



MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF WEST HANTS
Special Committee of the Whole Minutes
April 11, 2017, 6:00 p.m.
Sanford Council Chambers

Present:	P. Morton	Deputy Warden
	A. Zebian	Warden
	R. Jannasch	Councillor District 1
	K. Monroe	Councillor District 2
	D. Keith	Councillor District 3
	T. Leopold	Councillor District 4
	D. Francis	Councillor District 5
	R. Hussey	Councillor District 6
	J. Daniels	Councillor District 7
	R. Zwicker	Councillor District 10
	C. Osborne	Chief Administrative Officer
	C. Remme	Acting Municipal Clerk
	J. Woodman	Administrative Assistant

There were no members of the public in attendance

1. Call to Order

Chair Morton called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m. He reviewed the fire evacuation procedures.

2. Approval of Agenda, including additions or deletions

MOVED and SECONDED that the agenda be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried.

3. Report of the CAO

a. Budget Adjustments (Recommendation Report)

The Director of Finance reported budget deliberations were held on March 21&22 and Council directed staff to reduce the tax rate to at least the 2016/17 residential tax rate. He indicated the report included outlines the adjustments made. He confirmed the net effect is decreased to an equal budget. He reported there were some changes to the capital budget and the projected amount for the Hockey Heritage Centre will come from operational reserves. He noted the changes to the Reserve budget including an oversight for the boundary review and municipal elections ask which was noted in the operations budget.

Councillor Jannasch asked how the budget was balanced because the bottom line numbers are different. CAO Osborne offered that when staff presented the budget in March Council and staff identified the adjustments that were required in that draft budget as each item was discussed with Council. She confirmed when the items were adjusted it resulted in a different but more accurate net result. The CAO advised that the original draft budget identified a lift from assessment of \$405,000

which helped offset the increases in the policing, education and additional hydrant cost for fire protection that needed to be absorbed this year. She cautioned Council that without the lift other measures would have been required.

Warden Zebian expressed his confidence in staff and their ability to balance the budget. He asked if the Municipality had received a breakdown for snow removal costs from the Brooklyn Fire Department. CAO Osborne indicated that the Department runs on a calendar not fiscal year and, as a result, when asked to present their budget several assumptions had to be made. She added that the Department has different cost categories adding that the creation of a policy will ensure all fire departments are clear on what is to be presented to Council in the future which will result in a consistent comparison for the future.

Councillor Zwicker asked when the Municipality would demonstrate that dissolution was beneficial and lower the area rate for the residents of Hantsport. The Director of Finance reported he had completed a net present value analysis on what would be required once the equalization and transportation payments are no longer received. He confirmed he estimated that approximately \$300,000 would be required, and the smoothing reserve currently is \$279,000 and suggested a reduction could take place as soon as next year. CAO Osborne added the reduction would assume that Council is prepared to absorb the costs municipality-wide based on a formula which is anticipated to come to Council in a report in the fall for their consideration.

CAO Osborne spoke of the motion on the floor regarding the funding for the Hockey Heritage Centre. She advised that it had been discovered that the Municipality can fund the project indirectly through gas tax without no direct impact on the tax rate and would require a motion of Council to do so.

**MOVED and SECONDED that Council support the Hockey Heritage Center project with a \$1,000,000.00 contribution.
Motion Carried.**

MOVED and SECONDED that Council approve the 2017-18 Operating budget as presented outlining total general rate budgeted expenses of \$15,107,855 and total area rate budgeted expenses for the community of Hantsport of \$696,772. Motion Carried.

**MOVED and SECONDED that Council approve the 2017-18 Capital budget as presented.
Motion Carried.**

**MOVED and SECONDED that Council approve the 2017-18 Reserves budget as presented.
Motion Carried.**

**MOVED and SECONDED that Council approve the 2017-18 Three Mile Plains Water Utility budget as presented.
Motion Carried.**

MOVED and SECONDED that Council approve the 2017-18 Falmouth Water Utility budget as presented.

Motion Carried.

4. Date of Next Meeting – April 25, 2017

5. Adjournment

MOVED and SECONDED that the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:22p.m.

Paul Morton, Chair

Rhonda Brown, Municipal Clerk