



ROTHESAY COUNCIL

SPECIAL OPEN SESSION

Tuesday, December 4, 2012

MINUTES



PRESENT: MAYOR WILLIAM J. BISHOP
DEPUTY MAYOR NANCY GRANT
COUNCILLOR MATT ALEXANDER
COUNCILLOR PAT GALLAGHER JETTE
COUNCILLOR PETER J. LEWIS
COUNCILLOR BLAIR MacDONALD
COUNCILLOR BILL McGUIRE
COUNCILLOR MIRIAM WELLS

TOWN MANAGER JOHN JARVIE
TOWN CLERK MARY JANE BANKS
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS (DO) BRETT McLEAN
DIRECTOR OF PARKS/REC (DPR) CHARLES JENSEN
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING/DEVELOPMENT (DPDS) BRIAN WHITE
TREASURER SUSAN JOHNSON
FINANCIAL OFFICER ELLEN STEEVES

Mayor Bishop called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Treasurer Johnson gave a presentation on the Rothesay Draft Budgets for 2013. She noted staff review their department budgets, along with the Town Manager and various committees which are then reviewed by the Finance Committee prior to presentation to Council. She also noted the Finance Committee holds a joint meeting with the Quispamsis Finance Committee to review the Police, Fire and Library budgets. It was noted the assessments were received from the Province on November 29th.

Draft 2013 Utilities Operating Budget and Capital Budget

- recommended sewer rate increase from \$280 to \$300
- total operating budget of \$2.525 million
- water expenses – lower fees, training, shut-off valve in 2012
- sewer expenses – increased testing, sewer videos, increased training
- fiscal – increase capital through borrowing
- costs associated with a new wastewater treatment plant design will be more than \$1 million (new guidelines to be met by 2020)
- brief discussion on anticipated legal costs for contract dispute
- sewage fees subsidize in part the water utility
- average water bill is \$470/year and sewer is recommended for \$300
- decommissioning of KPark lagoon is budgeted at \$200,000 for 2015
- total capital expenditures of \$1.13 million
- financing from Operating \$350,000, Gas Tax Funding \$80,000, Borrowing \$600,000
- water projects – water system supply development, chlorine contact chamber, membrane racks
- sewer projects – lift station improvements, man-hole replacement

Draft 2013 General Fund Operating Budget and Capital Budget

- total operating budget of 415.865 million
- potential loss of rent revenue from Town Hall
 - brief discussion on options – budget contains worst-case scenario
- increased costs in protective services budgets
- transportation budget increase of 3.8% - salaries, fuel cost escalation
 - railway crossing signals – contracts currently under review
- environmental health increase of 5.33% mostly attributable to solid waste collection
 - solid waste \$108/tonne, compost \$28/tonne

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- environmental development services increase due to additional staff and master plan for Hillside development
- Recreation and Parks/Culture decrease of 5.26% - lower apartment expenses, staff re-allocation and lower Regional Facilities Commission and playgrounds costs
- fiscal expenses lower due to lower interest, debenture and capital through operating
- original capital budget \$7.737 million
 - general government and protective services \$182,000
 - transportation \$3.095 million
 - recreation \$4.46 million
- capital projects include building repairs, fire service vehicle, asphalt re-surfacing, storm sewers, sidewalks, equipment, fieldhouse partial design, Rothesay Common improvements, Arthur Miller Fields building, Renforth Park and trails
- the Finance Committee recommends a change in the proposed Recreation Capital Budget to \$5.51 million as follows:
 - addition of \$1.2 million for Rothesay Common project
 - reduction of \$150,000 in scope for building at Arthur Miller Fields
- revised total operating capital budget of \$8.787 million

General comments

- projected year end surplus at present is explained in monthly financial statement variance reports and also because some projects were not completed in 2012
- assessment increase of 1.35%, which is the lowest in 15 years
- slight decrease in revenue
- loss of \$100,000 in unconditional grant
- decrease in Town Hall rent
- recommendation to maintain tax rate at \$1.19

There was a general discussion with respect to the proposed fieldhouse project and related costs. Treasurer Johnson noted the figure is included as part of the capital plan that is required to make a borrowing application to the province. It was noted although the amount is budgeted it may not be spent. The figure includes architectural design costs and it is difficult to calculate the exact impact on the tax rate for the project until more information is obtained and future grant amounts, borrowing costs, operating expenses and changes in assessment are not firm calculations. The estimated range could be from \$0.07 to \$0.15 on the tax rate.

Previous expenditures were noted and clarification was requested with respect to the change in scope for the proposed project and how the scope was determined. It was noted Council approved in principle the arena renovations and construction of a fieldhouse at the November 13th Council meeting, based on the exp Architects report. Town Manager Jarvie distributed a memorandum outlining the steps needed to move the project forward and approximate costs. It was further noted Growth Strategies is in the process of preparing a business plan as approved by Council at the November 13th meeting. Mayor Bishop concluded the amount was included in the budget but requires further approval by Council before it is spent.

There were a few questions with respect to the Transportation budget and it was noted French Village Road will be re-built and the micro-seal on Chatwin Street will be monitored for quality. It is intended there will be \$250,000 in the 2014 budget for micro-sealing on roads in Rothesay East. Gondola Point Road will be curb and no gutter, a super elevation correction will be done on Grove Avenue, and the Hampton Road Concept plan includes 3 lanes of traffic, 2 bike lanes, green space and medians to channelize traffic. A sidewalk will be installed on Sierra Avenue to the playground.

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Treasurer Johnson concluded her presentation, noting the budgets will be on the Council agenda for Monday, December 10th along with the required motions to approve the budgets. It was recommended amounts be included for future years for the fieldhouse project.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Counc. McGuire and seconded by Counc. Wells the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

MAYOR

CLERK