

Special Council Meeting Minutes – March 27th, 2010

**The Corporation of the Township of Lake of Bays
MINUTES**

There was a special meeting of Council held at 9:30 a.m., on March 27th, 2010, in the Council Chambers of the Township of Lake of Bays Municipal Offices, Dwight, Ontario regarding the 2010 Municipal Budget.

Attendance

Mayor
Councillors

Janet Peake
Phillip Cote
Ben Boivin
Virginia (Ginny) Burgess
Nancy Tapley
Margaret Casey
Ruth McEachern Ross
Don Chevalier
Michelle Percival
Carrie Sykes
Stephen Szczerbak
Tom Brown
Stephen Watson
Lynn Andrews
Laura Blakey

CAO/Treasurer
Clerk
Deputy Clerk
Planner
Director of Public Works
Chief Building Official
Deputy Treasurer
Tax Collector

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m., on March 27th, 2010, by Mayor Janet Peake

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Resolution # 2(a)/03/27/10

Councillor Burgess and Councillor Boivin

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council Meeting Agenda dated March 27th, 2010, be adopted as circulated.

Carried

Council Meeting Minutes – March 27th, 2010**3. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

Nil

4. TENDERS

Nil

5. DEPUTATION/DELEGATIONS

Nil

6. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Nil

7. COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Nil

8. REPORTS AND BY- LAWS

- (a) Report re: **2010 Budget**
- **B4 – Budget Projections**
 - **N4 – Notes to Budget B4; and**
 - **C4 – Capital 2010 – 2019.**

The Deputy Treasurer presented the fourth draft of the 2010 budget and provided the following resources:

- an area rate comparison of other District of Muskoka municipalities that have already passed their budget;
- functional analysis of revenue and expense accounts impacting the operating budget;
- potential budget sensitivities (legal, public works equipment and repair/maintenance to buildings); and
- a calculating worksheet illustrating the net levy (\$ vs %) interchanging variables including the capital and operating projections; new strategic plan initiatives; service level changes and other proposed initiatives to reflect the notional residential tax rate.

Mayor Peake provided a brief description of all the proposed new initiatives.

Discussion was held with respect to the net levy impact based on the projections, initiatives and service level changes.

Mayor Peake opened the floor for public input.

Herb Hickling, Paint Lake Ratepayers Association, made the following comments:

Council Meeting Minutes – March 27th, 2010

- **Assessment vs. taxation is ‘hocus pocus’;**
- **Commended staff for their work into this budget;**
- **May be premature to include the Community Coordinator position this year;**
- **Not the right time to approve the proposed office expansion – “build with today live with tomorrow.”**

Kathleen Black, Lake of Bays Association, provided the following comments:

- **Referred to an article relating to 7 core drivers of success for today’s world and highlighted one “show constraint”;**
- **Community Coordinator position is not part of core services;**
- **Roads are our core business and we need a program that works;**
- **If that means going into debt for \$617,000 with principal and interest repayment over the next 10 years then we should plan for that now;**
- **Fire Department equipment reserve is our core business – the current reserve is not large enough to accommodate the scheduled \$300,000 new pumper in 2011;**
- **Public Works leaking roof – leaking roofs happen and the \$15,000 estimated repair bill should be incorporated into the existing capital budget;**
- **File storage plan to create a second floor on the Public Works office – should scan these documents where possible and eliminate the need to build more infrastructure;**
- **Strategic plan initiatives have been scaled back to \$26,000 – these funds are key to maintaining community involvement in the township’s future;**
- **Library initiatives have been cut back to \$13,400 – LOBA supports their request;**
- **Who will use the grant software?**
- **Proposed office expansion – do we need to expand the office for population growth (projected increase of only 267 households by 2019) – suggest that township consider transferring \$20,000 into an office improvement reserve from the working capital reserve while putting together a task force of some community, councilors and staff to continue exploring alternatives;**
- **Worried about incurring debt – need to be careful borrowing more money than we really can afford;**
- **If all of the initiatives are adopted the tax levy increase is still high – over 9%;**
- **Encourage staff to continue to re-examine the base budget.**

Council Meeting Minutes – March 27th, 2010

Karen Lawrence, resident of Dwight, provided the following comments:

- **Baffled by the hesitancy to accept the Community Coordinator position as a necessity in the 2010 budget;**
- **It was clearly indicated by the constituents of this community that more social programs and community involvement was essential to the success of the Strategic Plan;**
- **Staff is incorporating the strategies into their business plans but are limited by the amount of effort and time that it will take to fully realize the plans' impressive vision;**
- **Need a leader to follow through with your commitment to us – would expect from comments provided by other Councillors that Councillor Burgess acting as liaison currently would be chairing these Strategic Planning Committees and reporting back to Council;**
- **Council promised last summer to revise the Beach Combers Day camp program and now you are debating whether any such program will ever be re-visited – as a parent needing that service you have let me down;**
- **Strongly believe Council cannot afford to leave the Community Coordinator position out of the budget;**
- **Frustration with no reserves being available to accommodate the request to fund this position or for other pressing needs;**
- **Still dissention amongst all the residents, seasonal and permanent exists – as I permanent resident I feel without a voice in Lake of Bays;**
- **Your commitment to a plan that clearly identified the most important issues to be the need for sustainable economic development and awareness of pressing social issues would make supporting a Community Coordinator part of your council legacy;**
- **More likely to be proud of a community that follows through with its commitment to promises made then I am to be proud of whether my roads are well graveled or whether my street will ever be lit;**
- **I am willing to pay for change – I am not willing to pay for no action, no results and a lame duck already showing its inability to facilitate the change to be the swan.**

Murray Arnold, resident of West Oxbow, provided the following comments:

- **Asked Council to continue the winter maintenance program for West Oxbow Lake Road;**
- **This road was to be upgraded 20 years ago;**
- **Agree that roads are the municipality's core business;**

Council Meeting Minutes – March 27th, 2010

- Lake of Bays have an influx of retirement population.

Rick Zytorick, resident of Baysville, provided the following comments:

- You've all let us down with the vacancy of the Community Coordinator position in the 2010 budget;
- Strategic Plan set expectations and Council has not followed through;
- I'm willing pay for the continuance of this position.

John Park, resident of West Dotty Lake Road, provided the following comments:

- Permanent residents don't want their taxes increased;
- Believe in constraint and will fight every increase;
- Don't think the Community Coordinator position is needed – Council should investigate other options;
- Town of Bracebridge and Town of Huntsville have staff to develop grants – perhaps we could use their services;
- Roads and gravel are priorities.

Brian Simpson, resident of Dwight and Co-Chair of the Strategic Plan Environmental Initiatives, provided the following comments:

- The Strategic Plan process needs time to work through these community-based committees and then Council can determine if they need a resource person.

Melinda Zytorick, member of the Strategic Plan Community Committee for Sustainable Initiatives, provided the following comments:

- The Strategic Plan is a big undertaking and a lot of volunteer interest has come out of this process so far;
- There has been a lack of leadership and a lack of clarity;
- The Community Coordinator position is critical to fulfilling this Strategic Plan initiative;
- Volunteers are going to get frustrated and walk away.

Colin Rainey, resident of Dorset, provided the following comments:

- Commend leadership of Council;
- Whole idea of Strategic Plan was to improve the relationship between the community and the township;
- Put money towards better priorities;
- Find other ideas for the office expansion – let's not invest in big infrastructure.

Paul Sampson, resident of Grand Boulevard, provided the following comments:

- Referred to page 54 of the budget, proposed road construction for 2010 to 2012;
- Nithgrove Road scheduled for stabilizer, high-float and slurry seal in 2010 is a disgrace;
- Menominee Road was previously scheduled to be replaced and is now scheduled for stabilizer, high-float and slurry seal in 2011 and 2012 – would be cheaper to replace;
- Menominee Road has deep ruts and if road was redone it would fix the erosion problems.

Jan Sirek, resident of Tasso Lake, provided the following comments:

- Family has been here since 1951;
- Made the mistake of rebuilding and is now paying five times more in property taxes;
- Roads are the municipality's primary business, we have potholes more than 8" deep and we are the laughing stock;
- Coordinator position should be considered;
- Suggested the following ideas to the proposed office expansion:
 - Use technology to your advantage – staff can work totally productively from home using remote computer access;
 - Hotelling of desks – one desk can be used by a number of employees; and
 - Use electronic document storage.
- Taxes have gone up 3-4 times with no increase in services;
- We don't use babysitting services;
- Please spend our money on roads and fire.

Ron Halmos, resident of Golf Course Road, provided the following comments:

- Noted that Golf Course Road is absent from road construction projects listed on page 54 of the budget;
- It was done three years ago but wasn't done properly and is a danger to drive on – needs some major repairs.

Tonia DiSabatino, resident of Oxbow Lake and Strategic Plan Community Committee member, provided the following comments:

- Township of Lake of Bays has a diverse population;
- Given the economy Council has a huge challenge in determining the initiatives from the Strategic Plan committees;
- There needs to be priorities;
- Not ignoring the need for the Community Coordinator position but should consider shelving it through the Strategic Plan process.

Susan Pond, resident of Grandview Lake, provided the following comments:

- Roads was the main topic at our annual general meeting (AGM);
- We have not received one ounce of gravel;
- At our AGM you told us that our road had not been graded because the grader operator was sick;
- Ask that you seriously reconsider spending \$55,000 to roads – our road.

Barb Barber, resident of West Oxbow Lake, provided the following comments:

- Why is there nothing in the roads reserve;
- Keep adding money into your reserves and build it up.

Burr Atkinson, member of Pell, Walker Lake Association, provided the following comments:

- Roads are a big issue – they should be a priority;
- Although position is excellent we are not ready for it yet;
- Strategic Plan committees will need help but not right now.

Paul Hutchison, resident of Peninsula Lake, provided the following comments:

- Roads - we have heard it over and over again;
- Poor Director of Public Works looks after our roads best he can;
- Roads capital is chopped year after year;
- Momentum is going now to seek financing in order to get the roads maintenance and repairs up to date;
- Don't see the need for the Community Coordinator position this year;
- Perhaps people on the Strategic Plan committees that have expertise on writing grants;
- Make use of the grant software for the balance of this year.

Fraser Govan, resident of old Highway 117, provided the following comments:

- Grant writing software is great and will volunteer to assist the municipality if they require people to use it;
- Asked if the 'Save Norway Point Park' post cards distributed in the mail were funded by the township.

Mayor Peake provided that the township had no involvement in the distribution of the post cards nor provided any funding towards the printing or dissemination of same. It was noted for the record that the post cards had been provided by the Friends of Norway Point.

Council Meeting Minutes – March 27th, 2010

Shane Baker, resident of Camp Lake, provided the following comments:

- Can see the need for the Community Coordinator position in the future;
- Support the gravel replacement for roads;
- Increase in assessment and increase in spending.

John Bridge, resident of Wolfe Bay Road, provided the following comments:

- First time they scraped my road they broke the culvert;
- Have had to hire my own tractor.

John Casey, resident of North Burnt Road, provided the following comments:

- Already spending \$1.9 million dollars out of a \$3 million dollar budget on roads – represents 60% of budget that goes to roads;
- If you don't increase taxes you can't improve the roads;
- Can support \$50,000 going towards the Community Coordinator position against \$1.9 million dollars going to roads;
- We would like our communities to remain vibrant and to do so we need services such as libraries, community programs, etc.

Jan Sirek, resident of Tasso Lake, provided the following comments:

- Township should take advantage of private contractors more with respect to road repairs and maintenance;
- West Oxbow Lake winter maintenance pilot project is excellent;
- Should do a study of which roads need winter plowing versus those that don't.

Karen Lawrence, resident of Dwight, provided the following comments:

- Roads are very important and if it is considered a core value why is the money not there and ready to go.

Mayor Peake thanked the public for attending today and providing their comments.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

Nil

10. MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Nil

Council Meeting Minutes – March 27th, 2010

11. **MAYOR’S REPORT**

Nil

12. **CLOSED SESSION**

Nil

13. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSION**

Nil

14. **CONFIRMING BY-LAW**

- (a) By-law #10-33, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the meetings of Council held on March 27th, 2010.

By-law #10-33 was read a first, second and a third time and finally passed.

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

Resolution #15(a)/03/27/10

Councillor Casey and Councillor Ross

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Lake of Bays adjourn at 11:27 a.m. to meet again on April 20th, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Office, Dwight, Ontario.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk