

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES BUDGET MEETING – MAY 7, 2013

Minutes of the budget meeting held on Monday, May 7, 2013 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Present: Mayor Nelson  
Councillors: Garbutt, Racicot, Vezina  
Clerk-Treasurer Buob  
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Racicot  
Fire Chief Henry Mattas arrived at 7:30 p.m.

Absent: Councillor Loan

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

The full draft budget was reviewed line by line. The tax revenue in the draft is based on 2012 tax rates and 2013 assessment values. The bottom line of the full budget shows the amount of additional revenue required to balance the budget.

It was noted that the Canada Summer Jobs student funding program is included but at this time we have not heard if the Township's application was successful.

Transferring from Reserves was discussed. The Road Department did put \$2,000 into reserves at 2012 year end for the purchase of backhoe tires. This amount will be pulled from the Road Department reserve for this purchase. There is also additional Federal Gas Tax money in the reserve in the amount of \$4,200, if Council would like to do other eligible projects.

O'Connor Day revenue and expenditures were discussed. It was agreed to budget \$1,000 expense overall for the day just in case the donations do not come through. The difference between O'Connor Day Revenue and O'Connor Day Expenditures lines will be this amount.

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

The Community Centre renovations were discussed. The accessibility options were discussed and reevaluated. The Chief Building Official, Mr. Alan Cooke was in and looked at the proposed options. He had a concern with the option of only installing the two stop elevator as it would possibly not leave enough room in the entrance to allow access to the basement lift and was recommending the three stop lift which would also access the basement as was previously discussed. Council are concerned with the full costs of this option. Another option of putting in two lifts and extending the foyer of the building by approximately 8' was considered. Mr. Cooke will be contacted about this option. The Enabling Accessibility Funding agency will also be contacted to ensure that these changes will still be eligible for funding.

The Request for Proposal (RFP) for an Asset Management Plan for the Township, which is required to be completed by December 31, 2013, will be going out this week. To date the budget includes only the amount of the funding provided to do this plan on both the revenue and expenditure side. If the RFP comes in higher Council will have to make a decision on what they would like to do.

Tax Write-off's for 2013 were discussed. The Township may have some tax write-off's for the year due to a recent house fire and a vacancy application in which the amounts have not been determined. An estimated amount has been included at this time.

Council discussed an acceptable rate increase for 2013 and proceeded with cuts to the budget to get to that tax levy. The grader tires have been purchased and the actual cost for that line item was adjusted. It was agreed to pull money from the Fire Department reserve to cover the cost of the garage door replacement on the fire hall and the purchase of the positive pressure ventilator. The Road Project #2 - to replace a culvert of Pool road was cancelled. New stop signs to replace existing yield signs within the Township were removed. The road material - gravel account will be cut by

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\$500 and winter sand by \$1000. If in an emergency this material is required it will be purchased. The air conditioner for the municipal office was removed.

Currently the Township of O'Connor has an application submitted to the Municipal Infrastructure Investment Initiative for a bridge replacement project. If this capital funding application is approved prior to the final approval of the budget some of the expenses which the Township has incurred this year to submit the application for this project will be eligible under the funding and the budget will be adjusted accordingly.

Further adjustments will be made by the Clerk-Treasurer upon clarification and further investigation on the line items and funding projects. The second draft will be brought back to the next Council meeting to be held on May 13, 2013. If the Council feel the budget is acceptable at that meeting the final approval and the tax rate by-law will be passed at the May 27, 2013 meeting and tax bills will be sent out the beginning of June.

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

**THAT THE BUDGET MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, MAY 13, 2013 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**TIME BEING: 9:59 P.M.**

Carried

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Mayor

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Clerk-Treasurer