

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

Monday, December 19, 2016

A special meeting of the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford was held at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, December 19, 2016.

Chaired by: Mayor David Nash

Members of Council:

Deputy Mayor Anne Barr
Councillor Stephen A. Ireland
Councillor Chuck MacInnis
Councillor Kim Weedmark
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:

The following were added to the agenda: A. Barr on the Trails Subcommittee; and J. Regan on the Ad hoc Committee on Lions Public Washrooms.

Resolutions:

R-315-16 Moved by C. MacInnis, Seconded by V. Suthren

Be it hereby resolved that: The agenda of the special council meeting of December 19, 2016 be adopted as amended. Carried.

Boards:

Planning Committee: minutes of November 2016.

R-316-16 Moved by A. Barr, Seconded by D. Snowdon

Be it hereby resolved that: The Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford does hereby approve the severance application B-72-16 from Irma Nicasro and Ascanio Finizia. Carried.

Protect—Persons/Prop: Emergency management program committee chair.

R-317-16 Moved by C. MacInnis, seconded by D. Snowdon

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

- Receive the report F.D.-04-2016 from Bob Foster, Fire Chief, dated December 12, 2016; and
- Appoint Mark Urquhart as Chair of the Emergency Management Program Committee. Carried.

Trails Subcommittee

Anne Barr indicated that the Trails Subcommittee requested additions to their original request of \$1,000, being: Woodland toboggan loop for property maintenance, and large maps at trail entrances, \$1800 includes stone dust, which may be obtained from Public Works; Brochure is done in-house (Village office) but want it folded, \$200. It was agreed to add these additions under the recreation budget.

Lions Club public washrooms

J. Regan remarked that the Lions proposal totalled \$145,000: \$100,000 from Lions; \$45,000 plus yearly operational cost of \$20,000 from Village. The new proposal replaces the laundromat with a tourism information centre.

C. MacInnis noted that, as a tourism destination, the Village needs public washrooms during peak tourism season, which is currently covered off by individual businesses. He is writing the final report; it would be premature to remove \$45,000 from the budget.

D. Snowdon suggested approaching businesses to offer reduced water rate during high tourism season; better than building a new facility.

C. MacInnis indicated that Council set up the Committee to investigate the Lions Club proposal, but not beyond that. Committee has talked about the option of renting space in the mall. If Council takes it out of the budget, then Council may wish to put money in the budget to help businesses to offset cost.

V. Suthren remarked that it was premature to remove from budget; maybe approach Parks Canada and Friends of the Rideau to augment-expand their public washrooms.

A. Barr proposed taking this coming year to do research in order to find out where the needs are. Maybe high-end portable washrooms near the canal and our current location. Concern about unknown operational cost. \$45,000 and \$10,000 (1/2 year operational) represents 2.25% increase tax rate.

J. Regan noted that, at the last Council meeting, direction to staff was to bring the increase to below 4%. During public meetings in January, maybe the issue could be raised during sessions.

J. Ireland suggested covering our \$45,000 by debenture.

It was agreed to keep it in the budget.

2017 draft budget deliberations

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

J. Regan advised focusing on noted (yellow) changes for all departments. Now is the time to have a healthy discussion on making cuts to the budget.

S. Kehoe indicated the current draft budget represents a 3.9% tax increase; reviewed many budget line items, focusing on notable increases and reductions in both revenues and expenditures.

Ensued a discussion on Council training with possibly reducing the amount to include only registration cost. Honorarium could be used to cover expenses. D. Snowdon expressed concern in supporting the expense; he relied on staff to provide guidance. J. Regan remarked that the onus is on each individual, including Council members, to be responsible for their own education; there is an incredible value in attending municipal conferences. Mayor Nash encouraged Council members to attend the 2017 AMO Conference in Ottawa and the 2017 Ontario East Municipal Conference in Kingston.

S. Kehoe reviewed the proposed salary grid reflects the research undertaken as per Council's request. Council will have a full discussion during the In-Camera session.

Fire Department

S. Kehoe noted that, in talking to OCWA, 2016 budget money to be carried forward to do the work in 2017 will not appear as an expense in 2017.

Clerk's note: B. Foster excused himself from the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Policing. No discussion.

By-Law enforcement.

S. Kehoe clarified the benefits line item.

J. Regan supported the training budget line as the Village wants its By-Law Officer to be fully knowledgeable in enforcing by-laws. Taking into account the notion of succession planning, if the Village hires new staff, there must be training money in our budget.

Public works.

D. Powers noted the increase in culvert replacement. Staff hours reflect part-time By-Law Officer working in Public Works; also reflects a reduction in benefits expenses, as per last report. Will look into cost of buying chipper, instead of renting. Hopefully there will be cost savings at the rink with converting to natural gas. Extensive work at Putnam Road cemetery in 2016.

Building Department.

R. Wilkinson observed that property owner had not re-contacted him for tile drainage follow-up re-application.

Clerk's note: R. Wilkinson excused himself from the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Economic Development and Tourism.

J. Regan highlighted building the brand of Merrickville-Wolford. The budget line item of Event Coordinator will change to strategic initiatives. He noted that branded marketing items are not sold anywhere within the Municipality.

Mayor Nash commented on the Parks Canada - Rideau Rocks presentation from last meeting. There is a follow-up meeting this week.

Library. No comment.

Utilities.

S. Kehoe noted that the Village is making very good progress to becoming self-sufficient, break even. Hopefully, one day we will be making payments to reserves. The Village received a nominal amount from septage, having received only one application.

Council members expressed positive comments about becoming self-sufficient in the future.

Weedmark suggested selling processed septage to farmers or the private sector. Snowdon noted provincial response time to approve such request is very long.

J. Regan remarked that staff are continuing to gather information on recuperating expenses on the utilities break this past summer near the swing bridge.

Capital budget.

D. Powers remarked on the continuing maintenance on Armstrong Rd; major work was deferred until 2018 as the area is not a high traffic area. In-house maintenance on the Landfill compactor.

Mayor Nash stressed the need to start putting money into reserves for replacing future equipment.

S. Kehoe noted that there is sufficient debt capacity. She recommended paying off some debt before acquiring new debt.

J. Regan reminded Council that the budget discussion will be on the January 9 council meeting. If the washroom expenditure is included in the 2017 budget, Council is looking at 6% increase at this time.

A Barr and V. Suthren noted that Council has not had a conversation about the concept of public washrooms.

S. Ireland suggested a special levy on downtown businesses for public washrooms.

C. Macinnis reminded Council that a report from the Ad hoc Committee on Washrooms will be submitted at the January 9 meeting.

It was agreed to have further discussions on Council training.

Public/Media Question Period: None.

Clerk's note: D. Powers and A. Boffee excused themselves at 8:09 p.m.

In Camera:

R-318-16 Moved by K. Weedmark, Seconded by D. Snowdon

Be it hereby resolved that: this Council moves to "In Camera" at 8:10 p.m. in order to address a matter pertaining to: personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees; and 2017 salary grid review.
Carried.

Clerk's note: F. Martin excused himself from the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

R-319-16 Moved by D. Snowdon, Seconded by C. Macinnis

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-320-16

Moved by D. Snowdon, Seconded by K. Weedmark

Be it hereby resolved that: The Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford does hereby appoint the following member to the Merrickville-Wolford Committee of Adjustments for the term of Council 2014-2018: Don Halpenny.
Carried.

R-321-16

Moved by D. Snowdon, Seconded by A. Barr

Be it hereby resolved that: The Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford does hereby appoint the following member to the Merrickville-Wolford Planning Advisory Committee for the term of Council 2014-2018: Ian Kirk.
Carried.

R-322-16

Moved by K. Weedmark, Seconded by V. Suthren

Be it hereby resolved that: The Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford does hereby approve the Merrickville-Wolford salary grid.
Carried.

R-333-16

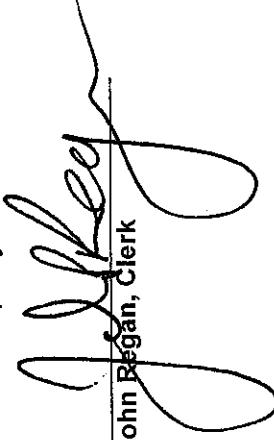
Moved by D. Snowdon, Seconded by K. Weedmark

Be it hereby resolved that: This regular meeting of the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford does now adjourn at 9:29 p.m. until the regular meeting of council on Monday, January 9, 2017 at 7:00 p.m., or until the call of the Mayor subject to need.

Carried.



David Nash, Mayor



John Regan, Clerk