

VILLAGE OF POINT EDWARD
OPERATING BUDGET MEETING

MINUTES

March 17, 2009
9:00 a.m.

Council Members Present:

Mayor Kirkland **Deputy Mayor Robson** **Councillor MacKenzie**
Councillor Churchill

Staff Present:

Deputy Treasurer Thibeault, CAO Cramp

Other:

Auditor Jim Dunlop

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

DELEGATION:

1. Bob Bailey, M.P.P., Sarnia-Lambton and John Cruikshank

Moved by Deputy Mayor Robson

Seconded by Councillor MacKenzie

THAT Bob Bailey and John Cruikshank be invited within the bar.

CARRIED.

Mayor Kirkland advised that a letter had been sent to Hon. Jim Watson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing on November 19, 2009 requesting that the Regulation for International Bridge Taxes be increased as there has been no change since it came into effect over 10 years ago. A response has not been received.

The Village of Point Edward provides the services to the BWBC but the taxes have not increased. There is a \$54 million building that is being constructed and the only taxes that will be received as a result of the new building is for the areas occupied by the customs brokers. There are no taxes provided from the existing maintenance garage or any of the buildings used by the customs. There are 2,000 residents in the Village who are paying for services required by an International Bridge.

Mayor Kirkland advised that he has spoken with O.P.P. Commissioner Fantino who has provided a letter previously regarding this situation and he would be willing to assist the Village, if needed.

It was also noted that the Village does not receive any funding towards policing under the OMPF grant.

Mr. Bailey asked that further information be provided on these matters and that he will follow up with the Minister.

Mayor Kirkland also advised that the Village plans to submit a grant application for the Arena and Community Hall renovations and requested favourable consideration.

Mr. Cruikshank asked that a copy of the grant application be forwarded to their office.

Operating Budget:

Chairperson Churchill gave a brief overview of where the budget stands at this point after the review by all Committees and provided some of the challenges that Council is faced with.

Arena

Chairperson Janice Robson, E. Helps

The Arena Committee recommendations were brought forward to the budget meeting for Council's consideration.

Fire Department

Chairperson Janice Robson, Fire Prevention Officer Rick MacGregor

The Fire Committee recommendations were brought forward to the budget meeting for Council's consideration.

Water and Waste Water Treatment Plant

Deputy Mayor Robson, J. Sloma

The Water and Waste Water Treatment Plant budget was brought forward to the budget meeting. This budget had been dealt with and approved in December, 2008.

Mayor Dick Kirkland, Point Edward Police Services Board

The Police Services Board brought forward their recommendations for consideration by Council.

Public Works, Garbage Collection, Streetlights
Chairperson Larry MacKenzie, M. Chalmers

The Public Works Committee brought forward their recommendations for consideration by Council.

Parks
Chairperson Larry MacKenzie, M. Chalmers

The Parks Committee brought forward their recommendations for consideration by Council.

All other areas
Finance Chairperson Paul Churchill

All remaining revenues and expenditures were reviewed by Council.

Comments from the Public

Opportunity for the Public to make any presentation or comments on the budget

Cathy Dobson was present on behalf of the Sarnia Observer. Her questions were responded to by Council.

There were no other persons from the public present at the budget meeting.

Comments from Auditor Jim Dunlop

- Comments re: 2009 Operating Budget
- Comments re: Financial Reports for 2008

Auditor Jim Dunlop advised that the audit has been completed for the Village. He reviewed the Financial Statements for 2008 with Council.

Moved by Councillor MacKenzie
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Robson
THAT the 2009 Operating budget be approved, as presented.

CARRIED.

OTHER**Transit Report**

Deputy Mayor Robson advised that a report has been received from Sarnia Transit regarding various alternatives for service. This will be considered at a future Council meeting.

Meeting with MTO

It was agreed to meet with MTO on April 9, 2009 at 10 a.m. to be updated on the work being proposed for Hwy. 402 this year.

OSWAP-2

Confirmation has been received that a grant is being provided to the Village of Point Edward in the amount of \$39,700 per year for four years to assist with the additional operational costs that will be required in the Water Department, particularly as it relates to the Water Licensing and new requirements.

Michigan Ave. Reconstruction Signage

A plan was provided to Council showing the location for signage for the Michigan Ave. reconstruction. Particular attention has been given to ensure that visitors realize that the downtown businesses are open. This plan will be circulated to the businesses for comment.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Mayor Dick Kirkland

CAO/Clerk Peggy Cramp