

**AMHERSTBURG MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING
on
Tuesday, November 25, 2008
Held at Council Chambers Beginning at 7:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Mayor Wayne Hurst
Deputy Mayor Robert Bailey
Councillor Rick Fryer
Councillor Robert (Bob) Pillon
Councillor Paul Renaud
Councillor John Sutton
Councillor Rosa White

ALSO PRESENT:

Pamela Malott, Chief Administrative Office
Kevin Atkinson, Sewer and Watermain Superintendent
Carol Bendo, Human Resources Manager
Paul Beneteau, Treasurer
Lory Bratt, Planning Coordinator
Stephen Brown, Chief Building Official
Dave Carpenter, Manager of Information Technology
Tony De Thomasis, Roads and Parks Superintendent
Ron Dzombak, Manager of Recreation Services
Ivano Fregonese, Supervisor of Budget Services
Cindy Hazael-Gietz, Deputy-Clerk
Dwayne Grondin, Public Works Inspector/Coordinator of
Development Services
Richard Murray, Fire Chief
Lou Zarlenga, Manager of Public Services

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Wayne Hurst called the special public meeting of Council to order at 7:00 pm. Mayor Hurst stated that the meeting is to review our draft budget for 2009 for the Town of Amherstburg. Mayor Hurst indicated that the Supervisor of Budget Services, Ivano Fregonese will make a presentation of our draft operating and capital budgets. Mayor Hurst stated that once this has been completed the session will be opened up to give members of the public an opportunity to make comments after which time a motion from Council will be entertained to enable us to place this on the upcoming Council meeting agenda for approval.

DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None.

PRESENTATION

Pamela Malott, CAO welcomed everyone to the 8th budget meeting. Ms. Malott indicated that the purpose of this meeting is to hear any public feedback concerning the draft that is being brought forward. Ms. Malott indicated that Council has debated the budget understanding the tough economic times and the pressures being faced by ratepayers. Ms. Malott stated that services still need to be maintained and work still needs to be done. Ms. Malott indicated that what we have brought to the ratepayers is a budget that will serve the needs of the community and provide the services required.

Ivano Fregonese, Supervisor of Budget Services made a presentation to Council regarding the 2009 Draft Budget. The presentation is attached to and forms a part of these minutes.

Ivano Fregonese indicated that the Wastewater and Water items will be funded through User Fees and further that the Administrative Team is reviewing the rates in hopes to reduce the debt load for 2009. Mr. Fregonese stated that the Anderdon area rate payers will have a reduction in the rate due to the phasing out of the Anderdon Area Rate this year.

REPORTS

The Draft Operations Budget was presented by Supervisor of Budget Services, Ivano Fregonese.

The Draft Capital Budget was presented by Supervisor of Budget Services, Ivano Fregonese.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

1. Brian Matz of Close to Home Community Organization addressed Council regarding a funding request for the organization

Brian Matz of Close to Home made a verbal presentation to Council regarding the grant application submitted previously for consideration. Mr. Matz gave a brief description of the computer programs that are run in the community of McGregor. Mr. Matz appealed to Council to assist in a financial way with the needs of the Program. Mr. Matz indicated that the organization has approached other organizations for financial assistance including Essex Town Council, Local CAW 444, 200, 1973 and 195. Mr. Matz indicated the monthly cost to run the program is approximately \$350.00. and that the organization is not looking for full financial assistance from one party. The used computers are welcome and the organization is looking for financial support as well to assist in continuing to serve the 40 students per week currently in the program. Mr. Matz thanked Council for their time and consideration.

Moved By Deputy Mayor Bailey
Seconded By Councillor Renaud

That the verbal presentation from Brian Matz be received.

Motion Carried

Mayor Hurst opened the meeting to the public for comment and discussion.

No further comments or presentations were received.

Moved by Councillor Sutton
Seconded by Councillor White

That Council receive the comments made at this public meeting in connection with the Draft Operations Budget and Draft Capital Budget, 2009 and refer the Budget document to the December 15th Council Meeting.

Motion Carried

Councillor Pillon spoke to the presentation received tonight from Close to Home and suggested that Council consider funding \$700.00.

Moved by Councillor White
Seconded by Councillor Renaud

That Council direct Administration to allocate \$700.00 towards Close to Home Organization for the 2009 budget;

And further that Close to Home Organization be directed to report back to Council how the funds were used.

Motion Carried

NEW BUSINESS

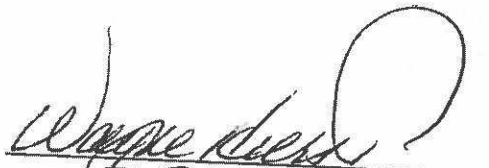
None


ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor White
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Bailey

That Council rise and adjourn at 7:42 P.M.

Motion Carried



Wayne Hurst, Mayor

Pamela Malott, Clerk

CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG



2009 BUDGET PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION

November 25, 2008

7:00 pm

TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG

2009 BUDGET TIMELINES

September 8, 2008 - Preliminary 2009 Budget Session with Council.

September 15, 2008 - 1st review of Capital budget by Council.
September 26, 2008 – Council Approval “in principal” of Capital budget.

October 6, 2008 – Council Review of Draft Base Operations budget.

October 24, 2008 – Council 1st review of Operations Issue Papers.

November 10, 2008 – Council 2nd review of Operations Issue Papers.

November 17, 2008 – Council Review of Operations & Capital Budget.

TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG

SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES

- Economic Outlook
- Customer Service – increasing demands
- Aging Infrastructure, aging fleet & aging facilities
- Aging staff – sick leave / benefits / vacation entitlements increase
- Technological Advances and Requirements
- Assessment and Re-assessment
- Debt Load – pressure from capital needs
- Capital Strategy – priorities over 5 year timeline

TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG

ASSESSMENT & REASSESSMENT

- The last reassessment occurred in 2005 for the 2006 taxation year.
- The new assessment in 2008 equaled 0.92%
- New Assessment in 2009 is proposed to equal 0.84%
- 2008 is the reassessment year for 2009 taxation.
- Assessment increases are phased in over 4 years.
- Assessment decreases are realized immediately in 2009
- The impact of this reassessment will be finalized in late December.

TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG
LONG TERM DEBT - 2009 BUDGET

Fund	2009	Existing	WIP	TOTAL
General	542,000	7,370,982	2,771,019	10,684,001
Wastewater	2,404,783	3,895,608	6,069,263	12,369,654
Water	1,108,600	2,093,919	1,600,434	4,802,953
Shoreline, Tile & Drains	0	168,379	0	168,379
Total	4,055,383	13,528,888	10,440,716	28,024,987

- The 2009 budget includes an annual debt & interest payment of \$3,398,967 (\$837,790 relates to WIP).

TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG

2009 CAPITAL FINANCE STRATEGY

- Starting in 2008 to limit General Tax debentures to \$500,000 over the next 10 years.
- Pay down General tax related debt to decrease Debt repayments as a % of total expenditures. To provide financial flexibility for the future capital plans.
- Increase Capital Reserves for future capital needs.
- Maximize funding capital with Grants.
- Water & Wastewater capital and debenture payments will continue to be funded through respective user rates.

TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG

SIGNIFICANT SUCCESSES

- Corporate Strategy with priorities
- Establishment of additional Reserves
- Low Taxes – 2007 BMA study
- Unified Service Rates
- Improved Customer Service – Kiosk, telephone, website, Fire Inspector.
- Significant Infrastructure Improvements

TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG

RESERVES

Equipment Reserve

- Established in 2007 to set aside funds for future replacement of vehicles & equipment.

Computer Reserve

- Established to assist future computer needs of the Town.

Building Reserve

- Set up for the future acquisition of buildings and facilities.

Capital Reserve

- Established for emergency capital projects or to fund unexpected capital overruns.

TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG

PROGRESS ON 2009 PROPOSED TAX RATE

<p>1st Review of Operational Issue Papers by Council – October 24, 2008</p>	<p>Proposed Base Tax Rate Proposed New Initiatives Sub-total b/f Fire Area Rating Fire Area Rating Capital (not included) Preliminary Total</p>	<p>4.28 % <u>3.61 %</u> 7.89 % 1.08 % - <u>8.97 %</u></p>
<p>Second Review of Operational Issue Papers by Council – November 10, 2008</p>	<p>Proposed Base Tax Rate Proposed New Initiatives Sub-total b/f Fire Area Rating Fire Area Rating Capital Tentative Total</p>	<p>0.81 % <u>2.06 %</u> 2.87 % 1.08 % <u>1.11 %</u> <u>5.06 %</u></p>
<p>Review of Operational & Capital Budget by Council – November 17, 2008</p>	<p>Proposed Base Tax Rate Approved New Initiatives Sub-total b/f Fire Area Rating Fire Area Rating Capital Tentative Total</p>	<p>0.83 % <u>1.29 %</u> 2.12 % 1.08 % <u>1.11 %</u> <u>4.31 %</u></p>
<p>Review of Operational & Capital Budget by Council – November 24, 2008</p>	<p>Proposed Base Tax Rate Approved New Initiatives Sub-total b/f Fire Area Rating Fire Area Rating Capital Tentative Total</p>	<p>0.83 % <u>1.36 %</u> 2.19 % 1.08 % <u>0.54 %</u> <u>3.81 %</u></p>

TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG

TAX RATE CALCULATION

	2008	2009	Tax Rate
Total to be raised			
Through Taxation	\$13,310,896.25		
	0.00696932	0.00723510	3.81%

Taxable Assessment
\$1,839,766,515

TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG

FIRE SERVICE AREA RATING

- Charge assessed to “former Anderdon” assessment area
- Total for 2008 = \$ 274,500 split over 2008 (\$137,250) & 2009 (\$137,250).
- Elimination of this area rate increases the General Tax Rate by approximately \$14.38 for the current (2009) and prior year (2008) for all residents.
- The eliminated area rate provides tax savings to “former Anderdon” residents in the amount of about \$35.33 for the both 2008 & 2009.

TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG

NEW INITIATIVES FOR 2009

Description	Proposed	Recommended	Approved	% Increase
1 Clerk's – LAS Audit	28,696	6,000	6,000	0.05
2 IT - Application Specialist	67,092	36,700	36,700	0.29
3 Fire – Cement Pad	13,000	13,000	13,000	0.10
4 Dog Catcher	25,000	20,000	20,000	0.16
Dev. Services - Planning – Development Charges				
5 Study	12,000	12,000	12,000	0.00
6 Dev. Services - Planning – Big Creek Study	50,000	25,000	25,000	0.20
7 Public Works – Roads – Seasonal Staff	15,000	5,000	5,000	0.04
8 Parks Maintenance – KNYP – Signature Beds	15,000	15,000	15,000	0.12
9 Parks Maintenance – Parks Supervisor	61,340	26,017	26,017	0.20
10 Arena – Additional Refrigeration Maintenance	7,400	7,400	7,400	0.06
11 Arena – Additional Building Maintenance	28,000	28,000	14,000	0.11
12 Water – Backflow Prevention	65,000	65,000	65,000	0.00
13 Committees	63,050	63,050	5,483	0.04
Total	450,578	322,167	250,600	1.36 12

TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG

2009 HIGHLIGHTS

EXPANSION OF LARRY BAUER PARK

BIG CREEK WATERSHED STUDY

ACQUISITION OF TWO MARKED POLICE VEHICLES

ENHANCEMENT OF SPECIAL EVENTS AND FESTIVALS PROGRAM

FULL-TIME FIRE INSPECTOR

REOPENING OF THOMAS ROAD

RECONSTRUCTION OF 3RD CONCESSION SOUTH

RECONSTRUCTION MURRAY STREET

TAR & CHIPPING OF RURAL ROADS

PHASE III OF DALHOUSIE STREE STORM SEWER

BRIDGE OVER ONG DRAIN

NEW STREET SWEEPER

CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SEWER SEPARATION PROGRAM WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF COMRIF GRANT SUBSIDIES

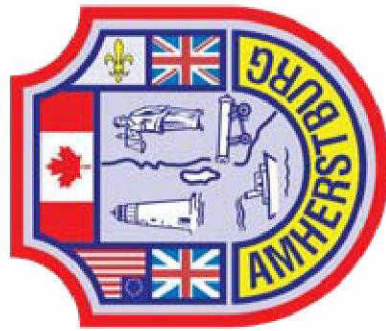
CONTINUED UPGRADE & EXPANSION OF SEWAGE TREATMENT PLAN (ALSO COMRIF FUNDED)

RECONSTRUCT SANITARY PUMPING STATION IN LUCIER ESTATES

WATER METER REPLACEMENT WITH RADIO FREQUENCY

NEW WATER MAINS

TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG



2009

OPERATING BUDGET

TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG

GENERAL RATED EXPENSES - OPERATING BUDGET

	2007 Actual	2008 Budget	2009 Budget	Increase / (Decrease)	% INCREASE
COUNCIL - TOTAL EXPENSES	201,956	201,760	219,424	17,664	8.75%
CLERK'S, TREASURY & ADMINISTRATION GLOBAL - TOTAL EXPENSES	1,952,232	1,896,754	1,920,770	24,016	1.27%
COMMITTEES - TOTAL EXPENSES	50,904	52,200	56,583	4,383	8.40%
RETIREE BENEFITS - TOTAL EXPENSES	142,850	161,100	154,168	(6,933)	-4.30%
TOTAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	150,138	161,090	232,566	71,476	44.37%
GEOGRAPHIC INFO. SYSTEM - TOTAL EXPENSES	98,291	101,271	106,123	4,852	4.79%
FIRE DEPARTMENT - TOTAL EXPENSES	1,214,783	1,240,196	1,239,054	(1,142)	-0.09%
TOTAL PROTECTIVE SERVICES	143,603	97,699	119,741	22,042	22.56%
CROSSING GUARDS - TOTAL EXPENSES	46,042	48,010	50,280	2,270	4.73%
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES - TOTAL EXPENSES	740,404	850,314	910,398	60,084	7.07%
TOTAL CULTURAL EXPENSES	66,092	64,290	58,238	(6,053)	-9.41%
TOURISM & ECONOMIC DEV. - TOTAL EXPENSES	157,725	238,771	232,730	(6,041)	-2.53%
PUBLIC WORKS - TOTAL EXPENSES	3,181,491	2,977,818	3,168,966	191,148	6.42%
ENVIRONMENTAL - TOTAL EXPENSES	1,111,439	1,211,300	1,241,600	30,300	2.50%
PARKS & RECREATION - TOTAL EXPENSES	709,439	637,675	683,472	45,797	7.18%
AMHERSTBURG ARENA	803,208	615,162	598,277	(16,885)	-2.74%
SUBTOTAL OF PROPOSED EXPENSES	10,770,599	10,555,410	10,992,389	436,979	4.14%
POLICE DEPARTMENT - TOTAL EXPENSES	4,345,367	4,475,354	4,632,600	157,246	3.51%
	15,115,966	15,030,764	15,624,989	594,225	3.95%

TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG

GENERAL RATED EXPENSES

GENERAL COMMENTS

- Equipment Reserve is being increased by a total of \$403,451 (2008 - \$349,797).
- Computer Reserve is being increased by \$59,100 (2008 - \$31,800)
- Benefit costs are not expected to increase significantly in 2009
- Salaries adjusted to reflect negotiated contractual agreements
- Overall increase in departmental expenses of 3.95%

TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG

USER RATES

User rates do not effect the General tax rate. These departments charge user rates for the service provided.

- Wastewater department expenses are recovered through the Sewer (Wastewater) Rates.
- Water Department expenses are recovered through Water Rates.
- Ranta Marina is currently not part of the General Tax Rate calculation and has a segregated Deficit.

TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG

WASTEWATER -2009 BUDGET

2007 Actual Operating	
\$2,358,095	
2008 Operating Budget	
\$2,437,059	
2009 Operating Budget	
\$2,578,114	
Increase	\$ 141,055
% Increase	6 %

Increase due in part to:

1. Landfill charges \$110,000.
2. Building expenses \$ 14,000 WATER – 2009 BUDGET

2007 Actual Operating	
\$2,532,453	
2008 Operating Budget	
\$2,921,041	
2009 Operating Budget	
\$3,052,328	
Increase	\$ 131,287
% Increase	4 %

Increase due to:

1. Increased allocation of staff resources 84,000
2. Backflow prevention \$65,000

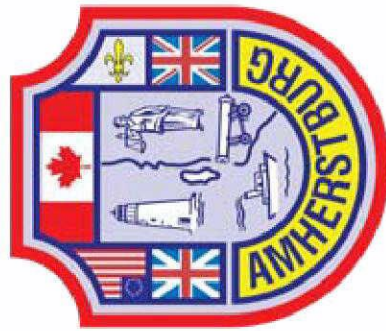
TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG
RANTA MARINA – 2009 BUDGET

2007 Net Operating Actual	\$ 66,595
2008 Net Operating Budget	\$ 14,050
2009 Net Operating Budget	\$ 57,261
Increase	\$ 43,211
% Increase	308 %

Increase primarily due to:

- 1. Interest on deficit \$35,000**
- 2. Building Expenses \$8,000**

TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG



2009

CAPITAL BUDGET

TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG

GENERAL RATED CAPITAL BUDGET

SUMMARY BY DEPARTMENT

	2007 ACTUAL	2008 BUDGET	2009 BUDGET	COMMENTS
BUILDING RESERVE	0	0	31,786	
CAPITAL RESERVE	0	0	31,786	
COUNCIL	2,256	0	0.00	
ADMIN	78,871	0	0.00	
I.T.	25,189	58,000	0	
FIRE	0	698,000	25,000	Reserve for New Fire Hall
POLICE	152,016	142,500	290,000	Vehicles & Equipment
ARENA	23,553	71,300	0	
ECO. DEV.	480,762	233,000	20,000	Drainage Tiles
TOURISM	0	0	35,000	War of 1812
PARKS	1,811,773	1,819,640	2,825,000	Roads, Bridges & Equipment
RECREATION	255,294	0	447,000	Land & vehicle
MAINTENANCE	235,355	333,000	433,600	Servicing & Equipment
	3,065,069	3,355,440	4,139,172	

TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG
2009 GENERAL RATED CAPITAL BUDGET

SOURCES OF FINANCING

2009 GENERAL TAX RATED CAPITAL

\$4,139,172

FUNDING SOURCES

Cost sharing / Subsidy

\$2,968,000

Development Charges

22,576

Current Tax Rate Revenue

68,172

Reserves

538,424

Debentures

542,000

TOTAL REVENUE SOURCES

\$4,139,172

TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG
2009 WATER CAPITAL BUDGET

SOURCES OF FUNDING

\$1,799,416

2009 WATER DEPARTMENT CAPITAL

FUNDING SOURCES

Current Revenue

515,816

Reserves

175,000

Debentures

1,108,600

TOTAL FUNDING SOURCES

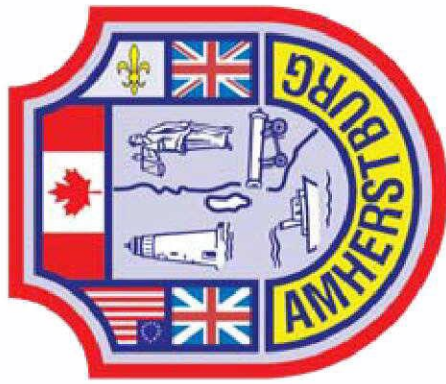
\$1,799,416

TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG
2009 WASTEWATER CAPITAL BUDGET

SOURCES OF FUNDING

2009 WASTEWATER CAPITAL	6,779,979
FUNDING SOURCES	
Cost Sharing/Grants	\$2,909,567
Development Charges	260,000
Current Revenues	1,205,629
Debentures	<u>2,404,783</u>
TOTAL SOURCES OF FUNDING	<u>\$6,779,979</u>

TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG



**THE END
QUESTIONS?**

