



**MUNICIPALITY OF NORTH MIDDLESEX
BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 5TH, 2019**

The Meeting for the newly appointed Committee was held on Tuesday February 5th 2019 at 10:00 am. in the Shared Services Boardroom.

CAO Nandini Syed welcomed everyone to the meeting.

ROLL CALL

Present: Council - Councillor John Keogh
Deputy Mayor Adrian Cornelissen
Mayor Brian Ropp

Staff – Nandini Syed, CAO
Jonathan Lampman, Infrastructure Supervisor (Recording Secretary)
Jonathan Graham – Deputy CAO

Mayor Ropp assumed the role of Chair

CAO Nandini Syed took the lead and began directing both council and staff through the water and wastewater budgets line by line.

The group worked through the water budget first focusing in on the revenue items as budgeted in 2019 vs 2018 budget numbers.

On the operational side of the expenses there was a question posed by deputy mayor Cornelissen in regards to the allocation of staff's salaries in regards to water. CAO Syed confirmed that Jonathan L, Glen Bullock, Jonathon G and Joanne S were all proportionally allocated to the budget salary number in addition to other departments ranging from roads, to drainage to wastewater. Deputy Mayor Cornelissen was assured and we moved on.

Deputy Mayor then questioned the education and training portion of the budget, and possible lack thereof, which Deputy CAO Graham responded was also dispersed through many different departments in the same fashion that the salaries were

dispersed. Deputy Mayor Cornelissen acknowledged and the budget talks continued.

As the group progressed through the water budget Deputy Mayor Cornelissen had a question regarding the \$90,000 combined water loss budget items noted and if they were assumed loss. Jonathan L and Deputy CAO Graham responded that these were in fact the budgeted items to conduct the water loss program including consultant's (flowmetrix) work, physical works including hydrovacating as well as restoration to land where leaks are found. The group were satisfied and we moved on.

During the discussion of the capital expenditure for the water tower design Mayor Ropp, Deputy Mayor Cornelissen and Councilor Keogh all brought up questions regarding the option of bulk filling in the municipality. Deputy CAO Graham and Jonathan L both agreed that there was not a current option for the service nor could it be easily achieved at this point. However staff agreed to review a bulk filling station as part of the capital works associated with the Ailsa Craig water tower works.

Deputy Mayor Cornelissen then brought up questions regarding the use of the water tower to feed farms in the West Williams area that require a constant source of water to ensure that their animals stay alive. Both Deputy CAO Graham and Jonathan L discussed the reason why a water tower in Ailsa Craig would hydraulically and logistically not work for this particular application and that the water tower's main focus was to service the immediate Ailsa Craig area. Councilor Keogh then posed a question regarding a water towers size and if all were typical. Deputy CAO Graham responded that water towers are designed specifically to meet the needs of the designated area they are serving and that the likely tower would have a tank that sat on it that could possibly be changed for a larger tank in the future if the need persisted.

CAO Syed then moved the group to the last remaining item in the water budget which was the Denfield Rd pressure project. CAO Syed said that monies held in the current "water equipment reserve" may not be accessible for a project like this and that she would contact the auditor to determine if the monies could be used for the improvement.

Mayor Ropp looked to Deputy CAO Graham and Jonathan L for a brief timeline on the Denfield project and if staff could get it done within the 2019 calendar year. They both agreed that it could as long as both the funding was accessible and Lucan Biddulph agreed to provide the pumping.

Next the group focused in on the wastewater budget. CAO Syed moved through the budget in the same fashion going line by line through revenue and then expenses.

Councilor Keogh asked if in the chance that there was a surplus in either the water or wastewater budgets at the end of the year if that surplus automatically went into the reserves. In the case of the wastewater budget CAO Syed explained that the municipality was in a 3.1 million dollar deficient position and that any surplus would go

against the deficit. In waters case when the surplus would then go into reserves as a surplus that could then be accessed via reserves for future works.

Deputy CAO Graham produced a glimpse of a slide show that will be shown to the water & wastewater committees. In the slideshow discussion about future development rough costs for the water tower and waste water treatment plant were discussed. The order of magnitude budget of the water tower was discussed at 2.5 million, the wastewater treatment plant was discussed at 15 million and a brief discussion was had regarding the 202 rates moving forward. When the question of “how do we feel about these initiatives was posed by mayor Ropp both deputy Mayor Cornelissen and council Keogh were in agreement that the initiatives , in principle should be undertaken at this point.

CORNELISSEN/KEOGH: That the budget committee direct staff to present the Draft 2019 water and wastewater budget, as presented, to Council at the February 13th Special Budget Meeting.

ROPP/CORNELISSEN: That the meeting adjourn at 11:30 am.

Chair _____

Secretary _____