FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting 2-2021 - Part 2

Ma-te-way Activity Centre Hall

Monday, March 26, 2021 – 1:00 p.m.

This is a continuation of Meeting 2-2021, Part 1 of which was held on March 22, 2021 in the Ma-te-way Activity Centre Community Hall.

1. CALL TO ORDER

   The meeting was called to order by Mayor Eady at 1:00 p.m.

2. PRESENT WERE — Mayor Eady, Chair
   Councillor Coulas, Councillor Heins

   ALSO PRESENT — Clerk Bulmer, Director Asselin, Chief Welsh, Director Hill, CEO/Chief Librarian Thompson, Deputy-Treasurer Broome, and Treasurer O'Reilly

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

   The Agenda for Meeting 2-2021 was previously approved.

4. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

   None

5. DELEGATION/DEPUTATION

   None

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

   None

7. CORRESPONDENCE

   None

8. REPORTS

   None

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

   None

10. NEW BUSINESS

10.1 2021 Capital and Operating Budgets

Prior to the formal presentation of the Operating Budget, Treasurer O'Reilly sought direction from the Committee with respect to the acceptable levy increase for 2021. Staff was initially directed to bring the budget in with a 2% levy increase plus an additional .25% for the Asset Management Plan levy.

The draft 2021 budget presently requires a 3.86% levy increase as a result of several items beyond the control of staff, such as: a reduction in interest revenue from the Renfrew Hydro Inc. promissory note; the addition of human resource services; the reduction in tipping fees; the third year of the three year phase-in for the courts; and increased insurance premiums. Following a brief discussion, the Committee suggested a levy increase target of 3%.

Treasurer O'Reilly then presented the Summary of hours and Changes in Staffing forecast and the Summary of Wages & Benefits Costs, highlighting the impact of wage grid advancements and increased health benefit premiums.

The Committee discussed whether to use the Unallocated Reserve to offset 2021 costs (e.g. staff training/development) since the budgets had not been spent in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Treasurer O'Reilly explained that using reserves to offset ongoing, annual expenditures provides budget relief for one year, with a resulting budget increase the following year.

The Committee proceeded with a line-by-line review, identifying several line items which could be reduced for 2021, and others that could be funded from the Unallocated Reserve, if necessary.

DIRECTION: *Treasurer O'Reilly to amend the necessary budget schedules to reflect the adjustments identified during the line-by-line review, for presentation to the Committee of the Whole on Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the Ma-te-way Activity Centre.*

11. CLOSED SESSION

None

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillor Coulas, Councillor Heins

THAT we do now adjourn (time of adjournment 4:45 p.m.)

- CARRIED –