

**The Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford
Special Meeting, Wednesday February 7, 2024, 3:00 p.m.
Municipal Council Chambers
317 Brock St. W. Merrickville, Ontario K0G 1N0**

Members Present

Mayor Michael Cameron
Deputy Mayor Anne Barr
Councillor Margaret Gural
Councillor Stephen Ireland
Councillor Ronnie Maitland

Staff Present

(Interim) C.A.O./Clerk Darlene Plumley
Manager of Operations/Fire Chief Brad Cole
Treasurer Kirsten Rahm
Municipal Librarian, Mary Kate Laphen (ZOOM)

Important notice: This meeting was held in person and was open to the public in the Council Chambers. It was recorded and livestreamed electronically on the "Village of Merrickville-Wolford" YouTube channel;

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_OEkw3yIMarGSHGeNecrQg

The minutes presented do not represent a verbatim report, to view the meeting and discussion please refer to link above.

The Purpose of the Meeting is to undertake a review of the 2024 draft budget presentations for the Village of Merrickville-Wolford.

The Agenda for February 7, 2024, Special Meeting of Council was introduced.

Moved By: Councillor Gural SM-01-07-02-24.

Seconded By: Councillor Ireland

THAT the Agenda for February 7, 2024, Special Meeting of Council approved.

CARRIED

Mayor Cameron called for Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof, none was stated.

Mayor introduced the Review of proposed draft budgets.

Moved By: Deputy Mayor Barr SM-02-07-02-24.

Seconded By: Councillor Maitland

THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford receive for information the material provided with regard to;

AND FURTHER THAT Staff be directed to proceed with the directions introduced and prepare a revised document for the February 12, 2024, budget session.

Library Board Budget Presentation

Revisions to the Operational Draft Budget. (pending)

Options presented which reflect segregated reserve contributions, as it relates to tax levy increase.

Draft Budget Capital

Capital budget overview/reserve summary/options for consideration

Consideration concerning proposed changes

CARRIED

Municipal Librarian, Mary Kate Laphen provided an overview of the Library Board Budget presentation.

Revisions to the Operating Budget will be made available prior to the February 12, 2024 Special Meeting. They will take into account any changes requested from this meeting.

The draft Capital Budget was introduced for information.

Staff was asked to provide clarification on;

Impact of reserve contributions on operating budget 2024		
(contributions made for the purpose of funding capital)		
No contributions to reserves		17% tax decrease
No infrastructure reserve contribution		13.9% tax decrease
Contribute to annual operating reserves		1.23% increase

- It was suggested that we review the deductible with the insurance broker to determine if savings could be achieved. Rather than delay budget approval, it is suggested that the amount remain the same, if however, there are savings, they be allocated to the Self Insurance reserve.
- Going forward, based on history it may be worthwhile setting up a Contingency Reserve which could be utilized for unforeseen circumstances, an unusually harsh winter, flooding, equipment failure. This provides the ability for managing when there is a deficit realized due to circumstances beyond our control. It can be accommodated through a transfer from the Working Capital Reserve.

The status of the community center grant. RFP written circulated shortly. Costs higher than anticipated. Transformer voltage is not compatible with the used generator that was available. Still moving forward with the project. Comparison price using old generator with adapter.

H.F. Mclean paving project

- Give consideration to speed bumps/traffic control!
- Traffic calming
- Pedestrian warning for infrastructure ahead

How projects may be funded will be discussed at the Special Meeting scheduled for 2:00 pm. on February 12, 2024.

Rather than identify individual projects for roads infrastructure, an amount be set aside until additional data has been received.

Consideration be given for an allocation for maintenance gravel over and above the capital gravel expenditure.

It was identified that the purchase of Council laptops would be a better option than providing funds for Council to purchase their own, the cost of installation would still be necessary and the ongoing maintenance of the device would then be covered.

It was the consensus of Council that the Hospital Provision reserve would be used to provide the donation request of \$3,100 for Maple View LTC. The term of the commitment is for five years.

Camera work on Main Street expense will be funded from the Water and Sewer Reserve along with the water meter replacements scheduled.

The 5500 truck is in the que with hopes of arrival sometime in 2024.

Gas Tax and OCIF will provide funding for Read St. and the culvert rehab at Weedmark Rd.

Drainage plans for future projects, lidar mapping, drainage as well as waste site lifespan will assist in finding data. Councillor Maitland can provide the historical mapping to the Municipality. Request information from JP2G for recommendations on how to proceed related to any associated billing.

Chamber of Commerce request for upgraded signing. Staff to investigate options for funding.

IT Server replacement is scheduled, a summary of the specifications will be provided.

Adjournment was introduced at 3:55 pm.

Moved By: Councillor SM-03-07-02-24.


Seconded By: Councillor

THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford adjourn.

CARRIED



Mayor Cameron



Interim CAO/Clerk Plumley

Special Meeting (Budget Strategy & Strategic Planning) February 12, 2024, 2:00 pm.
Regular Council Meeting will be held on February 12, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.