

The regular meeting of Council was held on January 23, 2019, with all members of Council present.

Delegations

There were no delegations.

Public Meetings

There were no public meetings.

Department Reports

Fire

No reports.

Recreation

No reports.

Building and Drainage

No reports.

Public Works

No reports.

Finance

The Tax Collector/Deputy Treasurer submitted the year-end tax report noting there was \$990,263 of outstanding taxes at the end of 2018. At the end of 2017, there was a total of \$980,236 of outstanding taxes.

The Director of Finance reported a surplus of \$59,900 for the 2018 Budget. Council passed a resolution to transfer the surplus into the Surplus/Deficit Reserve.

The Director of Finance presented the first draft of the 2019 Capital Budget and Operating Budget along with Departmental Business Plans. The 2019-2023 Capital Budget shows projected expenditures of \$33,849,480. Based on these projections, the annual Capital Tax Levy will need to increase from \$2,491,800 to \$2,941,800. Listed below are the proposed capital projects:

- Approximately 35 km of roads reconstructed.
- Approximately 12 Bridge/culverts rehabilitated.
- Replaced 11 Road vehicles
- Replaced 1 Fire tanker and 2 Fire Pumpers
- Constructed new Public Works/Road shop.
- Constructed addition to the Embro Fire Station.
- Aims at bring all of 6 Zorra's playgrounds into compliance with the CSA's standard for Childrens' Playspaces and Equipment Z614, along with Annex H; guidelines for creating children's areas that are accessible to persons with disabilities.
- Development of approximately 3km of intra park trail network that will connect park amenities.

- Recreation Arena/Facilities improvements including new rink boards; ice refrigeration systems; ice-resurfacers replacements.

In 2018 budget; the Township tax levy requirement is \$7,752,756.00.00 and apportioned as follows:

- Operating expenditures \$5,260,956.00
- Capital expenditures \$2,491,800.00

The 2019 1st draft; the Township tax levy requirement is \$8,541,710.50 and apportioned as follows:

- Operating expenditures \$5,599,910.50
- Capital expenditures \$2,941,800.00

The total increase of \$788,954.50 represents a 10.1% levy dollar increase from 2018 to 2019.

Final impact on tax rates will not be known until decisions have been made by Oxford County council on tax ratios and the Province of Ontario establishes the 2019 Education tax rates.

Corporate Services

Bill 68 requires municipalities to appoint an Integrity Commissioner prior to March 1, 2019. Integrity Commissioners are now mandated to oversee the application of these codes of conduct and the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* (the "MCIA"), to respond to requests from Members of Council and of local boards for advice respecting their obligations under their respective code of conduct and the MCIA, and to provide educational information to Members of Council, members of local boards, the municipality and the public regarding the Township's code of conduct and the MCIA. The Integrity Commissioner is an independent and impartial position that reports to Council and whose powers and duties are set out in the *Municipal Act*. Municipalities are responsible for all applicable fees for investigations and training from the Integrity Commissioner. Council passed a resolution to proceed with appointing Gregory Stewart as the Township's Integrity Commissioner. Mr. Stewart is presently the IC for South-West Oxford, East Zorra-Tavistock, Norwich, Blandford-Blenheim, Woodstock, Ingersoll and Oxford County.

In response to a report from the CAO regarding ongoing boundary negotiations with the Town of Ingersoll, Council passed a resolution stating it is premature to proceed with meaningful dialogue with Ingersoll on the is proposal until such time as the Town consults with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. The Township is of the opinion that a study would be required to assess the extent and quality of the limestone resource and how this proposal will impact the site in question as well as surrounding lands. The Township would suggest that pre-consultation take place with staff from Oxford County, Zorra and Ingersoll and with MMAH and MNRF to scope issues listed out Report 2019-012.

Council passed a resolution to make additional appointments to committees. Mark Seaton, Amanda Breen-Cowan and Jessa Munro were appointed to the Zorra Community



Policing Committee and Rob Parkhill was appointed as the Township's representative on the Rural Oxford Economic Development Corporation Board.

Next Meeting

The next Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 23, 2019, at 9:00 am.