

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**2008 BUDGET REVIEW**

May 12, 2008

There was a Meeting of the Finance Committee held in the Horton Community Centre on Monday May 12, 2008. Present were Chair Bob Hall, Mayor Robert A Johnston, and Council Members Dave Bennett and Bob Kingsbury. Staff present were Linda Novossiltzeff Treasurer/Deputy Clerk and Mackie J. McLaren, CAO/Clerk.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hall called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

3. MINUTES OF JANUARY 29, 2008 FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Chair Hall briefly reviewed the January 29, 2008 Meeting Minutes, which had already been approved by Council.

4. BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

5. 2007 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Treasurer Linda Novossiltzeff presented a copy of the 2007 Audited Statements, which Council briefly reviewed. The Committee requested that the Auditors be invited to the June Council Meeting to present the Financial Statements. There was a question to research if there was an extra charge for this.

6. 2008 DRAFT MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Reserve Budget – 2008 Reserves

The Reserve Budget for 2008 was presented.

Balances

Treasurer Linda Novossiltzeff had prepared a December 31, 2007 balance of all the reserve accounts.

Capital Budget

The Committee reviewed the Capital Budget for 2008. Councillor Bennett questioned the status of the purchase of the Tanker Truck. This question will be directed to the Municipal Infrastructure Manager.

Revenue & Expenditure Budget

The CAO/Clerk presented a review of the Draft Budget. Councillor Kingsbury informed the Committee that upon reviewing the financial situation, he now supports the reinsertion of \$20,000 that was removed from the gravel budget line in the Public Works Department. After discussion the following resolution was put forward.

Moved by Robert A. Johnston, seconded by Bob Kingsbury

That a Public Meeting be held during the June 3, 2008 Council Meeting to present the draft 2008 Municipal Budget to the public and to approve the Budget following the public meeting.

**Carried.**

3% Wage/Salary Increase

Treasurer Linda Novossiltzeff informed the Committee that 3% has been built into the Budget for wages and salaries increases, which has been the standard for a number of

years. Mayor Johnston presented information he received today from the County on Council Members honoriums and meeting allowances, throughout the County. He noted that Horton is below the average for municipalities of our size and population. He suggested that a ratepayer Committee be formed to review Council wages and report to the Finance Committee. After discussion the following resolution was put forward.

Moved by Robert A. Johnston, seconded by Bob Kingsbury

That the Finance Committee recommend to Council that they form a ratepayer committee to review Council Members honoriums and recommend any changes to the current Council pay policy as of January 1, 2009.

**Carried.**

Moved by Dave Bennett, seconded by Bob Kingsbury

That Finance Committee recommend to Council staff increases of 3%, effective January 1, 2008.

**Carried.**

Mileage Allowance

The CAO/Clerk informed the Committee that the County has raised their mileage allowance from 45 cents to 52 cents. A number of Municipalities in Renfrew County have raised their rates to either 52 cents or 50 cents per kilometer. The mileage rate of 45 cents has been in place for a number of years.

Moved by Dave Bennett, seconded by Robert A. Johnston

That Finance Committee recommends to Council that the mileage allowance paid to staff members using their own vehicles on municipal business increase from 45 cents to 52 cents, effective June 1, 2008.

**Carried.**

Meeting Allowance for Lime Stabilization Members

The CAO/Clerk informed the Committee that the members of the Lime Stabilization Committee requested that they receive the meeting allowance that Council Members and Staff receive for attending meetings. The Finance Committee discussed what other committees expectations would be on a meeting allowance as well.

Chair Hall questioned the retroactivity of this request, would it go back to the formation of the Lime Stabilization Committee, or would it be from this point forward? A quick calculation of the \$50 per meeting rate was carried out, indicating approximately \$10,000 per year would be added to the Budget. It was noted that Planning Committee already has \$3,300 built into the budget for Committee meetings. The Committee agreed that \$5,010 that was directed to the building fund be transferred to cover meeting allowances for volunteer committee members, if that was the wishes of Council.

There were questions about situations where several committees were made up of sub-chairs who come to committee meetings, but there are volunteers beneath that level, where would the cutoff be? The Committee agreed that they would only pay for the committee meetings and not for the volunteers below that. Recreation Committee and the Emergency Management Committee would fall under this type. Recreation Committee is meeting later tonight and this item is on their Agenda.

The Committee agreed that any decision would be retroactive to January 1, 2008 only.

Chair Hall asked if this policy was coming in place, is there a different way in which we fill vacancies? Councillor Bennett suggested that all appointments are for the term of Council so this would be up to a new council to decide. The Committee agreed that any future vacancies on committees would be advertised.

Moved by Robert A. Johnston, seconded by Bob Kingsbury

That the Finance Committee recommends to Council that all Township Appointed Committee members receive an honorium for meetings based on the Council meeting policy, amounts retroactive to January 1, 2008.

**Carried.**

7. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

8. CONFIRMING RESOLUTION-

Moved by Dave Bennett, seconded by Bob Kingsbury

That the Committee pass this confirming resolution to validate 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.**

9. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Robert A. Johnston, seconded by Bob Kingsbury

That the Finance Committee Meeting be adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

**Carried.**

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Chair

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CAO/Clerk