

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES BUDGET MEETING – JUNE 4, 2012

Minutes of the budget meeting held on Monday, June 4, 2012 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Present: Mayor Nelson
Councillors: Racicot Vezina
Clerk-Treasurer Buob
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Racicot
Fire Chief Henry Mattas
Leadhand Kelly Johnson

Absent: Councillor Garbutt and Councillor Loan

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Fire Chief Mattas and Leadhand Johnson were welcomed to the table.

The Fire Department portion of the draft budget and notes were first reviewed line by line. The member honourarium and the VFIS 24hr insurance coverage was discussed. It was agreed to cover the 24 hr coverage for the active members on the team. The driver training program was discussed. The estimated expense was lowered as only a few drivers have currently shown an interest in obtaining their "DZ" licencing. The repairs to the 4 x 4 transmission was cut from the budget. Councillor Vezina has offered to donate one backpack to the Fire Department so the department will only purchase two. This line item was lowered by that cost. The financing of the tanker truck was discussed. Final numbers will be set once the full budget has been reviewed.

Fire Chief Mattas left the meeting.

The Road Department budget was then reviewed line by line. The air conditioner in the backhoe was cut. Maintenance on truck #9 was lowered. Council agreed to do a bridge study on the four bridges only. The replacement of guideposts on Sitch Road was cut.

The summer students for both the road department and office were discussed. The Township was unsuccessful in our application for funding from Canada Summer Jobs for one road student this year. This program provided 50% of the wages for one student in the past. The Summer Jobs Service program from the Province provides a \$2.00 per hour rebate. The Township did apply for one road student and one administration student through this program and was approved for both. The Clerk-Treasurer inquired into whether or not the Township would be able to transfer the administration position to the roads or if we would be eligible for another student even though the deadline for applications was past. Another position was approved if needed. Council discussed the situation with the staff. It was agreed that for safety reasons two students should be hired for the road department so the students are not working alone. It was also agreed not to hire a student in the office this summer due to budget restraints.

The Federal Gas Tax projects were discussed. The Clerk-Treasurer reported to Council that a review of the Township's Official Plan and Zoning By-law was an eligible expense through this funding. Currently the funding was planned for two miles of gravel resurfacing and drainage on one mile. The Clerk-Treasurer provided an estimate of what the review would cost from a consulting firm that was highly recommended and is currently being used in the Northwest for \$37,000 - \$42,000. As this cost would use the total years funding it was agreed that the Township roads require the work more and the funding will be used for road projects. The Township will possible look into whether or not there might be enough of the funding left to start the mapping for this review.

The balance of the budget was reviewed. Numbers were adjusted as required. It was agreed not to fund the fire suppression for the kitchen in the community centre at this time. Funding applications will be submitted for this project and if the project is approved work would be done until 2013 and would not included in this budget.

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- 1. Moved by J. Vezina
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

TIME BEING: 10:30 P.M. THAT THE BUSINESS OF THIS MEETING CONTINUE. COUNCIL AGREE TO WAIVE THE SECOND MEETING HONOURARIUM.

Carried

Monies will be pulled from the reserves to cover a portion of the Truck box.

It was agreed to finance the purchase of the tanker truck. The Clerk-Treasurer will set this up with the bank and adjust the line items as necessary.

The Council expenses were discussed. It was agreed that in January of each year appointments to different boards and subcommittees will be reviewed. It was agreed to post-pone the Township inspection currently scheduled in June to the fall.

The Clerk-Treasurer will do the necessary adjustments and bring the budget back to the next Council meeting on June 11th for final approval and the tax rate by-law will be passed at the June 25th meeting for tax bills to be sent out the beginning of July.

- 2. Moved by J. Vezina
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE BUDGET MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2012 AT 7:00 P.M.

TIME BEING: 11:57 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer