



MUNICIPALITY OF MORRIS-TURNBERRY

COUNCIL MINUTES – SPECIAL MEETING

Wednesday, March 10th 2020, 9:00 am

The Council of the Municipality of Morris-Turnberry held a special meeting at the Bluevale Community hall on the 10th day of March 2021, at 9:00 am for the purpose of budget deliberations.

Council in Attendance

Mayor Jamie Heffer
Deputy Mayor Sharen Zinn
Jamie McCallum
Jim Nelemans
Kevin Freiburger

Staff in Attendance

Trevor Hallam	CAO/Clerk
Sean Brophy	Treasurer
Mike Alcock	Director of Public Works
Kirk Livingston	Chief Building Official
Kim Johnston	Deputy Clerk
Barry Shaw	Public Works Forman
Heidi McClure	Drainage Assistant

Others in Attendance

Kelsey Bent	Wingham Advance Times
Kevin Wilbee	
Keith Wilbee	
Gloria Wilbee	
Brian Wilbee	
Val Shortreed	
Matt Shortreed	
Ken Glanville	
Neil Mitchell	
Marie Mitchell	

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

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

Kelsey Bent from the Wingham Advance Times declared the use of an audio recorder for the purpose of writing articles.

2.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion 72-2021

*Moved by Kevin Freiburger
Seconded by Jamie McCallum*

THAT the Council of the Municipality of Morris-Turnberry hereby adopts the agenda for the meeting of March 10th, 2021 as circulated.

Carried.

3.0 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST / POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

4.0 PUBLIC MEETINGS AND DEPUTATIONS

4.1 Deputation – Kevin Wilbee – McCall Line Culvert

A group of landowners concerned about the possibility of the removal of the culvert on McCall Line requested to address Council in person.

Kevin Wilbee addressed Council with the request that the McCall Line culvert be replaced or repaired as it is essential infrastructure. It is used by adjacent landowners, farming operations and visitors to the G2G trail. It is also the opinion of the group that the estimates for replacement received by the municipality are high. Mr. Wilbee noted some potential sources of revenue to fund the replacement and explained that he had inspected the structure and believed it would be serviceable for many years to come.

Gloria Wilbee addressed Council noting that the road study that had been done to gauge the use of the road was done at off peak times and is therefore not an accurate reflection of its use. She pointed out that the previous CAO of the municipality had identified McCall Line as an emergency route. She emphasized the amount of traffic on McCall Line and the importance of its use as an alternate route to traveling through Walton or on Highway 25 with farm equipment.

Mayor Heffer thanked the delegation for the information. Regarding the exaggerated pricing, he reassured the delegation that staff is diligent in looking for different costing options and grant opportunities. Regarding the condition of the culvert, he noted that while private infrastructure may be held to different standards, the municipality has a responsibility to rely on the expertise of engineers regarding the condition of infrastructure such as the culvert.

Councillor Nelemans stated that there were good points raised through the letters and correspondence and acknowledged the difficulty of taking alternate routes with machinery.

Comments from the gallery were received, including the suggestion that Button Line is not a suitable alternative as it is not wide enough for vehicles traveling in opposite direction to pass, and the suggestion to either upgrade Button line or replace the culvert on McCall Line.

Mayor Heffer thanked the delegation for their comments and attending to address council and noted that Council will be taking their input into account when the time comes to decide on the McCall Line culvert.

5.0 BUSINESS

5.1 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

Treasurer Sean Brophy presented a draft budget for 2020 for the consideration of Council.

5.1.1 2020 and 2021 Summary

An overview was provided to Council in their budget packages for reference.

5.1.2 Municipal Drains

Kirk Livingston presented the draft budget for the Municipal Drainage Department. Budgeted amounts for Drainage Superintendent services have been decreased for 2021 to be more in line with actual figures from previous years.

5.1.3 Building

Mr. Livingston presented the draft budget for the Building Department. Reductions have been made to training, travel and workshops in anticipation of continued online training for 2021 in place of on-site training that requires travel and accommodations.

Councillor Nelemans asked for clarification regarding the fees charged in processing property standards complaints. Mr. Livingston reviewed the process for Council.

5.1.4 Property Standards and By-Law Enforcement

Mr. Livingston presented the draft budget for Property Standards. He noted the addition of a line for Building Department support, as staff time had been tracked closely in 2020 and it was found that it would be appropriate to account for staff time that goes towards supporting property standards activities.

5.1.5 Parks & Cemetery Budget

Mike Alcock presented the draft budget for Parks and Cemeteries. He noted that there were few changes, aside from the addition of an amount for the memorial plaque that will be placed by the antique grader at the municipal office.

5.1.6 Belgrave Water System Budget

Mr. Alcock presented the draft budget for the Belgrave Water system. He noted there is a slight increase to the cost of the contract with Veolia for the operation of the system. The expected expenditure for the replacement of the McCrae Well is also accounted for in 2021. Mr. Alcock noted that there will be no net cost to the municipality for the operation of the system.

Councillor Nelemans asked when the replacement of the Jane Street well is expected. Mr. Alcock said that the video investigation of the well scheduled for this year will help determine the condition of the well and establish a timeline for its replacement, but that hopefully it would be two to three years from now.

Councillor McCallum requested clarification regarding new infill construction and development that has taken place in Belgrave and whether the connection fees collected were reflected in 2020 revenues. Mr. Brophy explained that those files were not on hand, but as no capital fees were collected it is likely that those amounts had already been paid over the last 10 years. Landowners had the opportunity to pay at the time the system was installed, or to amortize the cost over time.

5.1.7 Landfill Budget

Mr. Alcock presented the draft budget for the Landfill and waste disposal. He noted that increases have been budgeted for equipment maintenance as some pieces of equipment, such as the packer, have been in service for several years. He noted that in 2020 there were numerous capital expenditures, and many came in under budget.

Councillor Nelemans asked about the amount for forest management spent in 2018. Mr. Alcock explained that was for the development of a forest management plan for the landfill property and was funded by a grant from the Huron Clean Water Committee.

Councillor Nelemans asked about the amounts allocated for the Turnberry landfill. Mr. Alcock explained that the consultant used by the municipality is anticipating that the Ministry of Environment will be requiring a new monitoring well be installed soon, so an amount is being allocated for that in case it happens in 2021.

5.1.8 Roads Budget

Mr. Alcock presented the draft budget for the Roads Department. He noted that there is an anticipated increase to grass cutting costs as the existing contractor is not extending the current contract and it will need to go out to tender. Amounts for tree trimming and brushing have been increased as there are several ageing roadside maples and ash trees that will likely need attention this year.

Mr. Alcock noted that despite a fifteen percent reduction in the amount of gravel purchased, there was a twenty seven percent increase in the price of gravel, so the savings are not clearly reflected in the budget. He explained that gravel expenditures for 2021 should more closely reflect those from 2019 because of the rotation schedule that is used for the application of maintenance gravel.

Deputy Mayor Zinn asked why there is a new line in the budget for "Gravel Resurface - Winter Damage". Mr. Alcock explained that it is based on the savings from reducing gravel use by fifteen percent and the amount will go to build the roads reserve. Mayor Heffer noted that last year Council discussed finding ways to build the roads reserve.

Councillor McCallum asked for clarification regarding the amounts for sidewalk maintenance. Mr. Alcock explained that the expenses include the inspection of sidewalks, the rental of equipment to address any surface irregularities, and cleaning and sweeping in the spring.

Mayor Heffer asked if the amounts for roadside spraying were to address Phragmites. Mr. Alcock explained that those amounts are for the three-year roadside spraying program for noxious weed that was started 2 years ago. This year will complete the north end of the municipality with the first round of broadcast spraying. He clarified that the

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority does the Phragmites spraying, and none was completed this year.

Councillor Nelemans noted he had received no complaints about roadside spraying and asked if any other members of Council had received any. None were noted.

Mr. Alcock pointed out that the paving of the Morris shop parking lot will be included as a provisional item in a tender that closes on March 11th, but Council will have the opportunity to consider that when the tender comes before them at the next meeting. He noted that paving the entrance is a requirement of the entrance permit issued by the County.

Mayor Heffer noted support for the increase to the equipment reserve given the potential need for a grader replacement in 2026 and the maintenance costs that have been seen to date.

Mayor Heffer called a brief recess at 10:15 am.

Mayor Heffer called the meeting to order at 10:25 am.

5.1.9 Administration Budget

Sean Brophy presented the draft budget for the Administration Department.

Councillor Nelemans asked why there are elections expenses for 2020 and 2021. Mr. Hallam explained that an amount is paid to Data Fix to maintain the voters list database, so it will be available to the municipality for the 2022 election.

Councillor McCallum asked if the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority budget had been finalized. Councillor Freiburger stated he believed that it had been.

Deputy Mayor Zinn asked if the municipality had any options or input regarding the MVCA budget. Mayor Heffer noted that through membership on the Board the municipality can express concern and vote accordingly. Councillor Freiburger noted that the MVCA has been running a tight budget for many years.

5.1.10 Policing

Mr. Brophy presented the draft budget for Policing. He noted a reduction in the cost of the OPP contract and explained that the savings are being put into a policing reserve that can be drawn on to cover any adjustments in future years.

5.1.11 Fire

Mr. Brophy presented the draft budget for Fire. He pointed out that reserves are being drawn on to pay for the new pumper truck, and that staff recommend that the reserve be re-paid over the coming years.

5.1.12 Animal Control

Mr. Brophy presented the draft budget for Animal Control.

5.1.13 Cross Border Utilities

Mr. Brophy presented the draft budget for Cross Border Utilities. Councillor Freiburger asked how many connections there are to the Huron East system. Mr. Hallam stated that he did not have that information on hand, but he would provide the information later.

5.1.14 Grants

Mr. Brophy presented the draft budget for Grants. Councillor McCallum asked for confirmation that the School Fair had submitted a grant request, as he thought they were directed to keep last year's contribution and put it toward 2021. Mr. Hallam confirmed that they had submitted a request, and that Council had directed them to keep the 2020 amount.

Councillor McCallum asked if North Huron had submitted any applications for grants or donations. Mr. Hallam confirmed that no applications had been received from North Huron. Councillor Nelemans reiterated his preference for leaving the amounts for North Huron in the budget in case there is progress made with the cross-border servicing agreement and they are needed. Councillor McCallum agreed.

Mr. Brophy noted that the amounts are not accounted for as expected revenue in the North Huron draft budget.

Councillor McCallum asked to clarify that despite what has been said publicly, Morris-Turnberry did pay the amounts for cemetery, contingency, and recreation in 2020. Mayor Heffer noted that North Huron had implemented non-resident user fees, which these grant amounts were meant to offset. He agreed with taking the amounts out of the budget.

Councillor Freiburger stated he thought it appropriate to take the amounts out. Councillor McCallum and Deputy Mayor Zinn suggested the amounts should be left in but moved to reserves if not used.

Mr. Brophy proposed that in lieu of the line items designated specifically for North Huron, \$20,000 be placed into a reserve for grants. Council agreed with the proposal.

5.1.15 Recreation

Mr. Brophy presented the draft budget for Recreation.

Mayor Heffer suggested a reserve amount be set aside as had been done for the grants. Mr. Brophy confirmed that there was already an established reserve of \$40,000.

Councillor McCallum asked if the Belgrave Community Hall agreement is a separate agreement and when it would expire. Mr. Hallam confirmed that it is a separate agreement and that there is no expiry date.

5.1.16 Belgrave Development

Mr. Brophy presented the draft budget for the Belgrave Development.

5.1.17 2021 Assessment

Mr. Brophy presented the anticipated assessments for 2021.

5.1.18 Tax Rates

Mr. Brophy presented the proposed tax rates for 2021. He explained that the combined School Board, County and Municipal rates would result in a 1.35% increase to ratepayers. Council was supportive of the marginal increase.

5.1.19 Streetlights

Mr. Brophy presented the draft budget for Streetlights. Councillor McCallum asked if the streetlights that will eventually go into the Belgrave development will be included in this section. Mr. Brophy indicated that the amounts for installation are accounted for in the Belgrave Development budget, but that once they are operational, they will be included here.

5.1.20 Reserves

Mr. Brophy presented the draft reserve allocations. Councillor McCallum asked why there is a reserve for physician recruitment. Mr. Brophy explained that the municipality is required to maintain a reserve that is equivalent to one year's worth of physician recruitment expenses.

Councillor McCallum asked why there is an education reserve. Mr. Brophy explained those amounts are held in GICs and the interest is used to pay the awards and grants for schools.

Mayor Heffer noted that the Ontario Municipal Partnership Funding is being reduced every year, and Council should be preparing to do without it eventually by building reserves. Mr. Brophy confirmed that if it continues to decline at the current rate it could be gone in as few as 5 years.

Mayor Heffer thanked Mr. Brophy, Mr. Alcock and Mr. Livingston for their presentations and their work on the budget.

Mr. Brophy explained that the next steps will be to return the budget to a regular Council meeting, likely in April, for consideration with a by-law.

Councillor McCallum asked if the Council Administration budget could be further reduced by \$5,000. Mayor Heffer suggested that if the full amount was not spent it could be moved to reserves.

6.0 CONFIRMING BY-LAW

Motion 73-2021

*Moved by Jamie McCallum
Seconded by Kevin Freiburger*

THAT leave be given to introduce By-Law # 15-2021, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the Municipality of Morris-Turnberry meeting of Council held on March 10th, 2021, and that it now be read severally a first, second, and third time, and finally passed this 10th day of March 2021.

Carried.

7.0 ADJOURNMENT

Motion 74-2021

*Moved by Jim Nelemans
Seconded by Sharen Zinn*

THAT the Council of the Municipality of Morris-Turnberry does now adjourn at 11:15 am.

Carried.

NEXT MEETINGS:

Regular Meeting of Council - Tuesday, March 16th, 2021, 7:30 pm
Regular Meeting of Council - Tuesday, April 6th, 2021, 7:30 pm

Mayor, Jamie Heffer

Clerk, Trevor Hallam