



Municipality of French River

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL held in the Council Chambers Thursday, November 16, 2017 at 4pm

Members Present:

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

Members Excused:

Councillor Dean Wenborne

Officials Present:

Marc Gagnon, Chief Administrative Officer
Mélanie Bouffard, Clerk

Guests:

0 Guests

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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4 p.m.

Moved By Ron Garbutt and Seconded By Gisele Pageau

Resol. 2017- 313

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be accepted as distributed.

Carried

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

3. Council Planning Session in preparation for the 2018 Budget

The purpose of the Council Planning Session was to engage Council in a preliminary and planning stage in preparation for the 2018 budget process, to start the discussion of objectives and to receive feedback on an acceptable tax increase in order to have a general starting framework.

The CAO made a presentation that included the following topics:

- Review of the Council Priorities established in 2015 from high to low
- Year in review 2017, capital and on-going projects, in-year saving and improvements, challenges
- Budget vs Actual year to date
- Current levels of services
- 2018 Operational budget forecast
- Objectives for 2018
- AMO 1% sales tax increase, local share proposal and how it would impact municipalities

The CAO mentioned that the current method to collect the OPP costs from ratepayers will be revisited for correctness as per the Municipal Act and presented to Council during budget deliberation. Starting in 2015, the Municipality shifted the collection of OPP costs in a User Fee per household to reflect the new 2014 OPP billing model versus the traditional method of levying the cost of such services in the general tax base.

Council generally agreed that current levels of service should be maintained as a starting point but that public works should be a high priority for any increase in service levels in areas such as road maintenance, operations and human resources.

Council generally agreed that an acceptable tax increase for the 2018 Budget could be considered between 2.9% and 3.5%.
(1% increase in tax equals to \$46,400)

A Special Meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2018 where the first draft budget will be presented.

4 Adjournment

Resol. 2017- 314

Moved By Ron Garbutt and Seconded By Malcolm Lamothe

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the special meeting be adjourned at 5:44 p.m.

Carried

MAYOR

CLERK