

Minutes of a Budget Meeting held January 17, 2006 at 9:00 a.m..

PRESENT:

Mayor Wayne Hurst
Deputy Mayor Anthony Leardi
Councillor Robert Bailey
Councillor Gord Freeman
Councillor Carl Gibb
Councillor Paul Renaud
Councillor Rosa White

ALSO PRESENT:

Frank Pizzuto, CAO
David Mailloux, Clerk
Paul Beneteau, Treasurer
Lou Zarlenga, Public Works Manager
Dave Carpenter, IT Manager
Carol Bendo, Human Resource Specialist/Dep. Clerk
Ralph Barnwell, Arena Manager, Facilities Sup.
Rick Murray, Fire Chief
Lory Bratt, Planning Coordinator
Steve Brown, Chief Building Official

Mayor Hurst welcomed everyone to the 1st 2006 Budget Session.

Mayor Hurst stated that Deputy Mayor Leardi would report on a meeting that was held with the French Catholic School Board and the Town of Essex regarding the library in McGregor.

Deputy Mayor Leardi reported that the County Library Board is contemplating closing smaller libraries of which McGregor could be one.

At the meeting with the School Board and the town of Essex the possibility of having a library on the St. Ursula School Site was discussed. Two options would be to have a library in the existing building or adding on to the school to create a library. The Town of Essex will pursue. The Town of Essex Clerk is the contact person. We will be receiving correspondence from Essex.

CAO Frank Pizzuto explained that this session is a Council – Staff session hopefully informal. It is a preliminary meeting – hopes that Council will let staff know its priorities. The CAO further explained that we are dealing with aging assets that require major dollars to bring them up to standard. Financial issues are a very real concern. We need Economic Development and an increase in the Tax Base to get us back to a positive situation.

Treasurer Paul Beneteau distributed a presentation that was reviewed with Council.

Budget Package Review

COUNCIL BUDGET

For 2006 Budget to include OSUM Conference in Leamington. Amount for Mayor to attend AMO also.

Discussion took place on Council “OMERS” participation.

ADMINISTRATION

Staff to look at “Life & Disability” benefits – costs.
Issue Paper – Service delivery change option – proceed.
Issue Paper – Permanent Signage – defer
Issue Paper – Phone System Upgrade – proceed.

TREASURY

Tax Write Off – keep with the \$200,000 Budget.

Pam to report back regarding impact of General Chemical buildings being demolished.

IT

Issue Paper – additional hours for part time – OK

Consider upgrading the computer monitors for the clerical staff in the Clerks office.

Dave Carpenter to investigate options to improve sound system in Council Chambers.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Deputy Mayor Leardi insisted that Council deal with the issue of area rating the cost of the full time firefighters in former Anderdon.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Issue Paper – Computer software for issuance of permits and inspections – proceed.

Issue Paper – Filing system capacity – defer.

General Comment – CAO will be coming back with a report on the meetings being held on January 17 and 18.

PLANNING

Lory Bratt presented the Planning Budget.

CULTURAL EXPENSES

Start Reserve for Carnegie Library - \$2500.00 for 2006
For McGregor Library \$5000.00 for 2006

Gordon House – Carl Gibb to follow up on letter sent to HMS Detroit by CAO.

GRANTS

Council to discuss Parks Canada (Fort Malden) in a Working Session.

Grant requests approved as recommended.

TOURISM

Opening time and closing time of booth to be discussed
Economic Development Strategy - \$20,000 – approved.

RECREATION

Arena – OK
Ralph to look at Pool staffing levels.

Marina – OK – need to look at increasing well rentals.

Council adjourned the meeting – to be resumed at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 18, 2006.

1. \$400,000 - cost yearly over 5 years.
2. 1% yearly on tax base for reserves.
3. Public Works Equipment
 - Recoveries from operating expenses – salt, grass cutting
4. By-law Enforcement
 - Contract for Dog licences
 - By-law revenues (sign/pool enclosure)
5. Tax Rates for other Municipalities – Water, Sewer, Tax
6. Gas Tax against Road Works
7. Grants – effect
8. Options on Radios
9. Technology Enhancements
10. Moving some to Water/Sewer
11. Benefits for Retirees; separate line. When do benefits end.
12. Splash Pool – funding
13. Area rating for fire in Anderdon
14. Debt Bond/Yearly cost as % of total budget
15. Police overview of Budget
16. Total Conference & Conventions
17. Bottom Line – Capital (2006)
18. Tourism Booth – value – opening & closing
19. Crossing Guards to Protective Services
20. Garbage Scenario's
21. Contracts for Grass Cutting
22. ERCA – Clean Water