

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES BUDGET MEETING – MAY 13, 2015

Minutes of the budget meeting held on Wednesday, May 13, 2015 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

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

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

The Clerk-Treasurer presented the full draft budget line by line. The tax revenue in the draft is based on 2014 tax rates and 2015 assessment values. The bottom line of the full budget shows the variance required to balance the budget. The Clerk-Treasurer explained that the line items in accounts 4020 and 4040, titled Taxation Arrears are actually the Education amounts for budget purposes.

The Clerk-Treasurer explained how the budget numbers were determined.

Transferring from Reserves was discussed. The Federal Gas Tax Reserve balance will be pulled out and will be included in the revenue. The 2015 allocation and the reserve will be used to cover the resurfacing of one mile of Blaikie Road and Sovereign Road and possibly a portion of an Official Plan review if Council decides to move forward with it. \$3,500.00 will also be pulled from the Fire Department reserve to cover the cost of the tanker exhaust.

O'Connor Day revenue and expenditures are budgeted with a \$1,000 profit overall for the day. The difference between O'Connor Day Revenue and O'Connor Day Expenditures lines will be this amount.

The meeting continued with the review of the expenses for the Township. Council meeting expenses were discussed. Special meeting attendances were confirmed with each member of Council.

The Administration equipment line item was discussed. Information with regard to additional computer programs, which are compatible with the new tax program purchased in 2014 were discussed. Council have agreed to purchasing the General Ledger and Cash Receipts modules at their meeting held on April 27 and Deputy Clerk-Treasurer is requesting an additional program Accounts Payable module. Each program has an annual support fee as well. A photocopier has also been purchased for the municipal office.

Fire Chief Mattas was welcomed to the table to once again review the Fire Department's portion of the budget. Changes have been made to the original budget presented at the budget meeting held on April 27, 2015. There is a slight increase in expenses for the vehicle maintenance as the safeties have been completed and more repairs were required than originally budgeted. As well the SCBA air test is slightly higher than first noted and a new air filter is also required prior to testing. The septic fields for all three departments were also pumped out this month and were not originally included. Fire Chief Mattas was thanked for attending and left the meeting.

Mr. Johnson was welcomed to the table to review the Road Department's portion of the budget. There were also a couple of minor changes made to the original budget presented on April 13, 2015. Actual costing came in for the Fuel Handling course and the wages have been more accurately distributed amongst the projects. Two new tires were also required for the 4x4 truck as the belt had broken on one.

Line items within the budget were discussed further. The Conmee Skateboard Park donation was discussed. It was agreed that as the park will not be built this year that a letter of intent be sent to the Township of Conmee for a donation of \$1,000.00 but no money will be budgeted for this year.

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The Employee's Dental Medical Expenses was discussed. Councillor Racicot declared an interest in this item and left the room. Council discussed increasing the benefit as the last increase was in 2006 and costs for dental have increased over this period. Council agreed to an increase of \$250 per employee which will be effective January 1, 2015 and will be included in this budget.

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

The Disposal Site hours were discussed and it was agreed to do a trial run during the months of June to September of opening the site on Saturday mornings at 9 a.m. rather than 10 a.m., still closing at the regular time. The Clerk-Treasurer will confirm with the attendant that he will be able to work this extra hour. The payroll costs will be adjusted in the budget for this.

Council discussed the budget further and adjusted line items were they felt required and a tax rate percentage increase was discussed. It was agreed that there should be an increase each year to insure that we are always improving the Township and preparing for the future large expenses. Council agreed to a tax rate increase for 2015 of 1.03%.

Further adjustments to the budget will be made by the Clerk-Treasurer upon clarification and further investigation on the line items and projects. The final budget will be presented to Council at their meeting to be held on May 25, 2015 and if the Council feel the budget is acceptable the final approval and the tax rate by-law will be passed and tax bills will be sent out the beginning of June.

1. Moved by K. Foekens
Seconded by J. Vezina

THAT THE BUDGET MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, MAY 25, 2015 AT 7:00 P.M.

TIME BEING: 9:35 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer