

The Corporation of the Town of Plympton-Wyoming
Special Council Meeting, Budget 2011

Date: Monday, March 28, 2011
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Location: Plympton-Wyoming Council Chambers
546 Niagara St., Wyoming, Ont.

Council Members Present: Lonny Napper, Mayor
Don Nelson, Deputy Mayor
Ben Dekker
Netty McEwen
Ron Schenk
Bob Woolvett
Muriel Wright

Staff Members Present: Kyle Pratt, Chief Administrative Officer (C.A.O.)
Caroline DeSchutter, Clerk
Norma Roddick-Preece, Treasurer
Carol Hoskin, Accounts Coordinator
Stan Calow, Public Works Superintendent

Call to Order

At 5:00 p.m., Mayor Lonny Napper called the meeting to order, and asked the Treasurer, Norma Roddick-Preece, to address the draft Budget documents with Council and staff.

Review of Draft 2011 Budget Documents

Reference was made to the 2011 Budget information package, as prepared by Ms. Roddick-Preece and staff, and distributed to Council beforehand for review in preparation for this first 2011 Budget Meeting. Carol Hoskin made reference to a handout distributed at this meeting, regarding "Golf Course Update" reassessment calculations. It was confirmed that an additional \$10,000 had been included in the Budget's Tax Adjustments amount, increasing the amount from \$15,000 to \$25,000. Treasurer Norma Roddick-Preece also made reference to the summarized list of "Changes for 2011 Budget", dated March 25, 2011, that had been included in Council's agenda package for their March 30th Regular Meeting.

C.A.O. Kyle Pratt confirmed that staff's recommendation to Council was the implementation of Option A in the four "Options for Funding Deficit" in the Budget Report and Summary, Page 2, which provided for a 3.5% increase in tax rate. Councillors Ron Schenk and Ben Dekker respectively proposed Council's endorsement of the said recommendation. Other Council members expressed their wishes to discuss in detail portions of the budget documents, and be given the opportunity to clarify information provided in the budget documents.

Subsequent discussion and review included the following points being made, and several decisions with respect to changes in the budget estimates:

- Proposed by Kyle Pratt that the difference between the newly-calculated “Total to Find” and the former amount (\$343,448 compared to \$387,073, being \$43,625) be apportioned back to the \$50,000 proposed cut-back to the Sand/Salt Dome Reserve amount, and a new total of \$73,625 be added to the said reserve.
- Suggestion made to reserve 50% of the Huron Heights Street Reconstruction Project in this year’s budget, and defer the remaining 50% to the 2012 Budget, with the actual work being completed in 2012. Councillor Schenk questioned the inclusion of curbs in the street reconstruction, and it was clarified by Stan Calow that this had been the engineer’s recommendation, in light of the smaller residential frontages and the density of housing/ population in the area. It was noted that curbing was costed-out at \$80,000/km.
- Was noted that subsequently the waterline portion of the said project would be deferred to next year as well, and that the Water/Sewer Committee could entertain waterline reconstruction projects in Wellington Beaches 1 and 2 this year as an alternative.
- Council questioned Stan Calow on the actual need for a sand/salt storage dome, asking if the use of salt would be allowed to continue by the Province. He replied that he was unaware of any plans to cease the use of salt, but that it was being well monitored. Kyle Pratt echoed Public Works employees’ concerns regarding lack of proper storage, and Councillor Schenk confirmed the importance and the need for such.
- General Government “Miscellaneous” – increase from \$12,515 to \$23,500 estimate questioned – the Treasurer explained that this included additional items of \$5,000 for Christmas Lights, \$3,000 for the new Camlachie Picnic, and \$3,000 for new lapel pins.
- Confirmed by C.A.O. Kyle Pratt that the provision for \$20,000 for Pay Equity/Salary Adjustments provided for the use of a consultant to undertake a Pay Equity review and update, and possibly partially fund some salary adjustments.
- \$35,000 for Accessibility Standards included \$17,000 for renovations at the front entrance in the Municipal Office, and the balance for the municipal website update as well as doors in other municipal buildings; C.A.O. Kyle Pratt did confirm that \$30,000 grant money had recently been approved by the Feds for the municipality, and that this would be deposited back into the subject Reserve.
- Transportation Services – was decided by majority of Council to delete the \$50,500 for the Blue Heron Road ditching/drainage project, noting that the traffic volume on the said road did not warrant the expense at this time. Later during the meeting, it was suggested by Councillor Ben Dekker that Council approve the expenditure of \$8,500 as an interim measure to minimize washout on the road, but majority of Council did not support this. It was noted that the road should be posted as an unimproved road, and that the local school bus companies should be advised accordingly. In light of this cut from the Roads Budget, the initial full allocation of \$80,000 for the salt dome was reinstated. Stan Calow confirmed that the complete estimate for a new salt shed two years ago was \$241,000.
- Planning & Development Budget – concern expressed regarding the optimistic revenues presented, and the high increase in expenses this year – was noted by staff that this included two unusual expenditures this year - \$50,000 for OMB legal fees (which was noted were not normally recoverable), and \$23,000 for the Development Charges Study

- Reserves List – several changes noted - \$5,000 GIS Training reserve could be deleted, as subsequent training of staff would occur as part of regular training budget if necessary; the \$1,650.08 Uttoxeter Bridge reserve could be deleted, as the project was complete; the \$1,056.18 Community Policing reserve was deleted, but that same amount added to the Community Policing budget as an alternative ; noted that “Oil Heritage Trail” should be referred to as the Wyoming-Reeces Corners Community Trail; the Garbage Surplus reserve was explained, and confirmed that this would be applied when needed to solely benefit the users of the same service
- Wyoming and Camlachie Fire Department budgets reviewed in detail; reference made to the \$20,000 to be added to the Wyoming budget as an expenditure back into reserves; reference made to the \$6,000 provided for firemen’s uniforms, which is to be deleted as part-and-parcel of the \$35,000 proposed reduction of the Fire Truck reserve allocation (being reduced from \$70,000 in the initial budget to \$41,000 with the aforesaid adjustment)
- Provisions for the requested Dog Park discussed – proposed by Muriel Wright, and by Netty McEwen. Councillor Don Nelson advised Council that he felt a Committee of volunteers would eventually be willing to fundraise for the park; C.A.O. Kyle Pratt confirmed that Planning staff had been asked for a report to Council regarding the park, to outline costs and proposed locations. Actual provision in the budget was deferred at this time until next year.
- Bowling Green Park building discussed. Councillor Ben Dekker confirmed that the Parks Board was contemplating relocation of the Card Shanty building away from the public park, as it was felt that it was no longer being used. In response to Councillor Netty McEwen, Mr. Dekker also explained in detail the plans for Sunset Acres. Councillor Bob Woolvett suggested that new park signs were needed in various areas, and it was confirmed that this was not included in the current budget.
- The proposed cost of renovations for the Wyoming Wee Ones building (\$25,400) was deleted at this time; discussion included the possible sale of the building. Staff was asked for an inventory of all municipally-owned buildings, a history of maintenance expenses for past five years, insurance costs, and the potential for taxation revenue for the respective buildings. Staff was also asked to determine the subjectivity of the sale of the Wee Ones building to the sale of public land/surplus declaration process in place by by-law in the municipality.
- Mayor Napper proposed that Council eventually contemplate the combined eventual sale of certain Town-owned properties to facilitate the eventual purchase of added lands to the Public Works depot at Reeces Corners to meet growing Public Works Dept. needs.

At this time, Council agreed to adjourn discussion and review, and staff was asked to recalculate the numbers as discussed, and update Council accordingly at its regular meeting on Wednesday, March 30th, regarding the status of the revised Budget estimates.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Clerk

Mayor