

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – BUDGET MEETING MINUTES – MAY 19, 2011

Minutes of the budget meeting held on May 19, 2011 at 7 p.m. in the municipal building.

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

Visitors: Leadhand Kelly Johnson
Fire Chief Henry Mattas
Deputy Fire Chief Mike Styles

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:10 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 2010 tax rates and the 2011 assessment values. It was noted that Bill Mauro, M.P.P., has notified the Township verbally that there will be an additional \$2,000 for library funding, however an exact amount and written confirmation has not yet been received by the Township. This money when received will be forwarded onto the Oliver Paipoonge Library so the amount will not affect the budget and was therefore not included at this time. The summer students programs have both been confirmed and have been included in the budget. The Township has provided several quotes for ratepayer work and the proposed revenue has been included in the budget. The draft budget has pulled only Federal Gas Tax monies from the Reserve accounts at this time.

Expenses were discussed and adjusted accordingly. Council asked that the wage, payroll costs and benefits for the departments be combined into one total so that individual wages are not identifiable. Maintenance to the community centre was discussed. An estimate for painting the interior of the building was discussed as well as a possible water softener, the installation of an accessible door to the back of the building and soffit and fascia work. The Clerk-Treasurer informed Council of a possible funding opportunity for the community centre renovations. The funding through the Farm Credit Canada - AgriSpirit fund is available to Municipalities and can supplement other fundraising efforts in amounts between \$5,000 and \$25,000. The deadline for this funding is June 20th and funding announcements will be made in November, 2011. Council agreed to remove the expense items for the Community Centre from this years budget and submit an application to Farm Credit Canada. The Clerk-Treasurer will get more information on the work required for the community centre and report back to Council by the deadline. The O'Connor Community Club will also be notified of this opportunity and will be asked if they would be interested in fund raising for some of the maintenance as well. It was agreed that the eaves trough will however need to be repaired this year. An air conditioning system for the new office was discussed. The Clerk-Treasurer has spoken with Mr. Kembel, the mechanical engineer who did the drawings for the office. Air conditioning was not included in the original mechanical drawings. The suppliers would require drawings before they could quote on a system for the office. It was agreed that at this time a portable unit will be purchased.

Mr. Johnson was welcomed to the table to discuss the road budget and any changes made since the first budget meeting. Quotes for the cable guide rail system, the steel beam guide system and maintenance for the garage were opened at the last meeting and have been added to this budget for Council to decide if they will proceed. Mr. Johnson has removed the purchase of a new box for Truck #7 from his original draft and recommended that the guide rail systems be completed this year. The maintenance on the grader has increased as per the required warranty inspection and servicing. Council will make these decisions upon the complete review of the budget later in the meeting.

Fire Chief Mattas and Deputy Fire Chief Styles were welcomed to the table. The Fire Department budget was again discussed. Council would like to see the current Operating Equipment Repairs and Maintenance account broken down between each piece of equipment. The two trucks will also be separated for the road department. This will show more detail for what each piece of equipment is costing. The Deputy Clerk-Treasurer will do up a separate report showing this detail.

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Fire Chief Mattas reported that the Tanker truck has just returned from its annual safety. It did pass at this time but there will be major repairs required soon. Fire Chief Mattas has been looking into prices and availability of used chassis'. He has also received a quote from Holland Enterprises for a new economy tanker body/tank module and emergency lighting package. Council asked Fire Chief Mattas to look further into what it would cost to put baffles, to meet the current NFPA Standards for emergency vehicles, into our current tanks. Mayor Nelson will also look into prices from another supplier of retrofitted Emergency Vehicles in Simcoe County. It was noted that the size of the tank dictates the drivers licence required to drive the vehicle.

The Firefighters drivers licences were again discussed. Currently three drivers are eligible to apply for their DZ licence. It was agreed that the Township would cover the test expense. This amount will be added to the training budget line.

It was decided that the highspeed internet will not be added to the fire hall this year. If the Fire Department would like to do training, that requires the internet connection, they may use the community centre.

Fire Chief Mattas and Deputy Fire Chief Styles were thanked for attending and left the meeting.

The disposal site was discussed. The attendant's shack will be fixed up this year. 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 projects for 2011 were discussed at the road budget meeting and have not changed. Work will be completed on Broome road and Harstone road under this program.

It was noted that the Land Ambulance levy is subject to change as the Superior North EMS is still waiting on Provincial funding and the collective agreement to be negotiated.

It was also noted that in the Tax Write-off account there is property in the appeal process and it has not at this time been accounted for in this account.

The tax rate increase for the 2011 budget was discussed. Council agreed to do all of the cable guide rail system projects, the steel beam guide system and maintenance for the garage fascia. Line items were adjusted and monies will be pulled from the reserve accounts to cover capital projects . It was agreed to pull from the Office Equipment reserve - \$500, the Working Capital - \$2,000, the Working Fund - \$2,000 and Fire Department - \$2,000. Council agreed on a 2.85% tax increase for 2011. The final budget numbers will be set and brought to the next meeting in a by-law for final approval.

1. Moved by G. Garbutt
Seconded by J. Vezina

THAT THE BUDGET MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2011 AT 7:00 P.M.

TIME BEING: 11:17 P.M.

COUNCIL AGREED TO WAIVE THEIR DOUBLE PER DIEM AS OUTLINED IN BY-LAW #2010-24.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer