



QUISPAMISIS TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

December 9, 2014, 6:00 pm
Council Chambers
Quispamsis Town Hall

Members Present: Mayor G. Murray Driscoll
Deputy Mayor Libby O'Hara
Councillor Gary Clark
Councillor Lisa Loughery
Councillor Kirk Miller
Councillor Emil T. Olsen
Councillor Pierre Rioux
Councillor Beth Thompson

Staff Present Deuille, Susan; Acting CAO
Losier, Gary; Director of Engineering & Works (7:00 p.m.)
McGraw, Jo-Anne; Town Treasurer
Purton Dickson, Dana; Director of Community Services
Snow, Catherine; Town Clerk

1. **Moment of Reflection** – Deputy Mayor O'Hara prayed.
2. **Proposed 2015 Budget**

Mayor Driscoll noted this is the fifth of an expected total of six budget meetings Council has held on the Budget since November. He acknowledged the Town has received from the Province of New Brunswick the property tax base numbers and the Community Funding and Equalization Grant amount for 2015. He proposed, similar to the December 2, 2014 Regular Meeting Budget Discussion, that Council convene into an Open Committee of the Whole session to permit a more relaxed, free flow budget .

Moved By Councillor Olsen

Seconded By Deputy Mayor O'Hara

Council resolve into Committee of the Whole where discussions ensued on the following items.

Motion Carried

2.1.1 Comex Service - Recommendation from Ad Hoc Committee 1) Proposed Change in Routes and 2) Proposed Increase to Fares

A Report from the Comex Review Ad Hoc Committee informed Council it has met on several occasions with Saint John Transit officials to review existing routes , costs and ridership numbers on both Route 52 Kennebecasis Valley, (\$82,892) and Route 53 Quispamsis (\$86,520), with the view towards reducing the Town's overall total costs of \$191,000.

A summary of the financial implications of the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation would

- Reduce two runs from Route 53 +\$10,000
- Increase Ridership Fares +\$15,000
- Conduct Promotional Campaign -\$ 5,000

Total Savings Proposed for 2015 \$20,000

In addition, the Ad Hoc Committee is recommending continued discussions with the Town of Rothesay to implement improved efficiencies to Route 52, which could result in further savings in 2016 of possibly \$45,000.

2.2 Proposed General Operating & Capital Budgets

A Staff Report from the Town Treasurer informed Council when the Draft Budget 2015 was presented to Council an estimate of 1.6% was used to calculate the estimated increase in the Towns tax base. The actual numbers were received from the Province showing a total growth in the Town's tax base of 3.55%. At the current tax rate of \$1.2385 this represents additional revenue from property tax of \$690,500, an increase of \$380,350 in revenue from the estimate used. The Community Funding

and Equalization Grant for 2015, however, has been set at \$100,359 which represents the expected 3rd year decrease of \$241,720 plus an additional reduction of \$83,551 for a total reduction of \$325,278. This represents just over 2 cents, she said, on the tax rate. The Town's total proposed General Operating Fund Budget Summary totals \$21,723,257.

2.3 2015 Proposed Utility Operating Budget

A Staff Report indicated the draft 2015 budget for the Utility Operating Fund was presented to Council on November 20, 2014. Since that time, details have been received from the Municipal Finance Corporation on the repayment requirements for a new debenture. As the 20 year average interest rate is lower than expected, the debt service cost for the 2015 Utility Operating Budget will decrease by about \$25,000. This results in a decrease in the requirement for a transfer from the Utility Operating Reserve Fund by the same amount. The budget prepared, the Town Treasurer indicated, has been on the basis of a Sewer User rate of \$400 for 2015. This represents an increase of \$12 or 3.1%, and no proposed changes to the Water Rates.

Moved by Councillor Olsen

Committee of the Whole Resolve back into Regular Meeting Session.

Motion Carried

Back to Open Session

3. **Business Arising from Committee of the Whole**

3.1 **Comex Service – Recommendation from Ad Hoc Committee**

Moved by Councillor Thompson

Seconded by Councillor Loughery

Council accept the Comex Review Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations to renew the Town's agreement with Saint John Transit for a one year at a time term, based on the following conditions:

1. Route #53 – Quispamsis Comex – Effective April 1, 2015, eliminate the last run in the morning, (qplex 9:24 a.m.); and eliminate the last run in the afternoon, (qplex, 6:31 p.m.). This effectively removes two of the six daily runs from Route 53, for an annual savings of \$10,000.
2. Effective, February 1, 2015, increase Fares for an approximate \$15,000 increase in revenues, as follows:
 - Trip Fare from \$3.80 to \$4.00
 - Punch Cards
 - 10 Ride from \$33 to \$38
 - 20 Ride from \$60 to \$68
 - Monthly Rates from \$109 to \$125
3. Promotional Campaign, Allocate \$5000 to promote increased ridership. Marketing to focus on the significant economic and environmental benefits of taking the bus.
4. Continues to work with the neighbouring Town of Rothesay to implement potential changes and/or improved efficiencies to Route 52.

Motion Carried. Nay: Councillor Rioux

3.2 **2015 General Operating Budget**

Moved by Councillor Thompson
Seconded by Councillor Olsen

Council accept Staff's recommendation to direct the Town Treasurer to increase the property tax rate by one cent in order to protect the long term sustainability of the Town's financial health, representing an additional revenue of \$162,000 to ensure a continued contribution to the reserve funds, positioning the Town to be better able to absorb any future plans for infrastructure upgrades, unforeseen cost increase, or revenue decreases due to a flat tax base growth; and bring the final proposed 2015 budget for formal approval to Council for the December 16, 2014 Regular Meeting.

Motion Carried.

Nay: Deputy Mayor O'Hara, Councillor Clark and Councillor Miller.

3.3 **Proposed Utility Operating Budget**

Moved by Councillor Clark

Seconded by Deputy Mayor O'Hara

A \$12 increase be given to the annual Utility User rate from \$388 to \$400.

Motion Carried.

4. **Adjournment**

Moved by Councillor Miller

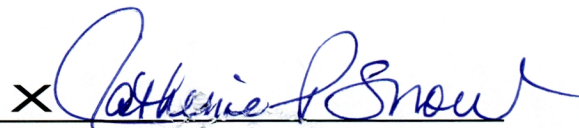
Seconded by Councillor Thompson

Special Meeting adjourn to the December 16, 2014 Regular Meeting.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.


X
G. Murray Driscoll
Mayor


X
Catherine P. Snow
Clerk