

**SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES**

A Special Meeting of the Council of the Municipality of North Middlesex was set to be held on Wednesday March 12th, however postponed until Thursday March 13, 2014 due to inclement weather, in the Council Chambers, 229 Parkhill Main Street, Parkhill with a quorum.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Don Shipway
Deputy Mayor Chuck Hall
Councillor Ward One – Doreen McLinchey
Councillor Ward Two – Brian Ropp
Councillor Ward Three – Gord Moir
Councillor Ward Four – Andrew Hemming
Councillor Ward Five – Adrian Cornelissen
CAO Linda Creaghe
Clerk Jackie Tiedeman

3. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None

4. PRESENTATION OF DRAFT 2014 BUDGET

Treasurer Chuck Daigle, Finance Co-ordinator Martha Gawley, Public Works Manager Brad Davies, Water/Sewer Manager Glen Bullock, Recreation Manager Scott Nickles and Interim Fire Chief Scott Jones were all present to provide their 2014 operations and capital budget for council consideration.

Mr. Daigle pointed out the loss of over 500,000 from the OMPF(Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund) allocation and how it impacts the budget. He then proceeded with an overview of the operational administration budget along with Priority One items from the Capital Budget.

Interim Fire Chief, Scott Jones then provided his overview of the fire department operations. Mr. Jones then reviewed the reserves as presented in the draft budget. He asked for council consideration on increases his reserves for 2014 to \$115,000 from \$106,090 which is earmarked for a modest facelift to Parkhill

Station which includes a renovation to accommodate modern apparatus and adequate training, office and washroom facilities.

CORNELISSEN/ROPP: That Council approve an increase to "Transfer to Reserves for the Fire Dept from \$106,090 to \$115,000.
CARRIED

Public Works Manager Brad Davies then reviewed the Public Works operations and capital budget. Mr. Davies then updated Council on the status of the Poplar Hill Bridge. According to the latest report from the Spriet Engineering, the work to the bridge should be done within 3-5 years. Therefore, with the estimated cost at 1.45 million dollars (increase of additional 2% to the estimated cost in year 4 and 5 should also be factored in) consideration of allocating money to the reserves should be started now. He suggested that \$483,000 be allocated each year for three years. There was some discussion on using the gas tax money for this project. Mr. Davies said that this is a possibility closer to the year the project will actually be undertaken however reminded Council that these monies can only be held for a maximum of three years. Mayor Shipway indicated that he heard this may have recently changed. Staff were directed to look the criteria for gas tax funding again for any updates as well as into any possible grants that may be applied for such as the Rural Infrastructure Grant.

Council agreed that the suggestion from the Public Works Manager to allocate \$483,000 into reserves commencing in 2014 for Poplar Hill Bridge be approved.

Recreation Manager Scott Nickles then proceeded with his overview of the Facilities and Recreation Departments. He indicated that rentals are down for 2014 and also the loss of the OPP rental at the West Williams Hall will impact the budget. The YMCA is running at a loss and to date there has been no explanation. Mr. Nickles advised that he waiting for the YMCA to attend Council so that these questions can be addressed by them. The tenders for the upgrade to the Leisure Club washrooms came in higher than expected. Although the Parkhill Hydro Proceeds Committee has committed funding to assist with this project, the cost is still over the budgeted amount. Trillium Funding has been applied for but the municipality will not hear about this until April or May. The Ailsa Craig Park Upgrade was then discussed. Mr. Nickles outlined the proposed approach to the project and reminded Council that if they approve Phase 1 that there is also a commitment to Phase 2. Mr. Nickles indicated that there is a group of citizens in Ailsa Craig that are very committed to the project as well as to fundraising. Councillor Moir indicated that this has not been approved through the Recreation Committee yet. Mr. Nickles agreed that it has to be finalized first at that level with the details etc. Council asked if grants were going to be applied for and Mr. Nickles replied that they would be but there has to be Council approval of the amount in the budget before this can happen. Councillor Ropp also reminded Council that a recommendation from the Ailsa Craig Recreation Fund Committee

to earmark those funds (\$122,000) towards this project was approved by Council earlier this year.

Drainage Manager, Glen Bullock, then reviewed his department's budget. He explained the transfer to reserves in the amount of \$100,000 is in response to the recently approved Asset Management Plan. It stipulates that there is maintenance work to be completed by 2016 and in order to have the funds to cover this work, it was suggested to start with this amount and continue to build the funds.

Following the presentations, Mr. Daigle gave a synopsis of the impact of the draft budget with changes. It was suggested that in order to achieve a 1-2% increase the current budget which includes capital needs to be reduced by approximately \$361,000. Some suggested decreases was \$15,000 from the overall general operations budget and some modifications to the capital were then reviewed. Treasurer Daigle then suggested that due to the anticipated surplus for 2013 of approximately \$800,000 (which is mainly a result of the permit fees from the Bornish project) that the Poplar Hill Bridge Reserve be set up using these funds and the excess be set aside to assist with offset future tax increases.

After considerable debate over capitals items the following motion was then introduced:

HALL/MCLINCHEY: That the 2014 Budget (including Capital) be approved with a 0% increase to the general tax rate (maintain 2013 tax rate)
CARRIED

5. ADJOURNMENT

ROPP/HEMMING: That the meeting adjourn at 9:00 p.m.

MAYOR

CLERK