

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF LAMBTON SHORES

Regular Council Meeting

Meeting No. 05-2011

Date of Meeting: Wednesday, February 09 2011

Members Present: Mayor Bill Weber
Deputy Mayor Elizabeth Davis-Dagg
Councillor Dave Maguire
Councillor Doug Bonesteel
Councillor Lorie Scott
Councillor Ruth Illman
Councillor Martin Underwood
Councillor Doug Cook
Councillor John Russell

Staff Present: C.A.O. John Byrne
Clerk Carol McKenzie
Treasurer Janet Ferguson
Director of Community Services Peggy Van Mierlo West

Media Present: Kimberly Powell-McConaghy
Gord Whitehead – Various Publications

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Mayor Weber advised that while today's meeting was an open session of Council, it was not a public discussion meeting. He noted that there would be an opportunity for public discussion on the budget once the Council has an opportunity to review and discuss the document.

At the meeting held the 28th of January, the 1st draft of the 2011 Lambton Shores Operating and Capital budget was provided, and Chief Administrative Officer John Byrne advised that the budget was prepared with a target goal of a 2% increase. The goal of the meeting today was to review the proposed projects and acquisitions in the Capital budget, and make recommendations as to any changes Council would like to make.

Information on the current status of the reserves, reserve funds and the repayment schedule was provided, and it was noted that this information included the yearend adjustments, and therefore, these figures may not match the budget document, which were estimates. Treasurer Janet Ferguson advised that the full debt load, including the Legacy Centre is \$ 20.8 million, and information on the breakdown of the debt was requested for the next meeting.

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Council reviewed the proposed 2011 Capital budget:

Lambton Shores Fire Departments

With respect to the budgets for the Lambton Shores Fire Departments, Chief Administrative Officer John Byrne advised that there was a Fire Board meeting scheduled for Thursday February 17, at which the Chiefs will be briefing the board on the departmental budgets and asking for direction and strategies for the replacement of vehicles, bunker gear and breathing apparatus.

Community Services Projects and Equipment

Council undertook a line by line review of the capital budget, and Director of Community Services Peggy Van Mierlo-West provided details on the various proposed expenditures.

Community Services Vehicles and Equipment

Recommended acquisitions under this heading included a vehicle to be shared between the Recreation and Water Department. A discussion ensued on annual mileage costs, options for leasing vehicles, "green" vehicles, and projected savings.

Chief Administrative Officer John Byrne noted that a report would be prepared on the issues discussed.

1 Ton Truck

The replacement of the current 1 Ton Truck was discussed, and Director of Community Services Peggy Van Mierlo-West advised that the truck is used for plowing in the winter, and for gravelling and other maintenance work throughout the year. It was noted that there had been a number of repairs on this vehicle, and the cost estimate includes the box, sander and plow. The proposed option is to purchase a crew cab so that it would be more efficient to move staff around.

The advantages and disadvantages of acquiring a used vehicle were discussed, and Director of Community Services Peggy Van Mierlo-West advised that the option of tendering on a used vehicle will be included in the tender.

Councillor Russell noted that the infrastructure projects had taken precedence in the past few years, and that it is important to examine the vehicles and make sure that they are safe for use and not a risk to anyone's life.

5 Ton Truck

The current 5 ton truck was acquired in 1997 and has been experiencing significant repairs and the replacement of the vehicle is being recommended.

Tractor – Beach Cleaner

Similarly, the current tractor used to pull the beach cleaner in the summer and plow parking lots and digging out hydrants in the winter has required extensive repairs in the past few years, and is recommended for replacement.

Skid Steer

The budgeted amount is to acquire “rubber tracks” for the existing unit.

Riding Mower

The riding mower acquired in 1995, and used for the ball diamonds and the large parks, is also requiring significant maintenance and is recommended for replacement. The unit has a heavier engine than a residential unit, and has a front end loader, and therefore needs to have lifting and loading capacity

Replacement Teeth - Chipper

The 1994 chipper requires the replacement of the “teeth” in order to extend the life of the unit.

Tow Behind Traffic Control with Digital Read Out

A tow behind, solar operated traffic control unit is proposed to assist with ensuring the safety of employees when maintaining the Municipal infrastructure.

OFFICES AND DEPOT

The Northville Office is the only Municipal building that is not fully “accessible” and the necessary modifications are recommended for completion in 2011.

Coverall Shed

Director of Community Services Peggy Van Mierlo-West outlined the current practice of acquiring sand and salt for the County of Lambton depot on Townsend Line, and the leased depot at Highway 21 and Dashwood Road. As the leased dome is deteriorating, it will be necessary to make alternate arrangements, and the recommendation is that a central dome be constructed, which would improve efficiency and reduce operating costs.

The estimated cost for the dome is \$135,000.00; however, the plans 2011 include undertaking work on the design and an environmental assessment, and the project being tendered in 2012. The option of including the possibility of a compost site on the property in the EA was discussed, and this will be investigated.

Forest Works

Director of Community Services Peggy Van Mierlo-West advised that another facility that is also deteriorating is the current Forest Works Depot, and a recent “walkthrough” of the property with an engineer to review the structural integrity and viability of the building noted several issues that need to be addressed. It was stated that the structure is currently safe for use; however, it was noted that it would be more cost effective to replace the building.

A study is proposed to review possible site locations and undertake an environmental assessment, which will be presented for Council’s review.

The pros and cons of moving the staff to Northville now were discussed as was the fact that the current location is not an acceptable site for a new depot. Director of Community Services Peggy Van Mierlo-West advised that the site will require an environmental assessment before it can be sold.

**11-0209-01 Moved By: Councillor Russell
Seconded by: Councillor Bonesteel**

That the current site of the Forest Works Garage be eliminated as a potential location for a new Community Services depot.

Carried

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The practice of regularly replacing a number of computers units and printers each year is proposed again for 2011, as well as an upgrade to the bandwidth for the facilities in Thedford. It was noted that until the band width is upgraded, it will not be possible to initiate “video streaming” of Council meetings.

Chief Administrative Officer John Byrne advised that a new report on the financing of the IT projects and addressing the Council services will be prepared.

WATER SYSTEM

Proposed projects for 2011 for the water system include tendering for the change out of approximately 200 meters in the former Village of Grand Bend. It was discussed that since amalgamation, meter “change outs” have been done each year, with the oldest units being done first. Not only are the meters replaced during the program, but any abnormalities or illegal connections are corrected, and “radio reads” are installed to improve efficiencies.

Thedford – Allen Street

Plans also include improvements to the water system on Allen Street in Thedford. The project includes increasing the size of the water line, some improvements to the sanitary and storm sewers, full road reconstruction, streetlights etc. Each component of the project is included in the appropriate budget category.

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It was noted that this project was identified prior to the construction of the Legacy Centre, however it was decided that the work should be deferred until the Legacy was completed. The other roads surrounding the Arena, and possible alternative accesses to the property were discussed.

Leak Detection

Funds are not currently in the budget for leak detection, and further studies on our water loss will be taking place to determine the best way to monitor loss will be reviewed in the next year.

A replacement for the current GPS equipment is proposed, which would be of survey calibre, used for "as-built" locates and for locating fixed assets, etc for addition to the GIS data.

Members attending the Good Roads Conference will be able to view the different models at the suppliers' forum.

L.A.W.S.S.

The Lambton Shores share of the capital for the Lambton Area Water Supply System is included in the 2011 capital budget.

Flow Meter

A mobile flow meter to detect some of the smaller leaks is included in the 2011 budget. It was noted that while OMI would use the equipment, it is owned by the Municipality.

WASTE WATER

The wastewater portion of the Allen Street, Thedford road repairs is included in the Wastewater capital budget, as is a spectro meter that reads the discharge from the wastewater plant, and the sand filter for the Forest waste water treatment plant.

The discussion on the North Area Sewage Treatment Facility was deferred until after the Tri-Municipal meeting scheduled for February 18th.

ROADS

Also, as the Council will be reviewing the Road Needs Study at the February 15 meeting, the discussion on the proposed road projects was deferred.

BRIDGES AND CULVERTS

Projects include the repairs to the Ravenswood Road and Rock Glen Road culverts. Funds are allocated for guide rails on Kennedy Line, however, the location of the road is under dispute, and it is proposed that this work be deferred until the legal matters are resolved.

