

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET MEETING – APRIL 24, 2022

Minutes of the Fire Department budget meeting held on Monday, April 24, 2023 at 6 p.m. in the O'Connor Council Chambers and virtually.

Present: Mayor Vezina
Councillors: Crane, Racicot, Sobolta, Torkkeli
Clerk-Treasurer Buob
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Racicot

Visitors: Henry Mattas, Fire Chief
Greg Biloski, Deputy Fire Chief
Brendan Rea

Mayor Vezina called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

1. Moved by J. Sobolta
Seconded Carly Torkkeli

THAT THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING BE APPROVED.

Carried

Mayor Vezina welcomed Fire Chief Mattas to the meeting. Mayor Vezina provided new Council with the budget process and explained how the Township of O'Connor holds budget meetings with the Fire Department and Road Department prior to the main budget meeting to allow the departments to present their plans for the year. The main budget is then presented at a later date and numbers can be adjusted at that time.

The Fire Department draft #1 budget was presented and explained line by line, starting with the Protection and Services accounts.

Under Capital Expenditures the purchase of two sets of turnout gear was discussed. Council, at a previous meeting, requested that a new additional AED be included in the budget. This has been included in the Capital account.

The Fire Chief's, Deputy Fire Chief's, and member honourarium are currently budgeted at the same rate as 2022.

Under training, currently there are eleven different courses available through the Kakabeka training centre. To date, one member has signed up for the Fire Fighter I course, and one member is interested in the drone course. Some of the courses will be dropped if they do not get enough interest. There is now a fee of \$35 for no shows. Fire Chief Mattas also noted that he is not sure but does not think that the Fire Fighter II course that was taken by members in 2022 has been invoiced to the Township and may need to be included in this year budget. The Clerk-Treasurer will look further into this. Council expressed their concern for the Township paying for a drone course when we do not own a drone. It was confirmed that during the full budget meeting this can be discussed further when the cuts and adjustments are made.

The breakdown of the SCBA Maintenance account was explained further by Fire Chief Mattas. Currently there is no one in the area who does the flow testing on the packs. There is a company who travels across the province doing testing and they missed stopping in on their way by last year. Three bottles were then shipped away for testing and the freight cost was very expensive. This year Fire Chief Mattas has once again requested they stop in and test the remaining six packs. Also, two bottles will need to be replaced and the members are requesting an extra bottle. Fire Chief Mattas has been in contact with another Fire Department who has used bottles available at a fraction of the price of new, however they needed to be tested. There is now a company in Thunder Bay who can do the bottle testing. The Auxiliary did previously offer to pay for the additional bottle.

Some lighting ballasts and bulbs are required for the Fire Hall, and we are currently awaiting a price for this.

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET MEETING

Under the Fixed Costs it was noted that insurance costs are currently estimated at a 10% increase for 2023 and if the new quote is received prior to the full budget meeting this number may be adjusted. The balance of the accounts were briefly discussed. The new Fire Station computer program is currently included in the "Other" account.

The Fire Department Revenue accounts were briefly discussed. This includes the sale of the Smoke and CO alarms sold in the Township office, as well as the reimbursement of the items purchased by the Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary

Fire Chief Mattas was thanked for presenting the budget.

It was

2. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by A. Crane

**THAT THE BUDGET MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO
BE HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2023 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBERS AND VIRTUAL.**

TIME BEING: 6:54 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer