

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES BUDGET MEETING – MAY 18, 2016

Minutes of the budget meeting held on Wednesday, May 18, 2016 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Present: Mayor Vezina  
 Councillors: Alkins, Foekens, Loan, Racicot,  
 Clerk-Treasurer Buob  
 Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Racicot  
 Fire Chief Henry Mattas  
 Leadhand Kelly Johnson

Mayor Vezina called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof: none.

Mayor Vezina turned the meeting over to the Clerk-Treasurer to present the full draft budget line by line. The Clerk-Treasurer explained how the numbers were determined. An explanation of the taxation revenue included in draft #1 budget was provided. The residential/farm/managed forest and commercial/industrial taxation is based on 2015 tax rates and 2016 assessment values, the line items in accounts 4020 and 4040, titled Taxation Arrears are actually the Education amounts and the increase in the supplemental revenue is due to the new homes built in 2015 and the assessment not picked up on the 2016 tax roll. The bottom line of the full budget shows the variance required to balance the budget.

The rest of the revenue accounts were explained. Transferring from Reserves was discussed. The Federal Gas Tax Reserve full balance will be pulled out and will be included in the revenue to be used for this year's projects. There was \$5,000 also put into the Road Equipment Reserve at year end for the purchase or repair of a wing for Truck #7, which was originally budgeted for in 2015 but was not completed. This amount will be pulled out to have done in 2016.

The meeting continued with the review of the expenses for the Township. Council meeting expenses were discussed. Special meeting and conference attendances were confirmed with each member of Council.

Under the administration salaries a possible part-time administrative assistant was discussed. It was suggested possibly 2 days per week for 14 weeks starting in September and run through to December. This would help to get caught up with the office backlog and possible help with the Official Plan/Zoning By-law review or the Asset Management update. Summer students were also discussed. At this time the Clerk-Treasurer has not heard back from the Canada Summer Jobs funding which, if successful would cover 50% of the wage of one student for the road department. The YES employment program, which the Township has used for the last few years, is not an option for this year. The estimated cost of having three students without offsetting funding was discussed.

Mr. Kelly Johnson, Leadhand, was welcomed to the table to review the Road Department's portion of the budget and explain any changes made since draft #1 was presented on April 11, 2016. A letter from TBT Engineering Consulting Group was read with regard to a proposed detour for Highway 590 in the Year 2017. The proposed detour is for the closure of Highway 590 at Cedar Creek structure #3 as shown on the map attached to the letter. The letter noted that during the ongoing design process it has been determined that it would not be safe to recommend stage construction and therefore, a detour would be the preferred option. They are proposing the use of Earl Road and Connolly Road for this detour. If Council approve the detour in 2017 on Earl Road Mr. Johnson will have to change the proposed road projects for 2016 and 2017 to accommodate. Mr. Johnson informed Council that he has gone out and looked at the culverts and any other concerns he would have with regard to the detour on Earl Road in 2018 and has found that there are several culverts that will need to be replaced prior to the additional heavy traffic. Due to the location of the 2017 detour the number of large logging, gravel and fuel trucks that would be using this detour Mr. Johnson has major concern. This would include increased truck traffic from Taranis' gravel pit, Firesteel

Contractors and other private logging companies coming off of the Adrian Lake and Boreal Roads. This mixed with the recreational traffic heading out to the lakes and the local traffic is not acceptable. The Township roads were not built for that much heavy

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traffic. The suggestion of Earl road as the detour route is also unrealistic as it is several kilometres out of the way and traffic would be taking the closest route, that being Cronk road which also has narrow corners and a long hill. For the safety of our residents and the travelling public Mr. Johnson recommends that this detour not be permitted. TBT Engineering will be contacted to see if they can attend the Council meeting to be held on Tuesday, May 24, 2016 to discuss this further in person.

Mr. Johnson also noted that his current plan to resurface two miles of Earl road in 2017 would have to move up to 2016 if the detour is changed as proposed by TBT Engineering.

With regard to the balance of the Road Department budget he noted that truck #9 is currently at the repair shop with injector issues and an additional amount has been added to the maintenance line for these repairs. Also due to the Official Plan and Zoning By-law review being included as a Federal Gas Tax expense the two culvert replacements on Earl Road have been pulled from that account and added as a separate Road Project #3. It was also noted that a final credit has still not been received from Strongco for the grader engine repairs and therefore not included in the budget at this time.

Fire Chief Mattas was welcomed to the table to once again review the Fire Department's portion of the budget and any changes made to the draft #1 of the budget presented at the budget meeting held on April 25, 2016. The honourarium increases were included. Following the recent Ministry of Natural Resources fire training it was noted that fire retardant coveralls and helmets should be purchased for the fire fighters as their turnout gear is not appropriate for grass fires. Fire Chief Mattas has added to the budget the purchase of five of each. Also one recharge of an extinguisher was added. Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Racicot suggested the addition of four CPR training manikins for the First Response Team. She has recently been certified as a First Responder and used them in her training and she feels that they would be an asset to the Team. She also asked why the volunteers have to pay for half of their EFAP expense when they do so much for the Township in difficult situations. It was agreed that the Township will pay the full amount of the annual coverage if a member would like to join. The Township's policy will be amended at an upcoming meeting and the budget will be adjusted accordingly.

Council discussed the budget further and adjusted line items were they felt required. A donation to the Rural Cupboard Food Bank building fund was discussed. It was agreed to make a donation of \$1,000. It was also agreed not to hire summer students this year and to hire an office assistant for a 14 week period for two days a week and have either the groundskeeper or one of the part-time road employees cut the grass.

A tax rate percentage increase was discussed. The Disposal Site Reserve was discussed and it was decided that \$500 be added to the reserve. Due to the increase in assessment base for 2016, Council agreed that there would be no tax rate increase for this year and that any budgeted monies remaining after all line items have been updated be put into the Reserve for Municipal Building.

The Clerk-Treasurer will adjust the line items as discussed by Council and the final budget will be presented to Council at their meeting to be held on May 24, 2016. Upon approval the Tax Rate By-law will be passed and tax bills will be sent out the beginning of June.

Everyone was thanked for attending and it was

1. Moved by B.J. Loan  
Seconded by Chantal Alkins  
**THAT THE BUDGET MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO  
BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M.  
TIME BEING: 9:45 P.M. Carried**

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Mayor

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Clerk-Treasurer