



**MUNICIPALITY OF NORTH MIDDLESEX
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

March 25, 2024, 5:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Brian Ropp
Deputy Mayor Paul Hodgins
Councillor Ward 2 Bill Irwin
Councillor Ward 3 Charles Daigle
Councillor Ward 4 John Keogh
Councillor Ward 5 Adrian Cornelissen

Members Absent: Councillor Ward 1 Sara Nirta

Staff Present: Chief Administrative Officer, Carolyn Tripp
Director of Finance / Treasurer Estelle Chayer
Economic Development and Communications Coordinator
Natalie Core
Manager of Public Works Vance Czerwinski
Director of Community Services Brandon Drew
Director of Infrastructure and Operations Jaden Hodgins
Director of Corporate Services / Clerk Ashley Kwarciak,
Director of Fire and Emergency Services Greg Vandenheuvel

The Special Meeting of the Council of the Municipality of North Middlesex was held under the provisions contained within the North Middlesex Procedural By-law and may be held in whole or in part without physically being present at 229 Parkhill Main Street, Parkhill.

- 1. NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING**
- 2. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Ropp called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. with a quorum present. Councillor Nirta was absent.

3. **DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

(Municipal Conflict of Interest Act – Section 5 requires any member of Council to declare a pecuniary interest and general nature thereof, prior to any consideration on that matter. Where the interest of a member of Council has not been disclosed by reason of the member's absence from the meeting, to disclose the interest at the first open meeting attended by the member of Council and otherwise comply with the Act. The disclosures become part of a Public Registry as required under the Act.

None.

4. **BUDGET DELIBERATIONS DRAFT 2024 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

An overview of the agenda was provided.

Taxation

Proposed tax rate increase of 4.85%

Operating tab by tab

Administration and Finance

OMPF Allocation

Service Ontario, Councillor Cornelissen asked if service reduction around the area would impact our increase in volume. The CAO spoke to a slight increase.

Human Resources - Councillor Cornelissen asked about the training budget. Director of Finance / Treasurer provided it was for health and safety. Further on this page, clarification on contracted services -resulting from a proposed capital project - Ergonomics Assessment.

Protective Services

Councillor Cornelissen asked if the change from volunteer to employee for Firefighters would be included in the budget. The Director of Finance / Treasurer provided that this would have implications to the budget but was considered after the budget was created. There would be further impacts to OMERS to come. Staff are still reviewing the changes that will impact - cost analysis will be forthcoming. Volunteer Firefighters are aware.

Education and Training reallocated funds to cover the increase in conferences.

Policing Committee Membership has been added and the increase is \$15,000.00. The Mayor asked for a breakdown of this amount. The CAO noted

that this figure was based on population and will be better forecasted as the Committee ages.

The mosquito abatement program was discussed.

Operations Drains and Waste

Wages and benefits were clarified to include two additional operators. One position is approved through the Organizational Review, Budget Committee is recommending the second operator. Conversation whether or not the second operator is needed immediately. CAO suggested that consider the second delay until later in the year until progress or lack thereof can be demonstrated. How many grader operators employed by the Municipality was noted at 3, with others being provided training. Mentorship opportunities exist for current employees.

Clarification on the costs associated to road sign and the cost being part of the retro-reflectivity study. The signs that have failed are being replaced.

Catch basins and storm sewers increase attributed to urban areas being well maintained, the contracted services are for problematic areas where a vac truck is needed.

Lighting concerns were raised request for adding budget value to do a lighting study an estimate was to return.

Waste contracted services responsible for removing the brush buildup - environmental regulations note that all materials must be removed once a year.

Community Services

Snow removal contract clarified the capacity to take on small projects internally.

Economic Development and Planning

Cost recoveries for engineering and legal fees for development properties were identified. The estimate is based on files that currently exist.

Clarification on the CIP program and the increase resulting from modernizing the program.

Water and Wastewater

The meter pit program reverted to a Capital project.

Disruption trucking is for the long-duration shutdowns from the primary water supply and planned shutdowns.

Chemicals in lagoons conversation was had alluding to the impacts to this line item in the event of taking on a capital project.

The Director of Finance / Treasurer thanked Council and noted that the Draft 2024 Capital would be considered the following night.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Moved By: B. Irwin

Seconded By: J. Keogh

That the Meeting adjourn at 7:27 p.m.

CARRIED



MAYOR

CLERK