

The Corporation of the Township of Horton
AD HOC BUDGET PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES

Wednesday January 30th, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

There was a Public Meeting of the Ad-Hoc Budget Committee held at 2253 Johnston Road in the Council Chambers to present the 2019 Draft Budget to the Public. Present was Mayor David Bennett, Councillor Lane Cleroux, Councillor Doug Humphries and Councillor Tom Webster. Staff present was Jennifer Barr Treasurer, Hope Dillabough CAO/Clerk-Recording Secretary, Nathalie Moore, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer and Public Advisory Member Susan Humphries.

Chair Glen Campbell was absent.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Mayor Bennett declared Pecuniary Interest due to the contract for grinding that was recently awarded and will be reflected in the 2019 Environment Budget, therefore he will be present as it's a Public Meeting but not be part of the discussion.

He called for a member of Council to act as Acting Chair. There was consensus to have Councillor Lane Cleroux be Acting Chair for this meeting.

3. CHAIR – PURPOSE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Acting Chair Lane Cleroux stated the purpose of the public meeting is to present the 2019 Draft Budget.

4. CAO/CLERK'S REPORT ON NOTICE

CAO/Clerk Hope Dillabough stated the Notice of this meeting was advertised in the Renfrew Mercury, as per the Township's Notice By-Law. Additionally, Notice was posted on the Township's website. There were no submissions made for presentation purposes. She stated that it is a Public Meeting, therefore members of the Public are allowed to ask questions.

5. DELEGATIONS - None

6. STAFF REPORTS / INFORMATION

6.1 2019 Budget Presentation

Treasurer Jennifer Barr provided a PowerPoint presentation of the 2019 Draft Budget. She began with a brief background of the work that has been undertaken by staff and council to come to this point. She reviewed that the Township still hasn't received notice of Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) allocation, however, should hear by the end of March. Other items presented were the 10-year Capital Forecast, Departmental Budget Summary, Departmental percentage of Operating Budget, Proposed Capital Budget, Reserves and Reserve Funds and the funding gap. Additionally, some new services for 2019 was reviewed which includes the OPP Billing increase, Johnston Road debenture, Water/Ice Rescue Agreement, increased Dental coverage and the new full-time Public Works Employee.

Upon a comprehensive review, Treasurer Barr then presented the next steps for Council to consider:

- Wait for notice from the Province of the 2019 OMPF;
- Hold another Public Meeting and pass the 2019 levy by-law;

She also reviewed that where the budget currently sits at 3.11% levy increase, there would be minimal impact on properties. The average property would see an annual increase of \$27.00.

She reviewed future impacts which consist of OPP Billing which will continue to impact the annual levy; lack of long-term funding and the increase in the infrastructure deficit will continue to impact the condition of our Tangible Capital Assets and potentially service levels; and further reduction in Provincial Transfer Payments will mean either cuts to operating service levels or postponing infrastructure repair/replacement and may even result in a reduction of assets if the Township can't afford to maintain them.

Lastly, Treasurer Barr reviewed there were no calls or questions, nor any packages picked up at the office. There were next to no downloads of the package online either.

6.2 Proposed 2019 Capital

The Treasurer quickly led the Committee through the Proposed 2019 Capital as it had already been discussed at the last meeting. One of the changes was in 2019 to Bingham Road, the value was changed to \$7,500.00 and the other half of that was placed towards Garden of Eden Road. The other change was a portion of the grouting work at the Community Centre was moved ahead to complete some work in 2019.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

7.1 Questions from the Public

Bob Johnston questioned the \$27 increase to the average household and asked if that included waterfront properties too. Treasurer Barr reviewed the values calculated through OPTA (Ontario Property Tax Association) for each type of property. (Single Family, Managed Forest, Small Commercial etc.). She also reviewed MPAC's assessment phase-in and explained that even if there was no increase at the Council table, a total of 107 properties would still see an increase regardless.

Public Advisory Member Susan Humphries asked when the next Assessment Phase-in would occur. Treasurer Barr said it will be in 2021 and will be based on 2020's assessed values and will be a 4-year phase-in.

Bob Johnston questioned if the Committee will be taking another look at the TES budget increase of 9.1%. Treasurer Barr said if that is a direction that comes from the Committee then staff will do so, however no such direction has come forward yet. Acting Chair Cleroux further explained the reason for the increase to the TES budget such as the Johnston Road debenture passed by previous council as well as the addition of a new full-time permanent position.

8. COUNCIL MEMBERS COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

There were none.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS:

9.1 THAT the Ad Hoc Budget Committee recommends that Council delay adopting the 2019 budget until such time as the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund 2019 allocation has been received.

Acting Chair Leroux felt that delaying passing the budget is unnecessary due to the lack of OMPF notice and would like to see the 3.11% levy increase passed as is and deal with the OMPF allocation notification when it comes in.

Councillor Webster agreed with the recommendation brought forward. Councillor Humphries expressed his understanding of the lack of OMPF notification but gave no direction as to what he'd like to see moving forward.

CAO/Clerk Dillabough stated the minutes of this meeting would come forward at the February 19th, 2019 Regular Council Meeting, where at that time a recommendation could be brought forward for a vote.

10. NEXT MEETING

Nothing was determined.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by the Acting Chair at 7:16 p.m.

ACTING CHAIR Lane Cleroux

TREASURER Jennifer Barr