

MINUTES of a Meeting of a Special Budget Meeting of the Council of the Township of North Frontenac held Thursday, April 10, 2008, at the Barrie Township Hall, Cloyne, ON

PRESENT: Mayor Ron Maguire; Councillor Fred Perry and Councillor Wayne Good – Ward 1; Councillor Wayne Cole and Councillor Lonnie Watkins – Ward 2; and Deputy Mayor Jim Beam and Councillor Bob Olmstead – Ward 3.

ALSO PRESENT: Cheryl Robson, CAO/Treasurer and Brenda Defosse, Clerk.

PUBLIC MEETING OPEN

The Mayor declared the Public Meeting open at 9:30 a.m.

DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None declared.

MAYOR'S OPENING REMARKS

The Mayor's opening remarks explained this meeting is to discuss the final 2008 budget and to get public feedback on it before Council makes any final changes. This is the first year to present the draft this soon - six weeks early. Council gave preliminary approval to the construction projects back in January to enable tenders to be issued and to avoid delays with the Departments' Work Plans, approval in principle was given to the 2008 budget in March. The announcement from the Minister of Transportation a week ago informed us we were getting \$1.362 million to put into Roads and Bridges Infrastructure Capital Investment needs. Since we had given preliminary approval to the budget, we then had another meeting to see what impact this would have on this year's budget. I have since received a letter that Council will have to make choices by June 30, 2008 on how these funds are proposed to be spent and what the conditions will be on that funding. A Provincial Audit will be completed on this funding and if it is not spent on the priority items intended, the Ministry can take the funds back. I will be responding to the Ministry as to just where the funds will be used.

At this point the Mayor stated he will turn the meeting over to the CAO/Treasurer to explain the budget and the differences between last year and this year and to explain the grant in detail. Then the Mayor explained he will hear from Council and will open the floor to the public for comments and questions. Council may be in a position to pass a by-law later in the meeting, approving the budget as proposed, with or without additional changes, depending on this discussion.

CAO/TREASURER'S BUDGET REPORT

The CAO/Treasurer read aloud her opening remarks and 2008 Budget Report, a copy of which is attached.

The CAO/Treasurer also provided some sample calculations and reviewed the summary (see attached).

The CAO/Treasurer explained once the 2008 Budget (Draft 2009 Budget) is approved these details are available for the public and if anyone has any further questions after tonight's meeting, please do not hesitate to contact her at the municipal office.

COUNCIL AND PUBLIC COMMENT

The Mayor opened the Meeting for comment by members of Council as well as members of the Public. The Mayor thanked the CAO and Department Heads for a job well done.

COUNCIL AND PUBLIC INPUT:

Maguire explained the Long Term Capital Plan and that starting next year we must build into all our planning, to include the value of all township assets. We now have to identify what the buildings/vehicles, etc are worth, their lifespan; maintenance dollars required to be put into same to keep them up to standard, which is a lot of work and will impact all our taxes continually. Maguire explained that Beam chaired the Community Facilities Needs Analysis Task Force, along with Perry and Cole, the REDPC and several members of the public. After going through a lot of structures over the last few years, including Engineer Reports on some buildings, to determine which Community Halls we can afford to and should maintain; it has come back to Council that they are all important and valuable to us. When looking at the township assets, we must look into the future years. For example, 15 – 25 years in terms of our landfill sites and the money required to be put into them.

In discussing "the Letter from the Mayor", why is Council doing something and not something else? All decisions are taken seriously by Council, are dealt with collectively by Council and we must keep in mind our future.

Beam noted we are still paying for the Fernleigh dump, per MOE requirements but it has been closed for many years. The liability is owned by the Township. Paving the Municipal Office is required by the Province as part of our Salt Management Plan. On the tender for vehicles, the existing trucks have outlived their usefulness, beyond economical repair. The CBO, REDPC and Fire Chief will no longer be paid mileage. At the present time the CBO, REDPC and Fire Chief do not have a township vehicle and other employees will also be able to drive township vehicles (i.e. less than paying mileage).

Good noted the Council Road Tour of all Wards was a two day process and determined which roads needed what work now and in the future. No road has been forgotten, but the ones Council feel, in consultation with the PWM, require the work will be done first. If we had the money to do them all, we would. The Long Term Plan is to review all assets and to determine the financial impacts re: Sustainability.

Cole commented on the \$1.36 million received and mentioned taking \$300,000.00 and using it in 2008 and putting the balance in a Reserve Fund for the future. Of the \$2.4 Million received at amalgamation, the same was spent year after year until it was

depleted, and now we are looking at a major tax increase. He noted that Ottawa is looking at a 5% increase in 2008.

Perry noted we have 520 single lane kilometers of roads in North Frontenac to maintain. (1,040 lane kms to maintain)

Denise Bedard commented North Frontenac has until January 2009 to submit a plan to PSAB that includes all of our assets and values and addressing same over the long term. Is this an Internal Assessment or what is the system?

CAO explained the GRIPPS program lists all of the Township Roads and Bridges, and the estimated replacement costs. The County PWMs are looking at upgrades to our Pavement Management System (i.e. GRIPPS and MDW programs through the Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA). Also, it is proposed to use monies from the new Roads & Bridges grant to complete Engineer Bridge Inspections in 2008. **Maguire** said we inspect the bridges every 2 years. Totten, Sims, Hubicki (TSH) charged approximately \$9,000.00 this year. Inventory is to be done in-house and a Long Term Capital Plan, with \$20,000.00 to be included in the 2008 budget as an estimate for possible consultant/auditor fees. **Ibey** noted the bridge structure data from amalgamation will be provided to the Engineer and the Bridge Inspection Report will show asset values and provide comparisons to the Engineers for how the bridges are lasting/deteriorating since the initial review. The Public Works Department inspects the bridges regularly and TSH gives us the bigger picture. North Frontenac has 21 large bridge structures, which are costly to replace/repair.

Beam said that under PSAB requirements a value must be put on every single asset.

Maguire noted should the Municipality not carry out PSAB requirements, it will be penalized.

Bedard - the Fire Hall in Ompah had \$50,000.00 put into a reserve fund in 2007 and another \$50,000.00 in 2008. **CAO** confirmed this is correct and are placed into a Reserve Fund for future purposes. Also, she is looking into financing of the proposed new Fire Pumper, over 5 years, with possible purchase in 2008. The estimate for the pumper is \$230,000.00 with \$50,000.00 towards it this year.

Wayne Southward commented on Market Value versus Current Assessment and the Tax Rate calculation, noting it should have dropped for some. For example, when MPAC did the reassessment of everyone's property in the province, some properties, like his own tripled in value, which met an increase in revenue. He did not see a reduction from the municipal taxes to offset this, therefore was there not a "windfall" when this increased assessment occurred? **Beam** explained in 2005 the assessments were frozen, unless a new building was built (i.e. property improvements). Assessment should have remained the same, according to the Province. There was no "windfall" experienced due to the reassessment. **CAO** explained the municipality continues

receiving additional Regulations from the Province, which are mandated without additional funding.

Steve Smart talked about the reconstruction/paving of Highway 41 continuing south and the paving for Barrie Fire Hall costing approximately \$23,000 and the proposed new training room estimated at \$35,000 to be put into a reserve fund in 2008. He talked about the timing of the training room and if this is the proper timing to do this and expressed concerns about the location of the entrance and suggested warning lights be installed. He also, explained concern with the location of the proposed pull-off at the Cloyne Ball Park. **Trevor Snider** stated to change the location of the entrance to the fire hall would cut off their access, as their access is share with the fire hall.

Ibey said he received a call yesterday from Jim Sampson, MTO Engineer, and they are looking at finishing the part they are working on from now to mid June. The plan is to overlap with the south part of the job and because they spent so much extra money on the north end they are looking at decreases here in Cloyne (i.e. street lighting not to be undertaken) and decreasing the southern drainage problems by lining the culverts and pipes in the Village rather than replacing them. A tender in the MTO's budget is for under 7 kms this summer. A letter is to be sent to Council.

Perry stated that Smart's concerns were not mentioned at the Joint Kaladar Barrie Fire Board meetings and that the Barrie Fire Hall paving could be put into a Reserve Fund for the future. Perry asked Trevor Snider to explain the entrance location. Mr. Snider explained that entrance location versus their pit entrance.

CAO provided clarification that Council approved the paving of the Barrie Fire Hall as part of our paving contract that has been awarded by Council. There are no monies in the budget for the Barrie Township Hall paving, but if it works with the MTO reconstruction/paving of Hwy 41 in 2008, Council could decide to have these monies come from a Reserve Fund.

Beam explained the roadside pull off, being a rest stop/washroom facility at the Cloyne Ball Park would be an enhancement for the tennis court users, and would help the local businesses. **REDPC** said plastic outdoor privies would be rented for the summer season. **Terry Hatfield** suggested that the pull off on the highway is a Provincial responsibility. There is a rest stop built on Highway 7. Council instructed the REDPC to look into this. **Beam** stated other municipalities have done the same on their own. **Smart** said it is not tourist-friendly without same, but questioned vandalism which the Ball Park building has had in the past. **Maguire** explained the necessity for public privies and said people will head there once they know where it is. **Beam** said vandalism has been discussed and privies will be put out by the tennis courts out by the road, not set back by the canteen. It will be more visible and not get the school traffic. If it doesn't work out we will let the public know and remove same.

Smart asked if that building (canteen) on the property was totally useless? **Perry** confirmed it is never used and has been closed.

Caroline Ferguson asked about the plans behind the chair lift in the Fire Hall for Council or whatever meetings. **Maguire** explained that the chair lift is to be put in that building and the township has applied for Federal/Provincial JEPP funding at 45%. **CAO** explained that even without JEPP funding, we still have to fund same and put it in, as this is the Emergency Operations Centre and it is mandatory to be accessible. By the year 2010 new legislation will be mandated, Disabilities Act, stating that municipalities shall meet the accessibility standards.

Maguire asked if there were any further questions. There was none.

TAX RATE BY-LAW #31-08

To be presented for consideration at the Regular Meeting of Council following this meeting.

The Mayor thanked those present for attending and for their input.

PUBLIC MEETING CLOSED

The Mayor declared the Public Meeting closed.

Mayor

Clerk