

TOWNSHIP OF WHITEWATER REGION
Committee Meetings

Meeting Title: Budget Workshop Meeting
Place: Municipal Council Chambers

Date: Wednesday April 22, 2015
Start Time: 9:30am

COUNCIL IN COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Any submissions received from the public, either orally or in writing may become part of the public record/package.

NOTE: As of February 4, 2015 all Committee and Council meetings will be recorded and will be available the following day to be viewed on the Township website www.whitewaterregion.ca

Call to Order

Present: Reeve Terry Millar, Councillor Charlene Jackson, Councillor Dave Mackay, Councillor Daryl McLaughlin, Councillor Christopher Olmstead, Councillor Cathy Regier

Staff: Christine FitzSimons, Marsha Hawthorne, Bill Misener, Steven Hodson, Danielle Howatson

Chair Jackson called the Budget Workshop to order at 9:34 a.m. She noted that she has instructed Treasurer Marsha Hawthorne to deal only with the water and capital budgets at this time as the operating budget is straight forward and can be handled in an evening meeting.

WATER

Treasurer Hawthorne began her presentation with a recap of our last meeting. There was discussion regarding the necessity of the repairs listed at each of the Cobden, Beachburg and Haley water treatment plant. Environmental Services Manager Steven Hodson advised that there repairs are forecasted by OCWA and represent repairs that will need to be done. The budget amount for the repairs is \$22,750.00. There are miscellaneous needs at each of the water treatment plans as well and the budget amount proposed is \$15,000.00. Beachburg water treatment plant needs to continue with its aquifer study. CAO FitzSimons stated that we need to know what the capacity of is so that we can keep an eye on the ground water supply and ensure that it meets the needs of a developing community. \$30,000.00 has be allotted to this study but Mr. Hodson notes that the \$30,000.00 is an estimate. There is no inclusion of costs for wells and that this could be an assessment process that takes many years to complete and study.

Discussion turned to the surplus amount and how to deal with it. Chair Jackson suggested that the surplus be divided by the number of units. Cobden receives 49%, Beachburg receives 47% and Haley's receives 3% of the surplus. Chair Jackson also suggested that the \$33,000.00 that was taken from sewer to balance water be put back into the sewer reserve from the 2014 water surplus and the remaining amount be put into the Cobden water reserves. She would like to see three separate reserves; one for each of Cobden, Beachburg and Haley's. Councillor McLaughlin noted that if we are repaying one reserve, we had better consider same for all. Treasurer Hawthorne has been instructed to research any surplus and bring them back into general. Treasurer Hawthorne will bring any information she finds back to council.

Haley's is looking at a major increase in their water billing. There was discussion about ways to assist them to prevent the dramatic increase required to balance their water budget. Questions about a shared system; one rate for all water users; or if a small percentage of the water surplus could be applied to help mitigate costs for Haley's were posed. Chair Jackson suggested we need an opinion from the province. Staff is directed to contact Stephen Seller of the MMAH to find out what their recommendations are for funding.

Treasurer Hawthorne asked council to consider an increase for Cobden as well as Beachburg and Haley's so that we can build up the reserve and have it on hand in the event we need it for repairs and the like. Treasurer Hawthorne and Mr. Hodson were asked to work out a few scenarios including dividing the fees by the amount of units to get one rate and adding the remaining surplus (after the withdrawal of the \$33,000.00) to Haley's. The result is that adding the surplus of \$26,193.00 to Haley's means a 33.5% increase instead of 103%. If the amount of \$900.00 is added to Beachburg, the rate will increase to 30.5%. Councillor McLaughlin wondered if there is any way Ottawa River Power Corporation fund could help to offset the increase in Beachburg? Chair Jackson felt it would be prudent to apply that money to Beachburg as it is their dividend. The amount of \$30,000 was selected to come out of the fund to pay for the aquifer study and that brings the Beachburg rate down to 12.5%.

Treasurer Hawthorne again asked council to consider some sort of increase for Cobden. CAO FitzSimons also reminded council that we may be in a position to have to contribute \$3Million to the Cobden water plant should we be successful in getting the grant. Councillor Olmstead stated that he wanted to wait to see what happens with the Cobden sewer rate before he can decide on an increase as water and sewer are billed together and it is potentially going to be a significant increase. As it stands, Haley's rates to increase 33.5%, Beachburg rates to increase 12.5% and Cobden will be discussed further at the May 13, 2015 meeting. Treasurer Hawthorne has been directed to apply the \$33,000.00 to the sewer budget and provide a number with the amount and without and bring it back to the Corporate Services meeting on May 13, 2015 so that council can identify the impact of the sewer increase on Cobden ratepayers and decide what, if any, increase to apply to water rates. The meeting will commence at 5:30pm and dinner will be provided.

Recess at 11:45am

All members present including Mayor Hal Johnson at 12:40pm

Capital Projects

Public Works Manager Bill Misener provided council with an Asset Management Plan Roads Needs Summary and made his recommendations for that work that he felt should be completed.

It has been recommended that Cornerview Road be redone as it has been on the list since 2014. The recommendation includes leaving it for a year before it gets chipped. It was decided that the repairs to Rapid Road, Cornerview Road, St. Augustine Road are to be proceeded with. It was also recommended that the repairs to Grants Settlement Road, and Snake River Line be decided upon once the impact on taxation becomes apparent.

With respect to administration, iPads were discussed and it was voted on by council that 10 iPads with keyboards will be purchased with the taxation budget. The sitting area project for the building department was also voted on and will be put into the taxation budget.

The yard at the fire hall in Forester's Falls needs to be paved at an approximate cost of \$20,000. It was voted and passed that this is to be completed. Councillor Olmstead asked if the \$20,000 could be taken out of reserves and it was decided that we would wait to see if it effected taxation.

A new calcium tank is required. There is \$25,000 in reserves for it. That leaves an amount of \$5,000 as the total cost is \$30,000. The \$5,000 will have to come out of reserves. Mr. Misener also has a request for two tandem trucks in his budget proposal. CAO FitzSimons advised that we need to begin working towards a fleet replacement policy so that, in the future, everyone is aware of what needs to be replaced and it can be included in a proposal accordingly. It is recommended that Mr. Misener purchase one vehicle in this 2015 budget however, he is to explore a few options with respect to getting two vehicles. Can two be delivered and bill one in 2015 the other in January, 2016? Can we tender for one now and have staggered delivery dates for both trucks? Can we defer payment for 120 days? Can we order two now and pay later. Mr. Misener will bring back information to the May 13, 2015 budget meeting.

There was discussion centering around the sand dome in Westmeath. The question was raised if we should be fixing the old or getting a new one as this one does not meet capacity requirements and is 35 years old. Discussion was tabled until May 13, 2015.

All proposed building maintenance was agreed on.

The renovations to the tourist booth were discussed. Staff was directed to contact the Civitan Club to see if they would be willing to contribute to the renovations. A decision was deferred until the May 13, 2015 meeting to see if we have a decision from the Civitan Club.

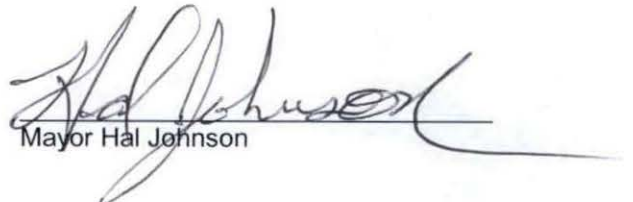
Dredging at the beach was discussed. There is \$50,000 in working capital reserves but this is a major expense that will not be covered by \$50,000. Mr. Hodson cautioned that this is a very well oiled process but it is a very costly one.

The Crawler/Loader at the landfill is unfinanced. Half of it was paid last year out of reserves but the remaining amount is outstanding. It was agreed that \$54,000 would be taken out of reserves to pay for the machine and the rest out of taxation.

Staff was directed to bring their budget material all together to present on May 13, 2015 beginning at 5:30p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25pm.


Christine FitzSimons, CAO Clerk


Mayor Hal Johnson