



Municipality of French River

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL held in the Council Chambers Saturday, January 13, 2018 at 8:30am

Members Present:

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

Members Excused:

Councillor Ronald Garbutt

Officials Present:

Marc Gagnon, Chief Administrative Officer
Mélanie Bouffard, Clerk
Carlie Zwiers, Executive Assistant
Tom Ng, Treasurer/Tax Collector
Robert Martin, Parks, Recreation & Facilities Manager
Linda Keenan, Library Chief Executive Officer
Roch Bigras, Fire Chief

Guests:

0 Guests

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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Moved By Gisele Pageau and Seconded By Malcolm Lamothe

Resol. 2018- 01

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be accepted as distributed.

Carried

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

Councillor Mike Bigras declared a pecuniary interest at the discussions that will involve the Fire Department as his son is the Interim Fire Chief.

3. Presentation and deliberation of Draft 2017 Budget

A meeting was held on November 16, 2017 to engage Council in a preliminary and planning stage in preparation for the 2018 budget process in order to start the discussion of objectives and to receive feedback on an acceptable tax increase in order to have a general starting framework.

At that point, Council had 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.

Further to that, Council had 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). Therefore, the Draft 2018 Operating and Capital Budget being presented represents an overall increase of 3.49%.

The CAO outlined the Draft 2018 Budget Package which included a 2018 Budget Summary, a Capital Budget vs Actual for the 2017 fiscal year, the Draft 2018 Operating and Capital Budgets, Long Term Debt, Reserves and a five year plan on vehicle and equipment replacement.

The CAO presented the General Government draft budget.

The Fire Chief presented the Fire Department's draft budget.

The Library Chief Executive Officer presented the Public Library's draft budget.

Break at 10am.

The CAO presented the remaining Protection Services draft budget.

The Acting Manager for Public Works and Environmental presented the Roads and Winter Control, Transportation, Sanitary Sewer, Rural Storm Sewer and Environmental draft budgets.

The Clerk presented the Urban Storm Sewer (Municipal Drain) and Cemeteries draft budgets.

The CAO presented the Health Services, Social and Family draft budgets.

The Parks, Recreation and Facilities Manager presented the Recreation and Culture draft budgets.

The CAO presented the Planning and Development, Tax Collection and Human Resources draft budgets.

Lunch Break from 12:35pm to 1:20pm

The CAO presented the Contributions to Capital and Long Term debt, Reserves, Capital Budget, 5 Year Vehicle & Equipment Replacement Plan draft budgets.

At the last meeting relating to Budget, the CAO had brought up that the current method to collect the OPP costs from ratepayers was going to be revisited for correctness as per the Municipal Act. (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.)

Following discussion, Council generally agreed that:

- out of the three options presented in the Library Budget, that the third option represented a Municipal Contribution of \$148,266 be forwarded to the Library Board for review
- a portion of the projected surplus should be applied to the 2018 budget to reduce the tax increase (23,000\$) to 2.99%

4.0 Adjournment

Moved By Gisele Pageau and Seconded By Dean Wenborne

Resol. 2018-2

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the special meeting be adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

Carried

MAYOR

CLERK