



MUNICIPALITY OF MORRIS-TURNBERRY

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 28, 2025, 7:00 pm

The Council of the Municipality of Morris-Turnberry held a special meeting in Council Chambers on January 28, 2025 at 9:00am for the purpose of budget deliberations.

Council in Attendance

Mayor Jamie Heffer
Deputy Mayor Kevin Freiburger
Councillor Jamie McCallum
Councillor Jodi Snell
Councillor Sharen Zinn

Staff in Attendance

Trevor Hallam	CAO/Clerk
Mike Alcock	Director of Public Works
Kirk Livingston	CBO/By-Law Enforcement Officer
Sean Brophy	Treasurer

Others in Attendance

Scott Stephenson	The Citizen
Rachel Hammermueller	Wingham Advance Times

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Heffer called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Mayor Heffer noted that Scott Stephenson and Rachel Hammermueller would be recording the meeting for the purpose of writing articles.

2.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion 18-2025

*Moved by Jamie McCallum
Seconded by Kevin Freiburger*

THAT the Council of the Municipality of Morris-Turnberry hereby adopts the agenda for the meeting of January 28, 2025, as circulated.

Carried.

3.0 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST / POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

4.0 BUSINESS

4.1 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

4.1.1 Overall

The budget overview was provided for the information council.

4.1.2 Municipal Drains

Mr. Livingston presented the Municipal Drain budget. There were no questions from Council.

4.1.3 Building Department

Mr. Livingston presented the Building Department budget. There were no questions from Council.

4.1.4 Property Standards

Mr. Livingston presented the Property Standards budget. There were no questions from Council.

4.1.5 Animal Control

Mr. Livingston presented the Animal Control budget. Deputy Mayor Freiburger asked for clarification on the dog counter process, which Mr. Livingston provided.

4.1.6 Parks and Cemeteries

Mr. Alcock presented the Parks and Cemeteries budget. There were no questions from Council.

4.1.7 Belgrave Water System

Mr. Alcock presented the Belgrave Water System budget. Councilor Zinn asked for clarification about the increase to the reserve amount and what the user fees will be per month. Mr. Alcock explained that preparing for future expenditures, such as drilling a new well, are the reasons for the increase in reserve contributions. The water user fees on the second page of the Belgrave Water Budget were referenced.

4.1.7.1 Belgrave Water Rate 2025

Motion 19-2025

Moved by Jodi Snell

Seconded by Kevin Freiburger

THAT the Council of the Municipality of Morris-Turnberry hereby establishes the water rate for the Belgrave Water System at \$1322.09 per user for 2025.

Carried.

4.1.8 Landfill & Waste Disposal

Councillor Snell asked if there was a written agreement in place with the individual harvesting hay from the gravel pit property, and whether there are any liability issues with the arrangement. Mr. Alcock explained that there is currently no formal agreement in place, but staff will be pursuing one.

4.1.9 Roads

Councillor Zinn inquired about the municipality's eligibility for the newly announced infrastructure grants. Mr. Hallam explained the grant criteria related to enabling increased housing development and noted the municipality's projects don't meet this criterion.

Mayor Heffer asked for clarification regarding the cost of repairing surface treated roads now compared to the cost of doing it later. Mr. Alcock explained that repairing the topcoat helps preserve the underlying layers, and letting the roads deteriorate further would lead to those layers needing repair as well, drastically increasing the cost. Mr. Alcock described the effect of horseshoes and steel carriage wheels on surface treated roads and noted that there had been a working group established to explore possible solutions.

4.1.9.1 Early Tender Approval

Motion 20-2025

*Moved by Kevin Freiburger
Seconded by Jamie McCallum*

THAT the Council of the Municipality of Morris-Turnberry hereby authorizes the Director of Public Works to commence the tender process for surface treatment, repairs to structure T100, and equipment for the Belgrave Water System, prior to final budget approval.

Carried.

Mayor Heffer called a 10-minute recess at 10:06

4.1.10 Administration

Councillor Zinn asked if the replacement of the lights in the basement was necessary. Mr. Brophy noted that several of the existing lights are failing, and their replacement with LED fixtures has been identified as an opportunity for energy savings.

Councillor McCallum asked for more information about the increase to the budgeted legal and audit amounts. Mr. Brophy noted that about 50% of the increase is due to an increase in the fees of the municipality's auditor, and Mr. Hallam explained that the budget amount for legal expenses has been increased due to the municipality's recent experience, but that there are no specific issues staff are anticipating increased costs for.

4.1.11 Policing

Mr. Brophy presented the Policing budget. Councillor McCallum asked if there had been any action following the resolution that had been receiving the support of many Councils regarding a reduction in OPP costs to municipalities. Mr. Hallam confirmed that the reduced costs for 2025 are a result of that action.

4.1.12 Fire

Mr. Brophy presented the Fire budget. Mr. Hallam noted that a working group has been established to discuss purchase options for the North Huron ladder truck replacement.

4.1.13 Cross Border Utilities

Mr. Brophy presented the Cross Border Utilities budget. There were no questions from Council.

4.1.14 Grants and Donations

Mr. Brophy presented the Grants and Donations budget. Mayor Heffer requested that further information on the Belgrave playground project, including fundraising goals and timelines, be returned to a future meeting of Council.

4.1.15 Recreation

Mr. Brophy presented the Recreation budget. There were no questions from Council.

4.1.16 Belgrave Development

Mr. Brophy presented the Belgrave Development budget. There were no questions from Council.

4.1.17 Streetlights

Mr. Brophy presented the Streetlight budget. There were no questions from Council.

4.1.18 Reserves

Information regarding reserves was provided to Council.

4.1.19 Assessment Change

Information regarding changes in assessment was provided to Council.

4.1.20 Tax Rates

Mr. Brophy indicated that the proposed increase in the current draft is 9.03%, but that there are still outstanding amounts that have not been included in the draft. Mayor Heffer prompted council to offer their opinions on a reasonable increase. Answers ranged from 3% to 5% but there was a consensus that Council would prefer an increase under 5%.

5.0 CONFIRMING BY-LAW

Motion 21-2025

*Moved by Sharen Zinn
Seconded by Jamie McCallum*

THAT leave be given to introduce By-Law 06-2025, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the Municipality of Morris-Turnberry meeting of Council held on January 28, 2025, and that it now be read severally a first, second, and third time, and finally passed.

Carried.

6.0 ADJOURNMENT

Motion 22-2025

*Moved by Sharen Zinn
Seconded by Jodi Snell*

THAT the Council of the Municipality of Morris-Turnberry does now adjourn at 10:43 am.

Carried.

NEXT MEETINGS:

Regular Meeting of Council – Tuesday, February 4, 2025, 7:30 pm
Regular Meeting of Council – Tuesday, February 18, 2025, 7:30 pm

Mayor, Jamie Heffer

Clerk, Trevor Hallam