



Special Committee of the Whole 2010 Draft Budget

Minutes - January 27, 2010

GODERICH, ONTARIO



SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING 2010 Draft Budget

Goderich, Ontario
January 27th, 2010

Warden B. Dykstra called the Special Committee of the Whole 2010 Draft Budget meeting to order at 9:11 a.m. on Wednesday January 27th, 2010.

All members of Council were present except for Councillors B. Van Diepenbeek and D. Johnston. All members of the Senior Management Team were present.

Councillor J. Seili arrived at 9:14 a.m. Councillor J. Grace left the meeting at 10:15 a.m. Councillor B. Dowson left the meeting at noon.

County Treasurer David Carey reviewed the 2010 draft Budget with a power point presentation.

The 2010 levy coming into the 2010 draft Budget meeting is \$33,921,472 representing a 4.39% increase over 2009. The targeted levy for 2010 is \$33,143,834 which is a 2% increase from 2009. This represents an increase of \$183,528 to reach the 2% levy increase.

There was a great deal of discussion regarding the Clinton Railway Bridge that is estimated to cost \$700,000 to repair.

The Gas Tax subsidy was reviewed. It must be used to reduce Greenhouse gases. The County is not able to put the Gas Tax subsidy in a reserve for use in three years to repair the bridge; it must be used the year it is granted.

Director Laurie was questioned as to what the Gas Tax subsidy was used for in the past few years. He reported that the funding was used for bridge and paving projects; as an example the Benmiller Bridge project cost between 1.5 million and 1.6 million dollars.

County Treasurer David Carey reported he has budgeted the Gas Tax subsidy for 2010 will be 1.819 million dollars.

It was questioned how much the Railway should pay as their portion to repair the bridge; it is estimated at \$54,000.

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MOTION:

Moved by: Councillor B. Dowson and Seconded by: Councillor B. MacLellan:

THAT:

The County agree to commence putting a reserve aside to complete the lowering of the roadway on County Road 13 over a three year period with \$250,000 being set aside annually.

Chair Dykstra requested a recorded vote for the Motion

YEAS: Siemon
Seili
Grace
Oke
Shewfelt
Vincent
Scott
Robertson
Demaray
Kelly
MacLellan
Fergusson
Dowson

NAYS: Dykstra
Rintoul
Dietrich
Collyer
Bezair

ABSENT: Van Diepenbeek
Johnston

YEAS – 13, NAYS – 5, ABSENT – 2
CARRIED

The Service Delivery Review (SDR) was discussed.

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It was recommended a third party review (SDR) be completed and accept a 4.39% increase to the 2010 Budget. There was disagreement from other members of Council.

Chair Dykstra requested Council to consider listening to each of the members of the Senior Management Team (SMT) with their suggestions for achieving a balanced budget with a 2% increase on the levy. Members of the SMT were given an opportunity to review methods of decreasing their department budgets for 2010. It resulted with the following Motion.

MOTION:

Moved by: Councillor J. Bezaire and Seconded by: Councillor B. Seili:

THAT:

The proposed Senior Management Team reductions as recommended in County Treasurer Carey's presentation dated January 27th, 2010; be approved and remove the following from the proposed 2010 Budget:

- \$56,273 – Facilities Tech 3 staff addition
- \$24,093 - Museum Volunteer Co-ordinator staff addition
- \$53,744 – GIS Technician staff addition
- \$50,000 – Library Branch development
- \$10,000 – Waste management contingency
- \$100,000 - Zurich Shop – fund over 4 years rather than 3 years
- \$200,000 – reduce culvert replacement reserve
- \$100,000 – auburn salt facility – fund over four years instead of 3 years

CARRIED

CAO Adams requested County Treasurer Carey to advise where this would bring the proposed 2010 Budget from where we started this morning. County Treasurer Carey advised it would be a 1.22% increase meaning a \$400,000 increase to the levy.

CAO Adams advised that the Mandatory Septic Inspection and the Huronview embankment rehabilitation will be reviewed at an upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting.

A question was asked about the amount of a contingency reserve? County Treasurer Carey advised he has a provision for unforeseen expenses in the

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amount of \$225,000. He also advised there are currently five million dollars in reserves and cautioned using them to fund operational expenses.

MOTION:

Moved by: Councillor J. Seili and seconded by: Councillor B. Siemon:

THAT:

The County Treasurer be authorized to prepare the budget on a 1.5% increase for Council's consideration at the March 3rd, 2010 County Council meeting.

CARRIED

Lunch was served.

Just prior to adjourning the Special Budget meeting County Treasurer Carey advised that the increase of 1.5% on the County levy would reflect an increase of approximately \$8.00 on \$100,000 assessment.

MOTION:

Moved by: Councillor N. Vincent and Seconded by: Councillor J. Bezaire:

THAT:

The Special Committee of the Whole Draft 2010 Budget meeting adjourn at 12:16 p.m.

CARRIED

Warden B. Dykstra

County Clerk Barbara L. Wilson