

**The Corporation of the  
Village of Merrickville-Wolford**

Monday, December 12, 2016

A regular meeting of the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford was held at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, December 12, 2016.

**Chaired by:** Mayor David Nash

**Members of Council:** Deputy Mayor Anne Barr  
Councillor Stephen A. Ireland  
Councillor Chuck MacInnis  
Councillor Kim Weedmark

**Regrets:** Councillor Victor Suthren  
Councillor David Snowdon

**Staff in Attendance:** John Regan, CAO/Clerk  
Sheila Kehoe, Manager of Finance – Treasurer  
Dave Powers, Manager, Public Works  
Randy Wilkinson, Chief Building Official  
Andy Boffee, Public Works Foreman  
Frederick Martin, Administrative Assistant

Members of the public were in attendance.

**Press in Attendance:** One.

**Disclosure of Pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof:** None.

Additions to Agenda:  
J. Regan added the delegation of John LeVatte, Parks Canada.

**Resolutions:**

**R-304-16** Moved by K. Weedmark, Seconded by C. MacInnis  
**Be it hereby resolved that:** The agenda of the regular council meeting of December 12, 2016 be adopted as amended.

Carried.

**Approval of the minutes:**

**R-305-16** Moved by K. Weedmark, Seconded by C. MacInnis  
**Be it hereby resolved that:** The minutes of the regular council meeting on November 28, 2016 be adopted as circulated.

Carried.

**Delegation:**

John LeVatte, Parks Canada, Canada 150.

J. LaVatte presented a plan for 2017: a Canada 150 celebration starting from Kingston on July 31, and finishing in Merrickville. Renting the Kawartha tour boat, and hiring entertainers, necessitated a \$300,000 budget. Partnering with municipalities along the Rideau, he requested \$10,000 plus in-kind services from Merrickville-Wolford. A reply by the end of January would be appreciated. 2017 also marks the 100-year anniversary of Parks Canada establishing the first designated property, and the 10-year anniversary of UNESCO designating the Rideau as a World Heritage Site.

**R-306-16** Moved by K. Weedmark, Seconded by C. MacInnis

**Be it hereby resolved that:** The Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford does hereby receive the delegation of John LeVatte, Parks Canada, regarding Canada 150.

Carried.

**Public Question Period:** None.

**Finance:**

**R-307-16** Moved by K. Weedmark, Seconded by C. MacInnis

**Be it hereby resolved that:** By-Law 32-16, being a By-Law to authorize the borrowing upon amortizing debentures in the principal amount of \$205,000 towards the costs of the equipment (Grader and Plow Truck), be read a first and second time, and that By-Law 32-16 be read a third and final time and passed.

Carried.

**R-308-16** Moved by C. MacInnis, Seconded by A. Barr

**Be it hereby resolved that:** By-Law 33-16, being a By-Law to authorize the borrowing upon amortizing debentures in the principal amount of \$350,000 towards the costs of the Pumper Project, be read a first and second time, and that By-Law 33-16 be read a third and final time and passed.

Carried.

FIN-02-16 2017 Group Insurance Policy Renewal: S. Kehoe noted that the increase was lower than the projected 0.5% included in the budget.

**R-309-16** Moved by A. Barr, Seconded by K. Weedmark

**Be it hereby resolved that:** The Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford does hereby:

- Receive the report from Sheila Kehoe, Manager of Finance - Treasurer, dated December 12, 2016, report number FIN-02-16; and,
- Approve the renewal of the 2017 insurance policy with Desjardin for the fiscal year 2017 in the amount of \$84,252.

Carried.

**Chief Building Official** – Quarterly Report. R. Wilkinson noted that the number of building permits was comparable to 2016.

**R-310-16** Moved by K. Weedmark, Seconded by C. MacInnis

**Be it hereby resolved that:** The Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford does receive the quarterly report from the Chief Building Official, dated December 12, 2016 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2016.

Carried.

**Fire Department, FD-02-16** Open Air Burn By-Law, Survey report.

**R-311-16** Moved by A. Barr, Seconded by C. MacInnis

**Be it hereby resolved that:** The Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford does hereby:

- receive the report FD-02-16, Burn By-Law survey report from the Fire Chief;
- The Fire Chief hereby amends the draft burn By-Law to reflect concerns raised through the survey; and
- The Fire Chief hereby seeks out input through the Agriculture Advisory Committee

J. Regan noted that the By-Law would be referred to the Agriculture Advisory Committee for review in light of the survey comments. Upon the Committee submitting its comments, Council will re-examine the By-Law. Council members wishing to provide input are to send comments to the Fire Chief and J. Regan.

#### **Budget Deliberations.**

Mayor Nash called on J. Regan to lead the discussion on the 2017 draft budget.

S. Kehoe circulated revised financial documents.

**Public Works** – D. Powers focused on substantive changes. The Department needs to remain proactive in attending safety courses. If a new tractor was not included in the budget, then the repair expenditure would remain. With buying a refurbished grader this year, there is always maintenance cost. It is difficult to predict snow removal expenditure. Pending any severe weather event, best practice is to keep the tree removal line item. Because a water-based paint (which is environmentally sensitive) is used for street and parking lines, the paint has on average a 2-year life span. Ensued a brief discussion on installing new street lights, and dimming current ones.

Clerk's note: Ireland joined the meeting at 6:27 p.m.

**Landfill** – A. Boffee. The best estimate of revenue increase is \$30,000 because of: bag tag fee increases; introduction of the weight scale; new staff; tighter controls; better processes; and, everything coming in and going out of the landfill is weighed. One of the reasons to bring in the weight scale was to increase revenues by \$100,000; the scale went live on November 3 but, due to staff illness, data input was not finalised. Weight scale provides accurate information which, hopefully, will translate into increase funding from Waste Diversion Ontario. Bringing everything to the main gate/hut area provides enhanced control; staff can better supervise garbage coming in. At this time, the budget projects a \$120,000 operational deficit.

**Recreation** – D. Powers. The beach maintenance is provided by staff and summer students, and residents of Community Living. The ball diamond has seen a higher usage than years past. There will be increased attention to "cat-tail" control along the beach. There is no money in 2017 for a study to install a roof on the ice rink. J. Regan mentioned that a cost-sharing agreement with Smiths Falls re: ice rink - hockey is forthcoming.

**Building Department** - R. Wilkinson noted no changes from the last meeting.

Clerk's note: A. Boffee, R. Wilkinson and D. Powers excused themselves from the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

**Economic Development and Tourism** – J. Regan.

There was a new item, being the position of an Economic Development - Tourism Event Grant-writing Coordinator; the Village could undertake this activity independently or in conjunction with a neighbouring municipality, or the County. Ensued a conversation on putting some of the money of this new item towards Strategic Plan initiatives to ensure funding is available to undertake activities as per future 2017 Council decisions. Opportunities could be explored to leverage our funds by partnering with neighbouring municipalities.

Regarding the Parks Canada delegation, it was agreed to add \$5,000 to the budget, with local community groups being given the opportunity to participate.

Ensued a discussion on the possibility of rethinking Council's community fund grant program so as to reuse the funds for economic development purposes.

Council took a recess at 8:07 p.m.

Council reconvened at 8:15 p.m.

**Public question**

Ivan Wood, 182 Wolford Drive

He commended the municipality for increased communication. On his question of vehicle maintenance, Mayor Nash noted that some work is done in-house while some work is contracted out. With the Fire Department buying a new pumper, is there a need to keep the old one for Public Works? Why not use the new pumper for Public Works needs? Staff will provide answers at the next regular Council meeting.

J. Regan agreed to put the organizational chart on the website, once the chart is finalized; he was not certain as to whether or not the salary grid would be on the website.

I. Wood thought that the new landfill process of bringing everything to the main gate/hut would cost more; what was wrong with the old way of doing things?

As for staff personal certification, he did not think taxpayers should pay for all of it.

**Budget Deliberations (continued).**

Council and Administration – S. Kehoe reviewed many budget line items, focusing on notable increases and reductions in both revenues and expenditures. Ensued a conversation on the importance of training for Council members, and possibly Committee members.

Mayor Nash thanked J. Regan and S. Kehoe for leading the discussion on the 2017 budget, and noted the December 19 special Council meeting to continue the discussion on the 2017 budget.

**In-Camera:**

**R-312-16** Moved by C. MacInnis, Seconded by A. Barr

**Be it hereby resolved that:** this Council moves to "In Camera" at 9:00 p.m. in order to address a matter pertaining to personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees.

Carried.

**R-313-16** Moved by A. Barr, Seconded by S. Ireland

**Be it hereby resolved that:** the "In Camera" session rise and report, with staff being given direction, and the regular council session resume at 9:30 p.m.

Carried.

**R-314-16**

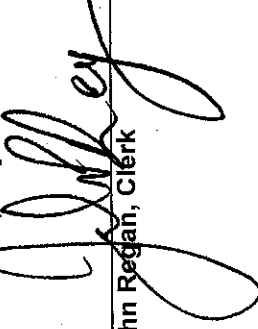
Moved by K. Weedmark, Seconded by C. MacInnis

**Be it hereby resolved that:** This regular meeting of the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford does now adjourn at 9:31 p.m. until the regular meeting of council on Monday, December 19, 2016 at 5:30 p.m., or until the call of the Mayor subject to need.

Carried.



David Nash, Mayor



John Regan, Clerk