



MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2019

5:30 P.M.

**Town Hall – Clench-Dewan Lounge (Committee Room)
(Location was Changed to the Council Chambers)**

Councillor Frank Kennes, Chair

1. Roll Call.

Present: Mayor Joanne Vanderheyden
 Deputy Mayor Brad Richards
 Councillor John Brennan
 Councillor Frank Kennes
 Councillor Larry Cowan
 Councillor Neil Flegel
 Councillor Sandy Hipple
 Councillor Marie Baker

Absent with
 Notice: Councillor Steve Pelkman

Also present: Greg McClinchey, Chief Administrative Officer
 Fred Tranquilli, Director of Legal & Legislative Services/Clerk
 Bill Dakin, Director of Finance
 Matthew Stephenson, Director of Building and Planning
 Rob Lilbourne, Director of Community Services
 Brian George, Fire Chief
 Joe Pilon, Director of Technology Information
 George Elliott, Director of Engineering and Public Works
 Doug Payne, Manager of Human Resources
 Kerry Maloney, Acting Financial Analyst
 Jennifer Pereira, Assistant to Director of Legal & Legislative Services
 Lindsay Laskey, Manager of Accounting/Deputy Treasurer

Kim Arruda, Financial Analyst
Stephen Riczu, Resident
Steve Wright, Middlesex Banner
Grant Meme, My FM

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest. None.

3. Unfinished Business

a. 2019 Adjusted Preliminary Consolidated Operating Budget

Bill Dakin, Director of Finance presents his report on the 2019 operating budget. After the initial meeting staff was directed to reduce the taxation to 4% or less.

He highlighted what has been adjusted to reflect the increases. They are as follows:

Legal and Legislative

- Decrease of \$40,000, achieved by increasing admin overhead fee from Water/Wastewater.

Human Resources

- Decrease of \$24,000, achieved by net increase in admin overhead fee from Water/Wastewater.

Treasury

- Decrease of \$40,000, achieved by increasing net increase in admin overhead fee from Water/Wastewater.

Information Technology

- Increase of \$2,500 from reallocation of IT expenses.

Property Management

- Increase of \$2,600, achieved by increase reallocation of Recreation admin salary/benefits

Municipal Debt

- Decreased by \$2,600, correction of prior year streetlight loan payment.

Taxation and Grants

- Decrease of \$150,000, achieved by increasing supplemental tax income.

Building Inspection

- Although no taxation impact on Building Department, the changes decrease Planning taxation. Achieved by increasing building fees by \$700,000, increased managers salary/benefits reallocation by \$16,500, and a decrease transfer to reserve funds.

Cemetery

- Increase of \$21,000, achieved by increased reallocation of Recreation admin salary/benefits.

Public Works (Roads)

- Decrease of \$67,000, achieved by decrease in fleet transfer of \$35,000
- Increase in salary/benefit reallocation of \$115,000 to better reflect workflow.
- Decrease in OT wages by \$7,000
- Decrease of general expenses by \$30,000.
- Decrease in MISC Maintenance expense of \$6,000, \$30,000 tree maintenance and \$10,000 loose top maintenance.
- Decrease in safety devices (railway crossing) \$14,000.
- Decrease in SWM by \$30,000.
- Decrease in truck rental and small equipment purchase by \$5,000
- Decrease in contracted services of \$5,000.
- Decrease in maintenance by \$10,000.

Aquatics

- Increase of \$3,000 achieved by increasing allocation of Recreation Admin salary/benefits.

Arena

- Decrease of \$28,000 achieved by increasing ice revenue by \$23,000 and \$5,000 decrease in expenses.

Caradoc Community Centre

- Decrease of \$1,500 achieved by increased fees of \$1,000 and decrease of \$500 in expenses.

Recreation

- Decrease of \$104,000 achieved by increased program revenue of \$37,000.
- Increase of \$51,000 of Recreation admin salary/benefits to various departs
- Decrease of \$10,000 in camp wages
- Decrease in net expense of \$6,000.

Library

- Although no taxation impact on Library Department the changes decrease Recreation admin taxation, achieved by increasing Recreation admin salary/benefit reallocation by \$2,400 and decrease of the same amount transfer to reserve funds.

Museum

- Increase of \$1,300 achieved by increase reallocation of Recreation admin salary/benefits.

Parks

- Decrease of \$6,000 achieved increased rental revenue by \$5,000 and \$1,000 net decrease in expenses.

Community Development

- Decrease of \$90,000 achieved by increase carry forwards, added donations and decrease expenses.

Planning

- Decrease of \$16,500 achieved by increasing managers' salary/benefit allocation to Building Department.

Streetlight

- Included Special Area Rating taxation of \$263,351 in 2018 taxation to provide comparison number.

Councillor Flegel had concerns in regards to future needs reserves as capital needs are to be met. He is in favor of future needs reserves but think we should consider keeping it more in line with the asset management plan.

Councillor Flegel inquires on the 2018 budgeted line for Economic Development of \$30,000 in regards to the competition of a website refresh. Greg McClinchey, CAO clarifies that this was the creation of a Museum and Economic Development website.

Mayor Vanderheyden reminds council that this is passed on concept and council will still be able to make changes before the budget is passed. She was concerned with the reductions that have been made so far, and wanted to ensure the directors of each department are satisfied with these reductions.

Greg McClinchey, CAO expresses that staff have worked hard to produce a budget to meet council's wishes, however the future is unknown and that may fluctuate numbers.

Bill Dakin, Director of Financial Services notes that the OMPF fund of \$62,900 was transferred to the municipality and this amount is reflected 15% lower.

Councillor Cowan felt that the budget is a bit skinny, and based on weather conditions it's hard to determine what will come down the road. Greg McClinchey understands that it is a lean budget, but indicates that this allows directors to explore uses and adjust the way we deliver services.

Moved By Councillors Brennan and Baker

THAT: the Finance Committee Report dated January 23, 2019 be received and the 2019 Preliminary Consolidated Operating Budget be recommended as presented or revised at this meeting for inclusion in the 2019 Consolidated Budget. **Carried.**

4. Community Partnership Fund Requests 2019

Bill Dakin, Director of Financial Services presented the revised Community Partnership Fund Request for 2019 totalling \$39,288. These requests are incorporated in the Council Operating Budget and the 2019 budget.

The revised list with the Committee is as follows:

- The Art Group of Strathroy-Caradoc: requesting \$3,000 to assist with the 2019 Community Art Events.
- Strathroy & District Chamber of Commerce: requesting \$2,200 for the Spring Home Show and Family Fun Expo.
- Strathroy Hometown Festival – 41st Annual Turkey Fest: requesting \$15,000 for the 2019 Hometown Festival.
- Melbourne Agricultural Society: requesting \$5,000 for the funding for the Melbourne Agricultural Society.
- Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada: requesting \$300 for the rental of the West Middlesex Memorial Arena gym.
- Council Annual Donations: \$500 for Del-Ko-Brydges Canada Day events, \$735 Miscellaneous Donations (wreaths, school awards etc.), \$500 Mt Brydges Fire Fighters Association – Santa Claus Parade for Candy and giveaways, \$1,000 for Strathroy Lion's Club for annual support of the Santa Claus Parade.
- Hope Community Christian Reformed Church – Discount on hall rental for the Annual Community Event 1st Saturday in December.
- Mount Brydges Business Association: requesting \$500 for Community events and celebrations.
- Strathroy District Arts Council: requesting \$2,000 for the Strathroy Street Art event.
- Chiros Care: requesting a Friday-Sunday Gemini Arena rental for Casino Strathroyal.
- Strathroy-Caradoc Dog Owners Association: requesting \$1,500 for Liability Insurance.
- Caradoc Sands Golf Club: requesting \$5,000 for Canada Day Fireworks and fundraiser.

Fred Tranquilli, Director of Legal & Legislative Services presents the details on the application for Caradoc Sands Golf Club.

Mayor Vanderheyden support the event as it is a community event provided to the whole community.

Councillor Flegel also supports the monetary ask, but would like the money to be designated for something specific.

Moved By Mayor Vanderheyden and Councillor Brennen

THAT: Council approve the \$5,000 request from Caradoc Sands with the inclusion of a Municipal Liaison and earmarked the funds for insurance and fireworks. **Carried.**

Moved By Councillor Flegel and Deputy Mayor Richards

THAT: Council review and consider the Community Partnership Fund requests. **Carried.**

5. Next Budget Meetings

- Thursday, February 28, 2019 @ 5:30 p.m.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m. on a motion by Deputy Mayor Richards and Councillor Hipple.

Carried.

Mayor

Clerk