

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES BUDGET MEETING – MAY 21, 2009

Minutes of the budget meeting held on Thursday, May 21, 2009 at 7 p.m. in the municipal building.

Present: Mayor Nelson
 Councillors: Garbutt, Racicot, Vezina
 Clerk-Treasurer Buob, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Racicot
 Visitors: Kelly Johnson, Leadhand

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

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

THAT COUNCILLOR NYGARD BE MARKED ABSENT DUE TO PERSONAL REASONS. Carried

The Clerk-Treasurer presented the administration budget line by line. Projects and expenses were discussed and adjusted accordingly. The Infrastructure Stimulus funding projects were discussed. We have not received a reply from the government on our applications. All projects applied for have been included in the budget with the township share of the projects for the bridge repairs being covered by a loan. A large share of the township's share of the municipal office has been set-aside in a reserve and will be pulled upon approval of the project. An application to HRSD – Enabling Accessibility has also been submitted to help offset the costs of a new building but again there has been no word on whether or not the township will receive this money. The township's one third of the Building Canada bridge project for bridge #3 repairs will be covered with one half from the Federal Gas Tax funding and the other half will be included in the loan with the other two bridges.

Fire Chief Mattas was unable to attend the meeting. The Fire department budget was discussed. The Fire Chief's honourarium was discussed. It was agreed to increase the honourarium by \$50 per month. The capital budget was discussed. The SCBA air compressor will not be purchased this year. If the compressor fails an air test, an alternative air tank filling option will be used. The balance of the fire department reserve will be pulled and put into the budget to cover the other capital items purchased.

Mr. Johnson was welcomed to the table. The road department budget was again reviewed. Township road department projects and funding were discussed. Road projects were cut back to help lower the increase in tax rates. A portion of the dust control will be covered under the ODRAP funding this season due to the lateness of the road repairs after the flood last year. A Leadhand vehicle was originally included in the first draft. Council agreed that Mr. Johnson may continue to look for a newer truck and if he finds one for a reasonable price Council will pull monies from the reserve to cover the actual cost.

Other lines items throughout the budget were adjusted as necessary to reduce the tax rate increase. Monies will be pulled from the reserve accounts to cover a portion of the fire department training and capital purchases. As per the results of the disposal site study and a discussion with the auditor in fall, \$5,000 will be removed from the Disposal site reserve and placed in the Working Capital reserve. The 2009 tax rates will increase by 4% over 2008 rates. The final budget numbers will be set and brought to the next meeting in a by-law for final approval.

2. Moved by G. Garbutt
 Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE BUDGET MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY, MAY 25, 2009 AT 7:00 P.M. TIME BEING: 10:30 P.M. Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer