

**MINUTES**

The Council of the Municipality of North Middlesex met on July 30, 2001 for a meeting to discuss budget, as well as other matters. The meeting was held in the Council Chambers at 7:30 p.m.

Those present were: MAYOR CHUCK HALL

DEPUTY MAYOR IAN BREBNER

COUNCILLOR MARYSIA COUTTS-WARD 1

COUNCILLOR KEN JOHNSTON – WARD 2

COUNCILLOR MICHAEL CONLIN-WARD 3

COUNCILLOR LAWRENCE McLACHLAN-WARD 4

COUNCILLOR LUCY HENDRIKX-WARD 5

ADMINISTRATOR CLERK-SHIRLEY SCOTT

TREASURER-CHUCK DAIGLE

PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT-JOE ADAMS

No pecuniary interest was declared.

**BUDGET 2001**

Treasurer, Chuck Daigle presented Council with various analysis, in an effort to determine requirements for 2001. Year 2000- Schedule 40, which is revenue fund expenditures for each municipality was accumulated to indicate total expenditures for the past year to be \$5,719,337. According to information available, approximately \$2,000,000 is required to be raised in tax dollars for municipal purposes. A schedule of assessment comparisons for each municipality was studied, comparing 2000 and 2001. Due to a reassessment, there is a decrease in the residential assessments and an increase in farmland and commercial/industrial assessments.

Council were given information on what dollars would be raised if last years rate for each area, was applied to the new assessment for North Middlesex. (In Ailsa Craig's case, the 1999 rates were used, because of a decision that was made by Ailsa Craig Council to reduce their taxes last year.) Using these rates, the average dollar raised would be \$2,116,984.

After careful consideration, regarding the information on hand, the following motion was made.

McLACHLAN-COUTTS: BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipality of North Middlesex raise \$2,000,000 through the municipal tax rate in 2001. CARRIED.

Later in the meeting, Councillor Johnston confirmed that his interpretation of the budget was that each department was to have spending equal to or less than the previous year, in order to control the budget for 2001. This was confirmed as the understanding. Mr. Johnston advised that he would discuss this with the Fire Board.

**EXEMPTION FROM SCHEDULE FOR 2001 TAX BILL**

Correspondence from the Ministry of Finance advised that the exemption from the requirement to provide a schedule with the standard tax bill for the year 2001, with year 2000 information, has been granted, due to the number of challenges in consolidating the various former data systems into one new system as a newly amalgamated municipality.

## **CRF FUNDING**

Administrator Scott advised that Schedule 52 (Sources of Capital Fund Financing and Expenditures, and 60 (Continuity of Reserves and Reserve Funds) are to be supported by a resolution of the municipal council, by July 31, 2001. Council made the following motion:

COUTTS-McLACHLAN: BE IT RESOLVED THAT Whereas, the Province of Ontario is providing the municipality of North Middlesex a CRF allocation; and,  
Whereas the intended use of the CRF allocation is to mitigate increase in property taxes; and,  
Whereas the Province has requested this information by July 31, 2001; and,  
Whereas the Ministers of Finance and Municipal Affairs and Housing have requested that each municipality prepare a report on the planned use of the 2001 CRF allocations; and,  
Now, therefore, let it be resolved that the Municipality of North Middlesex intended to use the 2001 CRF allocation in ways described as listed:

Year 2001: Planned use of CRF Funds

1. To offset current years expenditures
2. Continue with build up and hard top road surfacing and providing healthier and safer driving conditions
3. Provide cleaning and testing of waterlines to provide safe water system
4. Repair and improve existing park facilities
5. Provide protection of person and property through fire and policing services
6. Continual upgrading of sewer systems

Carried.

## **ADJUSTMENT OF FUNDS AND SHARES FROM TRANSFER OF PARKHILL PUC**

Administrator Scott, advised that at the time of sale of the Parkhill PUC, according to the transfer by-law, all funds paid and shares given would be re-adjusted later, after the fair market value was determined by KPMG. According to our lawyer, this valuation has determined that the Municipality must pay back a value of \$73,370 of funds paid or shares paid. The municipality has two choices:  
-return \$73,370 from the cash funds that it has already received, or  
-re-adjust the value of the common shares owned by the municipality.

Draft minutes from the Committee meeting of the members appointed to take regard for the funds received from the sale of the hydro in the former Town of Parkhill, were reviewed, supporting the following recommendation:

“That the committee recommends to the Council of the Municipality of North Middlesex that it would be to the benefit of the ratepayers in the former Town of Parkhill to keep the cash received at year end and ask that the shares be reduced accordingly to an equivalent of \$73,370 based on the final figures received from Middlesex Power Distribution Corporation.”

Council considered this matter, and the following motion was made.

BREBNER-McLACHLAN: BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipality of North Middlesex supports the motion of the committee, and chooses to take a reduction in shares in order to re-adjust the value of common shares.

CARRIED.

#### **ANF-PAVING OF McLEAN ROAD**

A letter from ANF, indicating that they would be willing to pay twelve installments of \$10,000 each, beginning August 15, 2001 and continuing on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month for twelve months, in order to have the McLean Road paved, was considered. Although contrary to previous discussions, Council accepted the post dated cheques, and agreed that the agreement was to be signed, as soon as possible. The following motion was then made.

CONLIN-HENDRIKX: BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipality of North Middlesex enter into an agreement with ANF Manufacturing Ltd. as per letter dated July 26, 2001 re: paving of McLean Road.

CARRIED

Public Works Superintendent, Joe Adams advised that the tender was written, and can now be finalized. Advertising will then be done. Drainage work is required. When at all possible, out own staff and equipment will be used. Council were also advised that extra gravel has been put on the Leiury Road. Tentative plans are that every area gets some attention this year.

#### **OTHER ROAD ITEMS**

Mr. Adams advised that he is getting prices on “lease to own” for various pieces of equipment.

It was brought to Mr. Adams attention, that there are potholes at Cooks in Parkhill that require repair. Consideration is being made to use limestone dust rather than cold patch.

Later in the meeting, Deputy Mayor Brebner advised that he had been approached in regard to having a “caution” sign erected at the Sylvan Church, on a private entrance. Council suggested that we do not put signs on private entrances, but the landowner can do this, if he so desires. It was also suggested that if the trees were trimmed in this particular case, it may alleviate some of the problem.

#### **AUSABLE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

A request from Ausable Community Centre offering similar services as the Multi Service Centre in Parkhill, for registration as a community partner, or opportunity to advertise in the business directory, was considered. Considering that this center offers much the same services as our own, and that we ask our own center to seek other means for funding, Council felt they were unable to address the request.

#### **BY-LAW #56 OF 2001-TDL DEBENTURE \$17,700**

McLACHLAN-HENDRIKX: BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law #56 of 2001, being a by-law to authorize borrowing of \$17,700 from Tile Drain Loan Debenture, be read a first, second and third time and finally passed.

CARRIED

**PUC INVESTMENTS**

Councillor Johnston questioned how the monies for Ailsa Craig sale of PUC could be arranged to be treated the same as the monies for Parkhill. It was repeated that the committee makes recommendations, and Council has the opportunity to accept or reject that recommendation. The reserve fund is to be considered by the Ailsa Craig Committee, and they can leave it an account if they so desire.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Due to prime season, and the visit from a flying rodent, Deputy Mayor Brebner suggested that ABCA had offered to make a workshop available to have “bat houses” built. Council agreed that this would be a good idea, and arrangements are to be made, as soon as possible.

**CONFIRMING BY-LAW**

HENDRIKX-COUTTS: BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law #57 of 2001, being a by-law to confirm proceedings, be read a first, second and third time and finally passed.

CARRIED.

BREBNER-COUTTS: BE IT RESOLVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

CARRIED

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
ADMINISTRATOR