

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

OCTOBER 29, 2007

There was a meeting of the Finance Committee held in the Municipal Council Chambers on Monday October 29, 2007. Present were Chair Bob Hall, Mayor Robert A Johnston, and Councillors Dave Bennett, Don Eady and Bob Kingsbury, also present were Treasurer/Deputy Clerk Linda Novossiltzeff and CAO/Clerk Mackie McLaren.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hall called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There was no declaration by members of the Committee or Council.

3. 2008 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Chair Hall reported that the 2008 Budget preparation is under way. Work on next year's budget is commencing this Fall for the first time. Councillor Eady reported that he is very close to having the Draft for the Waste Management Site, he will need some input from Staff on payroll. Councillor Kingsbury reported that the Recreation Committee has approved a Draft Recreation Budget subject to an amount to be calculated by the CAO/Clerk on the potential Super Build Grant that remains available to the Township which will be coming in 2008

Councillor Bennett reported that the Fire Committee has reviewed the Budget and their Budget depends on a direction Council will take on the purchase of a Tanker Truck. He also reported the Public Works Committee has reviewed the draft Budget and the bottom line comes down to whether or not Goshen Road will be completed and hard surfaced in 2008. He noted that there is some input coming on the Garden of Eden Road and Pinnacle Road under a new COMRIF 4 Process which the Staff has just received information on. It appears that AMO wants to have a new application process for COMRIF 4 where the Federal Government who are putting \$64 million into the fund, have recommended that unfunded applications for COMRIF 3 be approved first. This would be of benefit to Horton.

Chair Hall asked what the consideration process will be for the Budget, should all the department budgets be brought back for the Committee to review or should Staff prepare a report first.

Councillor Eady suggested this Committee set a goal of 3.75% increase for every department to work within. He noted that if one department comes in lower than this, other departments could use up this difference. He suggested this change as last year we spent many long hours to get to a percentage point Council was satisfied with. This might speed up the approval process.

Councillor Bennett noted that the cost of construction is increasing faster than 3.75% each year – are we realistic in setting this goal when it will not cover our needs? Councillor Eady said that we need a starting point which we could adjust as Council. The CAO/Clerk suggested that if this goal of 3.75% is accepted this would not be enough of an increase for some departments to operate all their programs. He suggested if this is the case that the department prepares a list of needs that can't be funded if the increase is restricted to 3.75%. This list is to explain why to program requires funding.

The Committee agreed to proceed in this manner.

4. MEETING DATE TO REVIEW FIRST DRAFT

The Committee members discussed when the first review of the overall budget would be considered and agreed to carry this out on Tuesday November 20th, following the Planning Meeting.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Hall said he wished to have a short discussion on the expansion of the Municipal Office. He wants to keep this issue going forward.

Councillor Eady reported that he and staff have prepared a Tender document for Banking Services, which have not been looked at since 1988. He anticipates a better arrangement and we would have more interest available to the Township. This interest could then cover the costs of the expansion. He noted that we started a small reserve in 2007. He added that if we carry out an expansion to the building that we research for grants that he believes are available to municipalities for municipal offices.

The members discussed various alternatives of moving the Council Chambers to the Community Centre, temporarily setting up offices in the Council Chamber now, prior to any expansion. It was noted that the CAO was authorized to bring a report forward, at the last Council Meeting.

6. CONFIRMING RESOLUTION

Moved by Robert A. Johnston, seconded by Bob Kingsbury

That the Committee passes this confirming resolution to validate any actions or directions given during the open portion of this meeting which are minor in nature and which were not set out in By-law or Resolution.

Carried.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Dave Bennett, seconded by Don Eady

That this Committee meeting be adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

Carried.

Chair

CAO/Clerk