

THE COPRORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON

FINANCE COMMITTEE

January 26, 2008

There was a Meeting of the Finance Committee held in the Horton Community Centre on Monday January 26, 2009, to continue the 2009 Municipal Budget discussion. Present were Chair Bob Hall, Mayor Robert A. Johnston, and Councillors Dave Bennett, Bob Kingsbury and Don Eady.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hall called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

3. REQUEST FROM TOWNSHIPS OF EAST FERRIS AND BONFIELD FOR DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

The Committee discussed Council's donations to other disaster relief programs in the past.

Moved by Dave Bennett, seconded by Robert A. Johnston

That the Finance Committee recommends to Council that they make a donation of \$200 to the East Ferris/Bonfield Township Disaster Relief Assistance Program.

Carried.

4. DOG TAG SELLER

Raise Tag Fee for Door to Door Collection

The CAO/Clerk reported that the fee received by the seller of dog tags traveling door to door has been \$5 per tag since he arrived in 1990 and there is an opportunity that Stephanie Jacobs would sell dog tags door to door but she wanted an increase in the rate per tag. The CAO/Clerk asked for Council's authority to pay \$10 per tag.

Raise Dog Tag Fee

The CAO/Clerk reported that our current fee is \$12 for the first dog and \$15 for each additional dog after that. He suggested that the fees be raised to \$15 for first dog and \$20 for each additional dog. The Committee asked the CAO/Clerk to research what neighbouring municipalities charge for their dog tags and report back to the February 2, 2009 Council Meeting.

5. DRAFT 2009 BUDGET

Report on Difference between Budget Proposals

The CAO/Clerk presented a report to the Committee that set out the differences between the regular proposals submitted by the Committees and the proposal submitted by Councillor Eady at the last meeting.

Discussion on Councillor Eady's Proposal

Councillor Eady said his proposal is based on the fact that the Municipality can save approximately \$10,000 on interest payments on loans if we borrow internally from our working capital reserve.

Councillor Bennett suggested that we borrow the funds from OSIFA and pay back as soon as possible even if in the end we have to borrow from reserves to pay off the loan. Councillor Eady suggested it would cost more as we would have to pay interest. Councillor Bennett suggested that it is going to cost us money to borrow internally and it has been suggested that the economy will start to grow after 2010.

Councillor Eady said he believes otherwise. The safety network will be gone when the EI payments are over, the County Welfare will be up costing more tax dollars, no industry on the horizon moving in and in 2012 we will still be looking for new companies. He added that we save the interest cost if we borrow from ourselves. Adding that there could be a time when we need to borrow to buy the next truck, as there will not be enough cash in reserve.

Councillor Bennett suggested that we borrow the funds necessary to cover the cost of the construction, that we reduce the taxes as low as we possible can and that we consider using reserve money to reduce the tax rate to 1.5%, as it will be a tough year for ratepayers to make payments.

Chair Hall asked if there was a combination of Councillor Eady's scenario and Councillor Bennett's scenario that could reduce the budget down to 1.5 to 1.8% increase overall.

Councillor Bennett noted that he supports whatever the least cost to the taxpayer would be. Chair Hall asked if Councillor Eady and the CAO/Clerk could meet to create a new scenario for the Council Meeting to be held February 2, 2009. The Committee members agreed with this suggestion and agreed to meet to see the results of these suggestions at the end of the Council Meeting, February 2, 2009

6. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to be discussed.

7. NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

As stated the Committee will meet following the February 2, 2009 Council Meeting.

8. CONFIRMING RESOLUTION

Moved by Don Eady, seconded by Bob Kingsbury

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.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Dave Bennett, seconded by Robert A. Johnston

That this Committee meeting be adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Carried.

Chair

CAO/Clerk