



**MUNICIPALITY OF NORTH MIDDLESEX
SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING MINUTES**

The Special Budget Meeting of the Council of the Municipality of North Middlesex was held on Wednesday February 12, 2020 in the Council Chambers, Shared Services Centre, 229 Parkhill Main Street, Parkhill.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ropp called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with a quorum present.

2. ROLL CALL

Mayor Brian Ropp
Deputy Mayor Adrian Cornelissen
Councillor Ward One – Doreen McLinchey
Councillor Ward Two – Joan Nichol
Councillor Ward Three – Gord Moir (absent)
Councillor Ward Four – John Keogh
Councillor Ward Five – Andrew Hemming
CAO/Director of Operations – Jonathon Graham
Clerk Jackie Tiedeman
Treasurer, Tracy Johnson
Director of Economic Development and Community Facilities, Mike Barrier
Infrastructure Supervisor, Jonathan Lampman
Brandon Drew, Facilities Manager
Brad Davies, Public Works Manager

3. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None declared

4. PRESENTATION OF DRAFT OPERATION AND CAPITAL BUDGETS FOR 2020

Mayor Ropp advised that the March 11, 2020 Special Meeting to review the draft water/wastewater budget is cancelled and will be rescheduled as the date conflicted with attendance from Watson and Associates.

Also, Mayor Ropp advised that he has had discussions with the Clerk on including a provision for a public meeting for input or questions during the budget process. The Clerk advised that although there is no statutory requirement to hold a public meeting that Council can certainly recommend this approach.

MOTION #034/2020

NICHOL/MCLINCHEY: That Council direct staff to include a provision for public input, pertaining to the Draft Budget, at the February 19th Regular Meetings; and

That a similar approach be taken for the proposed Water/Wastewater Budget and Rate Study presentations.

CARRIED

Treasurer, Tracy Johnson, presented the 2020 Draft Operation and Capital Budget. She provided an overview of the budget process which takes into account the Strategic Plan, Asset Management Plan, Economic Development Plan, Community Input where applicable and Health and Safety – input from the Senior Management and Operation staff and is then presented to the Budget Committee. The Budget Committee met on January 7 and 13, 2020 for a thorough review of the draft budgets and then subsequently recommended them to be presented to Council for consideration.

During preparation of the budget the priority was control on spending; staff were aware of the need to conserve the programs, services and infrastructure of North Middlesex for its residents. Staff understands the financial pressures many tax payers are facing and have tried to find an appropriate balance.

The following is a breakdown of the four departments operating budget:

Administration and Finance

(includes Clerk, Treasury, Service Ontario and Cemetery)

2020 Revenue \$ 400,185

2020 Expenses \$2,311,312

Protective Services

(includes Fire, Fence viewing, Animal Control, By-law Enforcement, Health & Safety, Policing, ABCA, Mosquito Control, Crossing Guard)

2020 Revenue: \$10,300

2020 Expenses: \$2,546,196

Infrastructure and Operations

(includes Building, Planning, Drainage, Waste & Recycling, Gravel, Equipment, Winter Maintenance, Streetlights)

2020 Revenue: \$467,033

2020 Expenses: \$4,275,855

Economic Development and Community Services

(includes Economic Development, Facility rentals, YMCA, Facilities Maintenance etc)

2020 Revenue: \$475,445

2019 Expenses: \$1,565,215

GENERAL LEVY SUMMARY

OMPF Grant \$(1,165,800.)

ADMINISTRATION \$2,205,918.

PROTECTION TO PERSONS & PROPERTY \$2,533,563.

WORKS \$3,400,234

WASTE-RECYCLE \$256,627

CEMETERY \$25,845

FACILITIES & RECREATION \$982,470

PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT \$126,690

DRAINAGE \$139,794

TOTAL GENERAL \$8,505,340

CAPITAL LEVY SUMMARY

ADMIN \$13,160.

WORKS \$980,000.00

FACILITIES & RECREATION \$70,000.00

TOTAL CAPITAL \$1,063,160.

OVERALL TOTAL LEVY \$8,505,340.

The Treasurer advised that staff were able to decrease the tax rate a small amount and keep the budget balanced. The proposed 2020 tax rate increase is 0.00% (excluding county and school board). This 0.00% tax rate for municipal portion only does not take into account any 'phased in assessment increase' that a property owner may be subject too which would impact the amount of the overall tax dollar increase to a property on their 2020 tax notice. County tax rates are set by the County and at this time is not set and the school board tax rates are set by the provincial government.

Several questions were asked by Council and responded to by the appropriate department.

Matters identified coming before Council in the near future include a report regarding the Community Wellness Plan that is required by 2021; Flower Watering Program Report after expression for interest; status of the Optimist Foodbooth building in Parkhill; OPP billing and request for OPP delegation at future meeting; clarification on increase to 2020 levy from ABCA and looking into options for facility booking on-line.

There was discussion on the farmland tax rate at 25% of the residential rate and in the impact on landowners due to the significant increase in farmland assessment. The Treasurer will provide more information to Council on impact. It was reminded that the County has also had discussions on this same matter with no change to this percentage rate at this time due to other implications within other tax classes. Mayor Ropp thanked staff for their efforts in preparing these budgets.

5. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #35/2020

HEMMING/KEOGH: That the meeting adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

CARRIED

MAYOR

CLERK