



WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
Special Budget Committee of the Whole Agenda
June 01, 2020 5:30 p.m.
Virtual Zoom Presentation

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Announcements
4. Approval of Agenda, including additions or deletions
5. 5:30-7:00 Past-Present-Future RCMP Discussions Mark Phillips
6. 7:00-7:15 Break
7. 7:15-8:00 Operating Budget Scenarios
8. 8:00-9:00 Operating Budget Direction
9. Adjournment



WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
Special Budget Committee of the Whole Minutes
June 1, 2020 5:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting – via Zoom

1. Call to Order

Mayor Zebian called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

2. Call of Roll

Council Present:

Abraham Zebian, Mayor
Rupert Jannasch, Councillor, District 1
Scott McLean, Councillor, District 2
Mark McLean, Councillor, District 3
Jeff Hartt, Councillor, District 4
Debbie Francis, District 5

Paul Morton, Deputy Mayor, District 8
Bob Morton, Councillor, District 6
Ed Sherman, Councillor, District 7
Richard Murphy, Councillor, District 9
Laurie Murley, Councillor, District 10
Jim Ivey, Councillor, District 11

Staff and Guests Present:

Mark Phillips, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
Todd Richard, Dir. Public Works
Kathy Kehoe, Dir. Community
Development
Shelleena Thornton, Administrative
Supervisor

Carlee Rochon, Dir. Financial Services
Rhonda Brown, Municipal Clerk
Madelyn LeMay, Dir. Planning &
Development

Members of the public watched the meeting using Facebook Live.

3. Announcements

Residents were reminded to use common sense and distancing with the relaxing of some COVID-19 restrictions. Haliburton Place, Windsor Elms Village and Dykeland Lodge were recognized for how they dealt with COVID-19 and having no cases in their facilities.

4. Approval of Agenda, including additions or deletions

**MOVED by Councillors Murley and Murphy that the agenda be approved.
Motion Carried.**

5. Past-Present-Future RCMP Discussions – Mark Phillips

CAO Philips informed that cost paid for policing to the RCMP were for the core services provided including DNA services; additional or special services are provided at an added cost at year end. The former Town was part of a Municipal Police Service Agreement

(MPSA) which is an agreement with the Public Safety Canada, while the former Municipality was part of a Provincial Police Service Agreement (PPSA) with the Province. The new policing agreement will be a MPSA as we are a new Municipality and all municipalities in the Province will be moving to a MPSA when their current PPSA' s expire.

As of March 1, 2020, the anticipated cost for Policing service was \$3,564,768 based on a 70/30 split, which means the Municipality pays for 70% of cost. On March 17th it was determined it would be a 90/10 split costing \$4,487,304. In addition, cost adjustments have been added due to retro pay that may be recognized this year and the transfer of vehicles from the PPSA to MPSA. All RCMP agreements in Canada will be receiving some adjustment due to the retro pay. The retro pay would not be an annual cost. Due to the new MSPA 90/10 split and adjustments, the total policing cost in 2020-2021 will be 5,289,594.

The Police Advisory Board provides oversight and guidance of the policing services provided. In addition the Coordinating Committee had previously requested a police review which would identify what the ideal officer complement would be for the area, this would be conducted by the RCMP and could take 6 months to a year to complete.

Discussion Points:

- Other policing models should be explored to determine best cost per officer including all overhead costs. A review will be needed and if changing models 1-year notice would need to be given.
- The retro-pay allocations paid this year will be held until negotiations are completed. This would increase the salaries and then there would be annual cost of living to maintain the salaries.
- There are little negotiation opportunities for the MPSA, we can only request changes based on modeling. If changing from the RCMP model, the Municipality must prove to the Province the new model will meet the requirements of the Police Act.

6. Break

Committee of the Whole did not take a break.

7. Operating Budget Scenarios

Director Rochon provided an overview of the previous budget discussion and proposed tax rates as of May 27th. Three residential and commercial tax rate options were provided to Council for their consideration to not only mitigate the increase costs of policing but to provide funding by taxation to off-set all operating costs as proposed.

Discussion Points:

- Deferring capital projects such as Municipal Office renos and Hantsport Fire Station only affects the small portion of debt servicing in the operating budget.
- The budget is about \$600,000 less than the combined budget of the former municipalities for core services , any further reductions would impact service levels as the majority of increases are due to mandated cost such as education and policing.
- The tax rate even with a one or two-cent increase is still competitive with municipalities of similar size.
- The guiding principal of not increasing taxes was directed before changes to the policing contract were known.
- If rates did not increase this year, then there is a possibility of rate shock next year. However, revenues may continue to increase next year which could offset any needed tax increases.
- The term blended rate was raised and referred to the potential restructuring of the existing tax rates. This review will have to be conducted by staff and Council over the coming year.
- The Province has an understanding with municipalities to give one-year notice of any significant changes, the only known increase next year is for library services.

8. Operating Budget Direction

After determining most Councillors did not want to decrease service levels, Mayor Zebian polled each Councillor on their scenario preference. Director Rochon clarified none of the three scenarios would cause a decrease in service levels but impacted the amount of reserves to be used.

MOVED by Councillor Jannasch and Deputy Mayor Morton that Scenario 3 be adopted for the tax rate for 2020-2021.

Motion Carried.

Councillors Morton, S. McLean, M. McLean, Murley and Hartt voted nay.

9. Adjournment

MOVED by Councillors Ivey and Sherman that the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried.

The meeting ended at 7:58 pm.

Abraham Zebian, Mayor

Rhonda Brown, Municipal Clerk