he was pleased and thankful for everyone around the table for their effort.

7. PSAB BUDGET REPORT

Jennifer Barr referred to Ontario Regulation 289. A report will come with the budget and tax rate by-law on June 4, 2013.

8. RECOMMENDATION TO PREPARE 2013 TAX RATE BY-LAW

Moved by Bob Kingsbury  
Seconded by Jamey Larone

That Council accepts the 2013 levy of \$1,719,378 and authorizes the drafting of the tax rate by-law for the June 4, 2013 Council Meeting.

Carried

9 CLOSE MEETING

Moved by Glen Campbell  
Seconded by Margaret Whyte

That Council close this Public Meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Carried

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MAYOR

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CAO/Clerk