

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – BUDGET MEETING MINUTES – JUNE 17, 2010

Minutes of the budget meeting held on June 17, 2010 at 7 p.m. in the municipal building.

Present: Mayor Nelson
Councillors: Garbutt, Nygard, Racicot, Vezina
Clerk-Treasurer Buob

Visitors: Leadhand Kelly Johnson
Fire Chief Henry Mattas
Acting Deputy Fire Chief Mike Styles arrived at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

The Clerk-Treasurer presented the administration budget line by line. The revenues were reviewed first. The taxation revenue shown in the draft budget was based on 2009 tax rates and the 2010 assessment values. It was noted that we have not heard if our application for the summer student funding from the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines for the Summer Jobs Service 2010 has been approved yet, the funding however has been included as revenue at this time. Reserve funds included as revenue are the balance of the Fire Training monies and the balance of the Municipal building reserves. Expenses were discussed and adjusted accordingly. It was agreed to increase the Council conventions expense to allow for the new Council members to attend the Thunder Bay District Municipal League meeting in November. Air conditioning for the new office was discussed. The costing will be looked into further. The disposal site was discussed. The attendant's shack will be fixed up and will be heated. The road department wages while working at the site, including the time to install the electric fencing are included in the sanitation wages.

The Federal Gas Tax funding and possible eligible projects were discussed. The projects will be discussed further once we have gone through the fire department and the road department budgets.

Fire Chief Mattas and Acting Deputy Chief Styles were welcomed to the table. The results of the Pumper #44 pump test were discussed. The pump did pass the test but it is getting week. Fire Chief Mattas also presented Council with information on a 1999 Freightliner FL 80 Fire Truck that he has found. The truck has been recently pump tested and has had a Manitoba safety on it. He would like Council's approval to go to an area just outside of Winnipeg to take a look at it. He would take a friend who knows fire trucks and what to look for. Council agreed that he should go and look at it and report back to Council. If the truck is to be purchased financing will be required. The Clerk-Treasurer will start to get financing in place just in case. The fire department budget was again reviewed. It was agreed that the bodywork on the tanker will not be done. It was agreed to send 6 sets of turnout gear to get cleaned and tested. A couple will be sent at a time so that they are not all out at once. One new set of bunker gear will be purchased. Other line items were adjusted and the fire department section of the budget was set. Fire Chief Mattas and Acting Deputy Chief Styles were thanked for attending.

Mr. Johnson was welcomed to the table. The road department budget was again reviewed. At a previous road department budget meeting Council agreed to purchasing a laptop computer for the garage. It was now decided to continue using the current desktop and if it quits Mr. Johnson can use the Township's laptop. The sand and salt containment was again discussed. The Clerk-Treasurer will check to see if this project would be eligible under the gas tax funding. The total costs for the bridge and structure study will be put in one account this year rather than to each bridge due to the extra culverts being inspected, which don't have their own account. 50% of the cost will be funded through the Municipal Bridge Data Collection fund. It was agreed to again remove the brushing and ditching projects from the budget and include some ditching into a capital project funded through the Federal Gas Tax. The road department will do some brushing manually.

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The purchase of a grader for the Township was discussed. Mr. Johnson has been looking around and speaking to some dealers to see what is out there. Council would like Mr. Johnson to send out Requests for Proposals for a grader to be in by the June 28th meeting.

Council asked the Clerk-Treasurer to look into financing and if possible have one debenture for both a fire truck and a grader if suitable equipment is found.

1. Moved by G. Garbutt
Seconded by Lee Ann Nygard

TIME BEING: 10:30 P.M. THAT THE BUSINESS OF THIS MEETING CONTINUE.

Carried

The tax rate increase for the 2010 budget was discussed. A comparison of other surrounding municipalities estimated tax increases were reviewed. It was agreed that an increase of 4% would be the maximum amount that Council would approve for the 2010 budget. Monies will be pulled from the reserve accounts to cover capital projects or items to keep the increase at that percent. Monies will be pulled from the Office Equipment reserve for the new computer, monitors and program. If the salt shed is not covered under Federal Gas Tax monies will be pulled from the Infrastructure reserve and monies from Working Fund will be pulled to cover the road project #1. If required some will be also pulled from Working Capital. The final budget numbers will be set and brought to the next meeting in a by-law for final approval.

Council would like the Clerk-Treasurer to get tax rate increases from each of the surrounding municipalities as well as the City of Thunder Bay for 2010.

2. Moved by Lee Ann Nygard
Seconded by J. Vezina

THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE O'CONNOR DAY PLANNING MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2010 AT 7:00 P.M.

TIME BEING: 11:10 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer