

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF
TOWN COUNCIL
Committee of the Whole as Budget Committee**

**Held Tuesday, December 15, 2015
In the Council Chambers**

PRESENT:

B. Smith	Mayor
N. Bifulchi	Deputy Mayor
R. Anderson	Councillor
S. Bray	Councillor
R. Ego	Councillor
B. Smith	Councillor
B. Stockwell	Councillor
G. Vadeboncoeur	Chief Administrative Officer
H. Bryce	Town Clerk
P. Archdekin	Deputy Clerk
M. Quinlan	Treasurer
M. McWilliam	Fire Chief
K. Lalonde	Director of Public Works
G. Reinders	Manager of Parks, Facilities & Recreation
A. McNeill	Director of Economic Development & Tourism
D. Herron	Planner
B. Vickers	Chief Building Official
D. Bowers	Chief Information Technologist
J. Legget	Communications Officer
A. Webster	Special Events Coordinator
P. Pal	Library

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

3. DEPUTATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, PETITIONS & PUBLIC MEETINGS

PUBLIC MEETING

**Water & Wastewater Fees
Proposed Amendments to Fees & Charges
Presentation of the 2016 Operating & Capital Budget,
2016 Four Year Operating and Ten Year Capital Forecasts**

Water & Wastewater Fees

Mayor Smith advised that notice of this Public Meeting was published in the Wasaga Sun Newspaper on a weekly basis commencing on November 26th, 2015 and was posted on the Town's web site.

The purpose of this public meeting is to explain to the public the factors that are considered

when establishing the water and sewage rates and to outline the proposed new rates for 2016.

The Town commenced metered billing on April 1, 2009 based on rates recommended by a study completed by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. and a review of those rates was completed in November 2010. As part of moving to metered billing, Council committed to reviewing the water and waste water rates on an annual basis to ensure that the Town is raising sufficient revenue to sustain the two systems now and into the future in accordance with Ministry of Environment requirements. Staff completed an annual review of water rates over the last several years and presented their findings to Committee of the Whole and made recommendations for consideration.

Ms. Quinlan thanked the Mayor and welcomed everyone to the 2016 Water and Wastewater Study Public Meeting and, through a PowerPoint presentation, presented the study. The Treasurer spoke briefly to how we determine the rates and the impacts on the residents. Ms. Quinlan spoke to the 2016 water and wastewater rates study; the proposed rates; consumption patterns; replacement schedule and maintenance. For 2016 it is proposed to have a 2% increase over 2015 and is based largely on the number of users which is 11,500 as of the end of 2015. A 2% increase to the average consumer and family of four is \$9.75 annually, which is less than three cents per day. In comparison to neighbouring communities, Wasaga Beach rates will remain the lowest largely due to fact we have a young system in comparison to our neighbouring municipalities. The Treasurer then advised the Mayor that her presentation was over.

The Mayor then inquired if there was anyone present that would like to ask a question or provide comments on the water and waste water rate study or the proposed new water rates? Hearing none, the Mayor asked a second time. No one stepped forward and the Mayor then asked members of Council if they had any questions or comments with regards to the study or the new rates which there were none.

The Mayor noted that a full copy of the study and tonight's power point presentation will be placed on the Town's web site for viewing by the public.

The Mayor then closed the Public Meeting.

PROPOSED 2016 GENERAL RATES AND FEES

Mayor Smith noted that notice of this Public Meeting was published in the Wasaga Sun Newspaper commencing on November 26th, 2015 and was posted on the Town's web site.

The purpose of this public meeting is to explain to the public the changes being proposed to various rates and fees for a number of services that are provided by the Town that will be considered by Council. Information relating to the changes will also be presented as part of the 2016 Departmental Budget presentations, however the Treasurer, Monica Quinlan will highlight the major changes.

Ms. Quinlan spoke to the 2016 Rates and Fees including the general changes through a PowerPoint presentation.

Mayor Smith asked if there was anyone present that would like to ask a question or provide comments on the proposed changes to the general Rates and Fees. Hearing none the Mayor noted that this presentation will be posted on the Town's website for the public.

Mayor Smith then asked if any member of Council had any questions or comments with regards to the changes to the rates and fees. There being no comment, the Mayor then closed this Public Meeting.

The Mayor advised that we will now move to the 2016 Proposed Operating and Capital Budgets.

PROPOSED 2016 OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS

Once again Mayor Smith advised that this is a public meeting to obtain input on the proposed 2016 Operating and Capital Budgets.

Notice of this Public Meeting was published in the Wasaga Sun commencing on November 26th, 2015 and posted on the Town's web site.

The purpose of this public meeting is to explain to the public the components that make up the proposed 2016 Operating and Capital budgets and the Four-year Operating and Ten year Capital Forecasts.

The budget process started this past August with staff undertaking a review of factors that would influence the 2016 Budget. During the review Council asked that staff work with a budget guideline of a 0% tax rate increase. Over September and early October submissions from each department were reviewed by the CAO, Treasurer and Budget/Financial Analyst and then presented to members of Council.

In October staff presented Council with a budget that reflected a 0% tax rate increase along with the various measures that were taken to achieve the goal. Rather than review the proposed budget Department by Department, Council members identified a number of major items in the budget that they wanted to review in detail and asked staff to prepare background reports on each item. In late November and early December Committee of the Whole as budget Committee reviewed the reports and the impacts of these items on the 2016 budget.

Last week staff presented draft 4 of the 2016 budget showed a 0% tax impact but recommended a modest increase of 1.5% to lessen the impact on future budgets given the future capital needs of the Town. Committee of the Whole passed a recommendation that Council consider a proposed 1.5% tax rate increase which will mean that the average household will see an increase of approximately \$70 in their municipal portion of taxes for an average house assessed at \$280,000 in 2016.

When combined with the County and Education portions of the tax bill, the estimated overall tax rate percentage decreases by 3.4%, however due to the property assessment phase-in increase, the average property owner will see an increase of just over \$89.00 in 2016.

The Town has been able to keep tax rate increases fairly low over the years and this year's proposed increase is a reflection of the Town's continued growth and planning for the future.

The Treasurer advised that is public meeting is for the public to have a chance to speak to the budget. The Treasurer then proceeded through a PowerPoint presentation to explain the 2016 budget followed by presentations from each Department on their respective budgets.

Following the Departmental presentations, the Treasurer spoke to the operating and capital budget projections and financial planning for the future in 2017 – 2020 assumptions.

Mayor Smith thanked staff for the presentations and asked if there was anyone present that would like to ask a question or provide comments on the 2016 operating and capital budget?

Tara McDonald, 16 Rigby Place asked the Director of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. McNeill about cost of kiosks proposed for Main Street and how many kiosks were anticipated to be built. Mr. McNeill replied each unit is estimated to cost \$5,600 and the final number of units has not yet been determined, but he estimates about fifteen. They will be revenue neutral in cost, in that the cost to construct will equal the lease rate.

Mayor Smith inquired if there were any other questions and hearing none asked members of Council if they had any questions or comments with regards to the budget.

As a final note, the Mayor noted that a full copy of the budget is available in the Council Agenda of December 15th, 2015 on the Town's web site for viewing by the public.

Mayor Smith then adjourned the Public Meeting.

4. COMMITTEE, BOARDS & STAFF REPORTS

a) Water & Wastewater Fees

MOVED BY B. SMITH

SECONDED BY N. BIFOLCHI

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-15-01

RESOLVED THAT That Committee of the Whole, as Budget Committee, recommends to Council that the Fees & Charges By-Law be amended to reflect the proposed 2016 Water & Wastewater Fees.

CARRIED

b) Fees and Charges

MOVED BY B. STOCKWELL

SECONDED BY R. EGO

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-15-02

RESOLVED THAT Committee of the Whole, as Budget Committee, recommends to Council that the Fees and Charges By-Law be amended to reflect the proposed changes outlined in Schedules "A" to "N".

CARRIED

c) 2016 Operating and Capital Budget

MOVED BY B. SMITH

SECONDED BY B. STOCKWELL

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-15-03

RESOLVED THAT Committee of the Whole as Budget Committee recommends to Council it refer the proposed 2016 Operating and Capital Budget and Four Year and Ten Year Capital Forecast to the December 22, 2015 Council meeting for approval.

CARRIED

5. NOTICES OF MOTION

9. MOTIONS – WHERE NOTICE HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY GIVEN - None

10. BY-LAWS AND CONFIRMATORY BY-LAW

a) Confirmatory By-Law

MOVED BY N. BIFOLCI
SECONDED BY R. EGO

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-15-04

RESOLVED THAT a By-Law to Confirm the Proceedings of the Special Meeting of Council held December 15, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers be received and be deemed to have been read a first, second and third time, passed and numbered No, 2015-97.

CARRIED

11. CALLING OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

12. QUESTION PERIOD

“A fifteen (15) minute session wherein persons in attendance at the Regular Meeting of Council have an opportunity to raise questions pertaining to items that were dealt with by Council on the evening’s Agenda.”

Mr. Shawn Crozier of 26 Parkwood inquired about the OPP costing and if Wasaga Beach was considering a Town police force.

Mayor Smith advised that Council is always looking for ways to decrease costs and policing is very costly. In the past Town staff have done research on a town force vs. OPP and at this time there are no plans to consider our own police force but will be talking in the future with the OPP on ways to minimize costs, possibly through a contract. Policing costs are a hard fact and until we work through it with the Province or other communities, we are at their mercy.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Smith adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

The Minutes of this Meeting were adopted the 22 day of December 2015.

Brian Smith, Mayor

Holly Bryce, Town Clerk