

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL
BUDGET MEETING**

July 2, 2013

The meeting was called to order by the Deputy Warden at 7:08 p.m., in the Conference Room, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington, N.S. with the following members present:

- Donna LeBlanc-Messenger, Chair
- Jody Crook
- George El-Jakl
- Shaun Hatfield
- Eddie Nickerson (7:10 p.m.)

- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

FIRE SERVICES

The results of the adjustments that were made to the proposed Fire Services budget produced a reduction of \$58,868.00.

It was the consensus of members that the Fire Services rates currently in place would be maintained, and the resulting adjustment would be made through the Annual Operating Grant to fire departments. This would mean that each of the fire departments would get varying amounts of Annual Operating Grants in order to meet the required expenditures contained in their budgets after review of Council. The Fire Services Advisory Committee will be meeting at the Island & Barrington Passage Fire Hall on July 10, 2013, at 7:00 p.m., at which time the resulting Fire Services funding will be discussed.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

An amount of \$40,000 has been included in the budget for economic development. This is the amount that it is anticipated will cost the Municipality to become a member of the proposed Regional Enterprise Network for Southwest Nova Scotia.

Members were informed that Clare has placed a condition on their membership in the Regional Enterprise Network. Their condition is that they will contribute only "in kind" from their Community Development Officer for the first year. The Town of Yarmouth has also placed a condition on their membership and that condition is that there will be no conditions placed by any other members when joining this Regional Enterprise Network.

It was suggested that our Municipality should require that a municipal unit be able to withdraw at the end of any given year from the proposed Regional Enterprise Network rather than having to wait another full year before withdrawing.

There was then some discussion regarding the benefits that may accrue from membership. There was also some discussion regarding the participation of volunteers from businesses and industry in this organization.

After much discussion it was the consensus of members that \$40,000 would be included in the budget for economic development, and a decision made at a later date as to whether or not this would be used for membership in the Regional Enterprise Network.

PHYSICIAN RECRUITMENT

Members were informed that \$100,000 has been provided in the budget for physician recruitment. This is as a result of discussions currently being held with two students who wish to return to the area.

It was the consensus of members that \$50,000 of the total amount would be included from the Special Reserve Fund Operating for the purpose of funding physician recruitment, if needed, during the year.

DEED TRANSFER TAX

Although members had previously discussed the implementation of a Deed Transfer Tax, no decision had been made. The proceeds of a Deed Transfer Tax could be used for projects in the Municipality, or could be used to fund such expenditures as Grants to Organizations.

It was the consensus of members that this would be omitted from the current year's budget, but a proposed By-Law should be considered by Council and further investigated.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Capital projects listed in the proposed budget have all been previously approved by Council with the exception of the Wind Turbine Generator Project for Sherose Island. It is proposed that two (2) small scale wind turbine generators be constructed at Sherose Island. These generators would be funded from the Municipal Reserves, Gas Tax Funds and Debenture Debt. There is some question as to the timing of this investment as obtaining approvals from DND and the Provincial COMFIT Program may require some time. Because the Gas Tax Funds will be required to be used by March 31, 2014, it was the consensus of members that these funds be used for other projects in the interim, and that the Wind Turbine Generator Project be funded from Reserves and Debenture Debt only.

Resolution COW130701

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by J. Crook that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality apply to the Provincial COMFIT Program for the construction of two (2) wind turbine generators at Sherose Island.

AFFIRMATIVE

Jody Crook
George El-Jakl
Shaun Hatfield
Eddie Nickerson

NEGATIVE

Donna LeBlanc-Messenger

Motion carried.

"J" CLASS ROADS

Members also discussed the use of Gas Tax Funds for the paving of additional "J" Class roads within the Municipality. These Gas Tax Funds will now be available since they are not going to be designated for wind turbine generator construction.

Under Municipal Policy it is necessary for residents of “J” Class roads to present a petition to the Municipality for this purpose.

This matter will be further discussed at a subsequent committee meeting.

ARENA BUDGET

The Arena Budget provided this year has been revised by the Manager. There is some question as to the resulting deficit that is expected. The proposed budget results in a net operating deficit of \$106,000.00. Although there was some discussion regarding this budget, there was no decision made at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Nearing the hour of 10:00 p.m., it was the consensus of members that the meeting be adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting

On website July 3, 2013.