



Municipality of French River

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

held in the Council Chambers
French River Municipal Complex
Tuesday, April 7, 2015 at 6pm

Members Present:

Mayor Claude Bouffard(Chair), Councillors Michel Bigras, Ronald Garbutt, Tammy Mitchell, Gisèle Pageau, Denny Sharp

Members Excused:

Councillor Dean Wenborne

Officials Present:

Mélanie Bouffard, Acting CAO/Clerk
Julie Bouthillette, Treasurer/Tax Collector
Robert Martin, Parks, Recreation & Facilities Manager
Brennan Kenny, Economic Development Manager
Linda Keenan, Library Chief Executive Officer
Jim Sartor, Public Works Superintendent
Kevin Benvenuti, Environmental Services Operator

Guests:

13 Guests

1. Call to order, roll call and adoption of the agenda

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6pm.

Moved By: Denny Sharp
Seconded By: Michel Bigras

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BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be accepted as distributed.

Carried

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

3. Budget Deliberation

The goal of the second Budget Deliberation was to outline the 2015 assessments and to go through the budget as a whole which now includes all Operational & Capital Items. The management team met prior to the meeting to review the budget and was able to reduce a few items.

The Treasurer distributed the following sheets to Council:

- 2015 Assessment Totals
- 2015 Draft Operating Budget
- 2015 Draft Capital Budget

As requested by Council, the option to levy the OPP cost was included in the draft budget. The new OPP billing model now outlines the true cost per household which simplifies the task of levying accordingly. The amount that could be levied per household is \$200.51 which leaves an amount of \$106,625 that would remain on the overall burden of the budget.

The total cost of OPP for 2015 is \$635,971, if the cost is not levied per household, it is charged by assessment, therefore the higher assessed properties are charged more than lower assessments. The levy provides that each household is charged equally no matter the value of the property. However, the burden would be put on multi-residential properties who would pay per household (unit/apartment).

Overview of where the budget was at that point:

10.45% assessment increase

.6% increase in tax rate

11.25% increase in taxes (assessment and rate)

Pulled from reserves \$718,900

Repayable of long term debt \$249,000

Purchase of Tangible Capital Assets \$1,301,000

New long term debt \$277,100

The Public Library budget was discussed which represents \$124,000 in the draft budget. The impact of reducing that amount was questioned; whether there would be a need to reduce to one branch, reduce staff and/or reduce levels of programming and if the stats support that our small municipality has two branches. It was suggested that the discussion and questions be considered in the fall, it would allow the time for the board and the municipality to look at the stats, possible cost savings and to fully consider the impact in next year's budget and on the desirable level of service in our community.

The Council per diems of \$150 per day was discussed again; a Notice of Motion will be brought forward to review the Council Remuneration Policy.

After going through the budget :

10.45% assessment increase

.6% increase in tax rate

11.25% increase in taxes (assessment and rate)

operational review and financial planning was added for an amount of \$50,000

It was discussed that more funds could be pulled from reserves, the municipality has double the reserves than other municipalities and might be missing out on grants because we are in a better financial situation than others. Council requested that the Treasurer prepare a scenario to outline the impact of not replenishing the assets to be considered at the next budget meeting.

On February 25, 2015, a Notice of Motion was moved by Councillor Ron Garbutt and adopted by Council setting a policy to present the final draft budget each year to the taxpayers in the form of special budget meetings. The Resolution specifies that the meetings are to be held at the Municipal Office in Noëlville, the Alban Community Center in Alban and at the Monetville Public School in Monetville for the convenience of our taxpayers in those areas and scheduled for evenings or week-ends. Members of council and staff are required to be present to explain the budget and answer any questions that may arise from the public and to make note of any comments/suggestions from the public. Council agreed to discuss these meetings at a subsequent meeting.

The next budget meeting will be held on April 15 at 7pm after the Public Works & Environmental Meeting at 6pm.

Moved By: Gisèle Pageau
Seconded By: Michel Bigras

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BE IT RESOLVED THAT the special meeting be adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Carried

MAYOR

CLERK