

The Corporation of the Township of North Kawartha

Minutes of the Special Budget Meeting held on December 11, 2024

Hybrid Meeting in the North Kawartha Council Chambers, 280 Burleigh Street, Apsley

Regular Session 2024 – 12 – 11

Members Present: Deputy Mayor Jim Whelan,
Councillors: RuthAnne McIlmoyl, Colin McLellan, Jim O'Shea

Members Absent: Mayor Carolyn Amyotte, with regrets

Staff Present: Alana Solman, Chief Administrative Officer
Connie Parent, Clerk
Kelly Picken, Deputy Clerk
Matt Aldom, Chief Building Official / By-law Enforcement Officer
Jesse Lambe, Fire Chief
Judy Everett, Treasurer
MacKenzie Sykes, Finance Assistant / IT Coordinator
Jason Post, Public Works Manager
Gary Geraldi, Director of Parks and Recreation / Waste Management

(all attendees participated in-person unless noted electronic)

Others Present:

Call to Order and Welcome

Deputy Mayor Whelan called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m., welcomed everyone and informed those in attendance that the meeting will be recorded and uploaded to the Township YouTube Channel for public viewing.

Land Acknowledgement

Deputy Mayor Whelan recited the Land Acknowledgement.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

No declarations.

Adoption of the Agenda

24 - 375

Moved by – Councillor McIlmoyl

Seconded by – Councillor McLellan

That the agenda be adopted, as presented. Carried.

Presentations / Deputations / Petitions

Alana Solman, CAO/Judy Everett, Treasurer

Ms. Everett advised that 1% of the budget is equal to \$66,307. The draft budget is currently at 7.66% increase dollar to dollar with the tax rate at a 6.44% increase.

Ms. Solman and Ms. Everett utilized a power point presentation to explain the budget process and to identify the various external and internal impacts to the 2025 budget. An overview of the draft budget was provided and the items not included in the 2025 budget were identified for consideration.

Gary Geraldi, Director of Parks and Recreation / Waste Management

Mr. Geraldi identified that the Parks and Recreation budget represents a 6.7% increase in revenue and a 4.6% increase in expenses with overall a 3.2% increase. The Waste budget represents a 1.8% decrease overall. He reviewed the revenue and expense items for Parks & Recreation and the Waste budgets as provided in the budget information papers.

Matt Aldom, Chief Building Official/By-Law Enforcement Officer

Mr. Aldom presented the budget information papers for the Building By-Law budget. He provided an explanation regarding the increase in training and accommodation fees and the decrease in vehicle maintenance and repair.

Jason Post, Public Works Manager

Mr. Post presented budget information papers for the Roads Department regarding the increase in equipment and vehicle maintenance. There was discussion on vehicle requirements.

Jesse Lambe, Fire Chief

Chief Lambe presented the budget information papers for the Fire Department. There are plans to sell one of the mini-pumpers through GovDeals. There is an increase in revenue for the rental units and an increase in the five-year service agreement with Peterborough dispatch. A full time Fire Inspector was recommended by the Community Risk Assessment undertaken by Loomex. It would result in a more pro-active approach to fire prevention.

Recess

Deputy Mayor Whelan declared a recess at 10:57 a.m. Council reconvened at 11:07 a.m.

Alana Solman, Chief Administrative Officer

Ms. Solman presented the budget information papers for Planning, Police Services and Emergency Planning budgets.

There was discussion regarding professional consulting fees and the planning staff / consultant requirements with respect to the Comprehensive Zoning By-Law review.

Currently there is no direction from the detachment-wide Police Services Board with respect to budget requirements. The budget has been approached as a requisition amount and a Policing contract amount. A requisition amount of \$10,800 has been included in the 2025 budget. The Ministry has provided relief in the amount of \$152,134 with respect to the Policing contract to reduce the initial requirement for policing services.

The Township is in a good situation with respect to the Emergency Planning budget.

Cathie Leard, Library Board Chair and Debbie Hall, CEO, North Kawartha Public Library

Ms. Leard and Ms. Hall attended the meeting to present the Library budget. Ms. Hall advised that the increases in the Library budget are due to regular staffing wages and accounts that they do not have control over such as cleaning, auditor fees, building insurance increases. Some extra funds have been provided for programming.

Judy Everett, Treasurer and Mackenzie Sykes, Finance Assistant / IT Coordinator

Ms. Everett and Ms. Sykes presented the Administration (General Government) budget information papers. Council Members expenses were discussed leaving the budgeted amounts the same as in 2024 but with the option to seek Council approval to transfer expenses between members accounts if needed. There was discussion regarding information technology (IT) requirements with staff indicating that they were satisfied with the County IT contract and support received.

Ms. Everett presented the Health and the Conservation Authority budgets. There is amount remaining in the Health budget for renovations.

Budget Wrap-up

Ms. Everett advised Council that the balance in the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) is \$1,372,300 which includes some unused previous years' amounts. She reviewed the items that Manager's have deferred to the 2026 budget year. In the current budget \$206,462 will be transferred to the Future Capital Reserve. An amount for a consultant for the Comprehensive Zoning By-Law review could be included by either reducing the amount to the future capital reserves or taking the amount from reserves.

Recess

Deputy Mayor Whelan declared a recess at 12:20 p.m. Council reconvened at 12:22 p.m.

With the reduction in the Council expenses, the draft budget is at a 7.63% increase dollar to dollar and a tax rate increase of 6.41%.

Council provided general direction to staff to remove the amount of \$10,000 from the Community Improvement Plan funds, to take the amount for the EV Chargers from general reserves, to leave in the Dr. Rayes memorial garden and the Haultain canoe park and an increase in the staff salary grid of 3%.

The additional changes result in a 6.35% increase in the tax rate.

The budget to be brought back to the January 14, 2025, regular meeting of Council.

Closed Session

No closed session.

Confirmatory By-Law 2024-0059

Moved by – Councillor McLellan

Seconded by – Councillor McIlmoyl

That By-Law 2024-0059 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the Township of North Kawartha at its Special Council Meeting held on the 11th day of December, 2024 be read and adopted in open Council on the 11th day of December, 2024. Carried.

Adjournment

24 - 376

Moved by – Councillor McIlmoyl

Seconded by – Councillor McLellan

That Council adjourn proceedings. Carried.

Council adjourned at 12:36 p.m.

Jim Whelan, Deputy Mayor

Connie Parent, Clerk