

Corporation of the Township of Guelph/Eramosa

Special Meeting of Council

MINUTES

Thursday, April 1, 2010

9:00 a.m.

Guelph/Eramosa Township Municipal Building

Present: Mayor Chris White, Councillors Doug Breen, Reta Moyer (arrived at 9:30 a.m.), John Scott and Roger Knapp

Present from Staff: CAO Janice Sheppard, Manager of Finance Linda Cheyne, Manager of Public Works Ken Gagnon, Manager of Parks and Recreation Robin Milne, Chief Building Official Mike Newark, Fire Chief Lyle Quan and Clerk Meaghen Reid

1. The Mayor called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: John Scott
Seconded by: Doug Breen

Be it resolved that the agenda for the April 1, 2010 Special Council Meeting be approved as presented.

Carried Unanimously

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Conflict of Interest

None.

4. Items for Discussion

4.1 Presentation of Proposed 2010 Budget

The Manager of Finance addressed Council with respect to a summary of the overall budget and indicated that each Manager would be presenting their budget to Council. She discussed the increase of \$72, 000 with regard to insurance and the increase to the GRCA levy as being this year's biggest budget issues. She indicated that there would not an increase to the employee pay grid in 2010. The Manager of Finance discussed the transfer from the Working Fund Reserve to reduce the overall amount to be raised from taxation. She discussed assessment and reminded Council that 2008 was a reassessment year for all property owners, initiating a four year phase-in assessment period from 2009 to 2010. She explained how the different changes to assessment would impact the Township's portion of taxes. She indicated that staff have

assessed the needs of their department to ensure sustainability and accountability to the taxpayer.

Chief Building Official Mike Newark provided an overview of the Building Department, noting that this budget would have no impact on taxation since the Building Department is self-financed through building permit fees. He noted that the Building Department is experiencing recovery since the decline of building projects in the latter half of 2009. He noted that the GRCA septic grant system would continue in 2010, which would likely result in a continued increase in septic permits.

Fire Chief Lyle Quan provided an overview of the Fire Department budget. He noted the inclusion of capital expenditures for propane fire extinguishing training equipment, bunker gear and upgrades to the communications system. He noted that increases within the operating budget have been offset by fire calls and burn permit revenues.

Robin Milne, Manager of Parks and Recreation, provided an overview of the Parks and Recreation Department budget, particularly with regard to the 2010 Capital Forecast. He discussed the increases to insurance for Township facilities, the demolition of the Old Rockwood Fire Hall and the payables regarding the previous medical centre. He discussed an anticipated grant from the County of Wellington to retrofit the washrooms in Rockmosa and discussed the sampling of the Eden Mills Community Centre and the associated UV upgrade.

With regard to the Marden Field House, the Manager of Parks and Recreation noted that bookings are already taking place for 2010 and 2011 and indicated that the grand opening of the facility is scheduled for September 2010. He also discussed the upgrades to the roof at the Rockmosa Community Centre, which has been included within the 2010 capital budget. In a discussion regarding the Parkinson cemetery, the Manager of Parks and Recreation noted that repairs to the granite columns would be taking place this coming year. Through the review of the 2010 capital forecast, the Manager of Parks and Recreation noted that an engineer report for the Rockwood Chapel has also been included within the budget, as the repair of the roof would need to take into account the unique architectural elements of the building. He also noted that it is proposed that a hydrant be installed in Max Storey Park in 2010 to assist with the flooding for an outdoor ice rink next winter.

The Manager of Public Works reviewed the 2010 Roads budget, discussed cross culverts to be updated and discussed the drop in fuel prices in 2009, which are expected to increase in 2010. He discussed the increase in insurance and the increase in claims over the last while with regard to issues such as vehicle accidents. The Manager of Public Works discussed the gravel maintenance program, shouldering and sidewalk maintenance. With regard to the 2010 Capital Forecast for Roads, he discussed the culvert on Jones Baseline, the Mill Road bridge and upgrades to the 6th Line. With regard to concerns about the impact that

the nearby aggregate quarry may be having on 6th Line, the Manager of Public Works indicated that he would contact the quarry company to see if they would be willing to contribute to the cost of this upgrade. He indicated that, if Council did not wish to proceed with 6th Line upgrades, that Speedvale could also be a potential project for 2010.

With regard to the Water budget, the Manager of Public Works discussed the challenges with working with Hydro for meter reading and noted the advantages of bringing this service in-house. He indicated that the Water Department is currently going through the licensing process for Drinking Water Quality Management Standard (DWQMS). He discussed the Water and Wastewater Study, which has been conducted over 4 years, and noted debentures currently coming to an end. He also discussed the upgrades to the Alma Street lift station.

The CAO reviewed the Planning budget and discussed expenditures with regard to the County of Wellington Official Plan review, the zoning by-law amendments concerning the Wellhead Protection Areas and industrial lands within the Township.

The Manager of Finance provided an overview of Council's budget, discussing allocations for special meetings and mileage and noted that there would not be a wage increase for members of Council. With regard to the Administration budget, the Manager of Finance discussed the decrease in supplementary billing and the payment in lieu of taxes. She also discussed the OMPF funding to be received by the Township in 2010. She noted the decline in inquiry letter revenue due to title insurance and discussed the capital items regarding computer software, computer hardware and the purchase or lease of a photocopier.

The Manager of Finance summarized that the budget presented today is still in draft form and not the finalized budget, should Council have any questions.

The Manager of Parks and Recreation noted that he would not be in attendance at the next budget meeting on April 8, 2010 and indicated that he could be contacted via email if Council had any questions regarding the Parks and Recreation budget.

5. Adjournment

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Chris White, Mayor

Meaghen Reid, Clerk