

TOWN OF LAURENTIAN HILLS
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 21 April, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.

A Special Meeting of Council of the Town of Laurentian Hills was held on Tuesday 21 April, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Attendance:

Mayor	John Reinwald
Councillor	Bruce Boucher
Councillor	Brenda Blimkie
Councillor	Dennis Hyde
Deputy Mayor	Anne Giardini

Also Present:

Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk	Sherry Batten
Treasurer/Deputy Clerk	Tammy Forbes

1. **BUDGET WORKSHOP**

The CAO/Clerk noted that the department heads have already reviewed the draft budget and meetings were held with the various Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs.

The proposed budget was reviewed with Council. Reviewed first were the projected revenues And then each department was reviewed and discussed at length.

Points of Discussion:

- Payroll costs/benefits are up for all departments
- Council honorarium is up due to the last payment from last year being paid in January of this year
- Council training/conferences as expected with new Council is slightly higher
- Four positions last year in General Government/Planning started at lower salaries and general government salaries will still be below the total salaries recorded in 2011
- Upgrades to software will be done this year
- The library in Chalk River will receive new carpeting and flooring
- The Chalk River Nursery School will have the furnace replaced
- Bi-annual Maintenance inspections alone for all the heating units is 5,000
- Insurance rates remain unchanged. However the change in the bottom line premium is due solely to asset changes, such as the inflationary increase applied to property values to keep them in line with current replacement cost
- A 5% increase has been calculated for hydro rate increases in all departments
- The new OPP billing model is in place. Costs may be lower after a reconciliation is completed at year end

Planning

- The biggest expenditure is the Official Plan review and amendments to the Zoning By-law that result from the review
- Funds have been allocated for training (by-law enforcement officers course being a critical one)

Economic Development

The major expense will be with the business park. The ESA is a priority so that Council will know if any remediation is required for part, or all of, the Business Park.

Fire Department

The major expense is the generator (a carry over from last year) and the new truck that is required. 125,000 will be transferred from reserves to pay for the cab and chassis that will be ordered this year. This will allow time for the order to proceed and have the truck delivered next year. The balance of the truck will be paid for out of the Fire reserves next year.

Public Works

Ottawa Street is a carry over project from last year to be completed this year. Added to the project is the paving of the shoulders. Plant Road is scheduled to be repaved along with the shoulders. It is planned that Plant Road will be done at a time when traffic is light ie. between 9:00am and 3:00pm or at night or on the weekend. Money to help offset the costs will come from the Gas Tax Reserves as well as the surplus from the last year. The replacement of the signs that failed the mandatory reflectivity test is included in the budget as well as crushing that was last done in 2013.

A truck and plow replacement is also planned. The old truck and plow will be sold at a later date.

A major project planned for this year is the LED streetlight replacement program. The Town should see a projected 65% savings in hydro.

Environment

There is an increase in the NRLOB budget

- Recycling costs are down due to a new contract
- Funding to look at alternative garbage collection ie bag tags etc. is in the budget
- We have a water line that may be compromised under Highway 17 in Chalk River that needs to be rerouted

Culture

- The library has been asked to hold their budget
- The contribution to recreation is down due to the surplus from last year
- We have held the grants/donations at the same level as last year except for one which was lowered
- Physician recruitment is in its second year of a five agreement
- There was significant discussion on the snow plowing program. The general consensus was that the program was not sustainable. The costs are escalating and there are only seven driveways currently being done

Recreation

Maintenance to the fields will be done, replacement of equipment and the repair of the infloor heating will be looked at this year. A chemical toilet has been added for Cory Lake with servicing as well small amounts of funds for each park has been included.

Water

There will be no increase to the water or sewer rates. We are budgeting to take 30,000 from the Reserves to correct the infiltration identified at McCarthy Street. The Comminutor is also included to be replaced.

Council requested that staff make some changes and bring the budget back to Finance and Personnel Committee meeting in May.

The increase in the Town's overall assessment for all classes for 2015 is 17,320,677

This is a 5.42% increase in revenue = \$133,491.95. The total Revenues from all sources for the proposed 2015 budget is \$4,298,609.21

Levy options were discussed and Council recommended that the tax rate not be increased and the budgeted transfer to the Public Works Reserve be increased.

2. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Hyde
Seconded by Councillor Boucher

Be it Hereby Resolved That:

this Special Meeting of the Council of the Town of Laurentian Hills do now adjourn at 4:50 p.m.

CARRIED Resolution 78-15

MAYOR

CLERK