

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

March 25, 2009

Approved Minutes

DATE: March 25, 2009
TIME: 7:05 p.m. - 7:22 p.m.
PLACE: Stratford Town Centre, 234 Shakespeare Drive

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Sandy McMillan; Councillors Steve MacDonald; Emile Gallant; Diane Griffin; Patrick Ross; Robert Hughes, CAO; and Mary McAskill, Recording Clerk

REGRETS: Mayor Kevin Jenkins and Councillor Gary Clow

CHAIR: Deputy Mayor Sandy McMillan

1. CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Mayor McMillan called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Councillor Emile Gallant and seconded by Councillor Steve MacDonald that the agenda be approved as circulated.

Discussion: None

Question: **CARRIED**

3. PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Robert O'Hanley introduced himself and stated that he lives on Sundance Lane. *I do have a concern because we are talking about tax rates. The tax burden that I am paying is very onerous. It was close to \$5,000 last year and has increased substantially since we moved to the area - my assessment has gone up 35% in five years. As I mentioned to the Deputy Mayor preceding the meeting my concern is if we keep this geometric increase it is going to drive me out of this Town. There is a limit to what I can pay and I do get concerned when I go through the proposed budgets, as some of the expenses seem extremely large and this isn't the right forum to go through it line by line, but I would like the opportunity to remind Council that there is a limit to what people can pay, and I'm getting to my limit. I like where I live and I would not want to be forced out simply because more money is being taken out of my pocket. I would ask that Council bear that in mind. We are not talking just about numbers here. We are talking about people's livelihoods. This is my money and I work very hard for it and I want to keep as much of it as I can. I realize that there are expenses that have to be funded, but this is a town - it is not an amusement park. When I went through the budget I questioned some of the expenditures - why are we spending this money - and as I say I realize that this isn't the proper form for going through that. I would just reiterate that I would ask Council in their deliberations to keep that at the forefront. This is real money that your citizens work very hard to earn. We want to keep as much of it as possible and we simply ask that our representatives are extremely diligent in managing costs and be very thoughtful when they are considering expenditures. Thank you for your time.*

Deputy Mayor McMillan thanked Mr. O'Hanley for his comments. We are mindful that we

have to provide good services for the money we are asking residents to pay. We are trying to maintain a balance and we need to be kept accountable, and we appreciate your remarks.

4. **Resolution FA007-2009 - Revised 2009 Operating Budget and 2009 Property Tax Rates**

Moved by Councillor Patrick Ross

Seconded by Councillor Emile Gallant

WHEREAS in 1995 the Province and the Town negotiated a Comprehensive Urban Services Agreement (CUSA) wherein the Town accepted full responsibility for municipal services including police, land use planning and recreation services and the Province allocated a \$0.20 per \$100 of assessed non-commercial realty tax credit to the Town to fund those services; and

WHEREAS in 2008 the Province unilaterally, and without consultation, reversed the 1995 CUSA agreement and took back the \$0.20 per \$100 of assessed non-commercial realty tax credit and replaced it with a grant; and

WHEREAS the Town understood that the revenue from the grant would consider inflation and assessment growth and would therefore result in revenue similar to that which it received under the CUSA agreement; and

WHEREAS the 2009 Town Operating Budget was passed on January 14, 2009, which included a revenue item of \$943,900 for the Municipal Support Grant from the Province based on the forecast of assessment growth and assuming that the grant would not be materially different from the CUSA revenue; and

WHEREAS the Department of Community Cultural Affairs advised the Town, in a letter dated February 11, 2009, that the amount of the grant that we will receive for 2009 is \$924,957 based on the provinces fiscal year ending on March 31. The amount of money that the Town of Stratford will receive in the 12 month period of January to December 2009 is \$919,100 (3 months @ \$75,126.33 per month - 2008 per monthly grant amount +9 months @ \$77,079.75 per month - 2009 grant amount). This municipal grant calculation caused a shortfall in our 2009 budget of \$24,800; and

WHEREAS the Town of Stratford must have a balanced budget so each department had to revise their budgets for 2009 to cover the shortfall in the Municipal Support Grant.

BE IT RESOLVED that the attached 2009 Operating Budget be approved as follows in accordance with the attached revenue and expense tables:

REVENUE

Total Revenue \$ 3,925,700

EXPENDITURES

Total Expenditures \$ 3,925,400

Surplus (Deficit) \$ 300

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the non commercial municipal tax rate be \$0.44 per \$100 of assessment for 2009.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commercial municipal tax rate be set at the same level for 2009, which is \$0.99 per \$100 of assessment.

Town of Stratford - 2009 Budget**Revenue**

Property Tax	\$2,308,800
CUSA Grant	\$919,100
Equalization Grant	\$11,600
Salary Recovery - Utility	\$321,400
Rent Income - Utility	\$235,300
Police Fines	\$50,000
Fees and Permits	\$58,300
Interest Income	\$6,700
Recreation	\$14,500
Other	-
Total Revenue	\$3,925,700

Expenses

General Government (Schedule 1)	\$1,426,600
Finance and Administration (Schedule 2)	\$698,700
Recreation (Schedule 3)	\$448,100

Public Works (Schedule 4)	\$690,900
Planning (Schedule 5)	\$261,100
Depreciation	\$400,000
Total Expenses	\$3,925,400

Surplus (Deficit)	\$300
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Schedule 1 - General Government Expenses

Salaries and Benefits	\$148,400
Staff Development and Travel	\$12,900
Staff EAP and Incentive	\$9,500
Professional Fees	\$29,000
Mayor and Council Expenses	\$99,200
Committee Expenses	\$21,500
FPEIM / FCM Dues	\$13,500
Election	\$8,500
Police Protection	\$533,800
Fire Protection	\$166,000
Street Lighting	\$145,000
Animal Control	\$25,000
Sustainable Development	\$45,000
Promotional Expenditures	\$16,000
Donations and Gifts	\$10,000
GIS Development and Maintenance	\$10,000
Transit	\$133,300
Contingency Fund	-
Total Expenses	\$1,426,600

Schedule 2 - Finance Department Expenses

Salaries and Benefits	\$194,800
Staff Development and Travel	\$9,000
Professional Fees	\$14,000

Workers Compensation	\$12,500
Insurance	\$55,000
Computer/Internet	\$40,200
Telephone / Fax	\$28,000
Administrative Expenses	\$52,500
Bank Charges	\$12,000
Capital - Interest Payments	\$238,000
Community Group Support	\$500
Sister Cities Reunion	-
Property Tax	\$29,500
Property Tax Rebate	\$12,700
Total Expenses	\$698,700

Schedule 3 - Recreation Department Expenses

Salaries and Benefits	\$295,900
Staff Development and Travel	\$7,000
Professional Fees	\$4,000
Events	\$19,000
Programs	\$11,000
Arts and Culture	\$17,500
Rink Operations	\$1,000
Maintenance	\$34,000
Promotion	\$1,000
Grants and Agreements	\$57,700
Total Expenses	\$448,100

Schedule 4 - Public Works Department Expenses

Salaries and Benefits	\$366,600
Staff Development and Travel	\$4,000
Professional Fees	\$2,000
Electricity	\$74,000
Water & Sewer	\$10,000

Heating Fuel	\$14,000
Building/Grounds Maintenance	\$166,800
Sidewalk Maintenance	\$25,500
Vehicles and Equipment	\$28,000
Total Expenses	\$690,900

Schedule 5 - Planning Department Expenses

Salaries and Benefits	\$196,900
Staff Development and Travel	\$13,600
Professional Fees	\$23,000
Administrative Expenses	\$2,000
Newsletter	\$14,000
Heritage	\$11,600
Total Expenses	\$261,100

Discussion: Councillor Ross did comment that the grant from the province starts on April 1, 2009 and our year end was on December 31, 2008.

For clarification purposes Councillor Gallant stated that our rate stays the same as last year and Councillor Ross replied that is correct - our tax rate is not changing.

Question: **CARRIED**

5. **Resolution SUC005-2009 Building Canada Fund-Communities Component Application for sewer and water projects identified for servicing in 2009 through 2011**

Moved by Councillor Patrick Ross

Seconded by Councillor Diane Griffin

WHEREAS the projects and budget estimates outlined in the following table have been selected for servicing in 2009 through 2011 under the Building Canada Fund - Communities Component (BCFCC);

Priority	Project Description	Cost
1	Georgetown Rd (Stratford Rd to MacNeil) (Sewer)	\$251,000
2	New Well Field (Water)	\$2,600,000
3	Rosebank Heights/Quiet Water Drive (Sewer and Water)	\$460,000

4	Lantz Subdivision (Water)	\$545,000
5	Keppoch Estates/Harbour Hill (Sewer)	\$1,106,000
6	Slow Acres (Sewer)	\$530,000
7	Bellevue Road/Georgetown Road South (Sewer)	\$510,000
8	Pumping Station Upgrades (Corrish)/Cove Road (Sewer)	\$350,000
9	Bellevue Cove Estates (Sewer)	\$815,000
10	Glencove/Rogerson Subdivision (Water)	\$511,000
11	Trans Canada Highway (Sewer)	\$896,000
12	Langley Septic Area (Sewer)	\$330,000
13	Keppoch Heights (Sewer)	\$254,000
14	Kennedy Road, lower Georgetown Road and Keppoch Rd to Town Limit	\$845,000

BE IT RESOLVED that the Stratford Utility Corporation apply to the BCFCC program in the amount of \$9,752,000.00 to complete the above projects in 2009 through 2011.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these projects be designated as priorities 1 through 14 as outlined in the above table of the BCFCC projects applied for under the most recent call for applications closing April 14, 2009. In addition, Council understands and commits that it will be responsible for its' designated share of the eligible costs of the project, and will assume responsibility for any and all operating and maintenance costs resulting from the project.

Discussion: This resolution bears the recommendation of the Stratford Utility Corporation.

Question: CARRIED

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Nil

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Sandy McMillan, Deputy Mayor

Robert Hughes, CAO