



Town of Borden-Carleton
Minutes of Special Council Meeting
Thursday, March 30th, 2023
240 Main St, Borden-Carleton, PE
Royal Canadian Legion
7:00pm

PRESENT: Mayor Randy Ahearn, Deputy Mayor Larry Allen, Councillor Laurel Palmer-Thompson, Councillor Eric Stewart and Councillor Ashley Steele.

REGRETS: Councillor Barb Wood and Councillor Ashley Steele.

STAFF PRESENT: CAO, Jim Wentzell, Accounting & Finance Officer, Henry Le, Administrative Assistant, Joanne Smith.

ALSO PRESENT: 4 members of the public

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Mayor Randy Ahearn called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and stated that the purpose of the meeting was to consider Town, Gateway Arena, and the Utilities Operating and Capital Budgets for 2023/24 and to set the 2023/24 Municipal Tax Rates.

Mayor Randy Ahearn asked the Town's CAO, Jim Wentzell, to present the draft budgets and supporting information through a Power Point presentation and tangible copies of the budget documents.

2. PRESENTATION DRAFT BUDGETS FOR 2023-24:

BACKGROUND:

In the way of background in respect to budgeting for this fiscal year, it was a challenging one. The current financial landscape is completely different than a year ago and faces many challenges such as the CPI is up 7% for all of PEI; interest rates are 250% higher than last year; minimum wage rates is up 9% with all overall wages to increase by 5% due to inflation and the pressures due to the shortage of workers. Gas and oil prices are down from this time last year but still up 40% from 2 years ago. Insurance costs have been on the rise for the passed 2 years and electricity rates are increasing 5% per year over the next 3 years.

The CAO presented the Operating Budget for the Town, Gateway Arena and both the Sewer and Water Utilities. He also circulated the proposed Capital Budget for 2023-24.

The draft budgets have incorporated a 4-cent increase of both the Commercial and Non-Commercial tax rates.

The CAO answered various questions from the public and Council during the budget presentation.

Documents circulated to those present at the Meeting included:

- Detailed Draft Operating Budget by Department for 2023/24 including the Gateway Arena and Utilities
- Budget revenues and expenses of the General Operating Fund for the fiscal year
- Notes on various Revenue and Expenditure items contained in the 2023/24 operating budgets
- Draft Capital Budget for all Departments for 2023/24
- 5 Year Capital Budgets for all Departments for 2023-24 to 2027/28
- PEI/Canada – Consumer Price Index January 2023
- Recommended Salary Scales for staff for 2023/24
- Notes on the Budget – The Big Picture
- RCMP Policing Extended Agreement – Email information from Public Safety Division

The present budget is projecting an operating surplus of \$34,355 for 2022/23. However, without the capital grant realized, the surplus would only be \$14,355 and if the equalization grant disappeared the Town would be running a deficit of \$50,000 in addition it is expected that the hydrant rates would increase as a result of a water and sewer rate study in 2023.

The Town’s budget meets the requirements of the MGA by not incurring a deficit in an the operating budget. It also should be noted that municipalities do not fund depreciation with the tax rate.

4. MOTIONS:

4.1 Approval of the 5-year Capital Budget for 2023/24 – 2027/28 Capital Budgets for the Town and the Gateway Arena and Utilities

Moved by Councillor Laurel Palmer-Thompson seconded by Councillor Nicole Bernard Arsenault

THAT Town Council approve the Five-Year Capital Budget for the Town of Borden-Carleton including the Arena and Utilities for 2023/24 to 2028/29 in the amount of \$2,585,500

**MOTION CARRIED (4-0)
(RR#23-03-01)**

4.2 Approval of the 2023-24 Operating Budgets for the Town and Gateway Arena

Moved by Councillor Eric Stewart seconded by Councillor Larry Allen

THAT Town Council approve the Town of Borden-Carleton 2023/24 Operating budget for the Town and Gateway Arena in the amount of \$1,105,450 and the budget for Amortization for 2023/24 in the amount of 115,000.

**MOTION CARRIED (4-0)
(RR#23-03-02)**

4.3 Approval of the 2023/24 Operating Budget for the Sewer Utility

Moved by Councillor Nicole Bernard-Arsenault and seconded by Councillor Laurel Palmer-Thompson

THAT Town Council approve the Town of Borden-Carleton 2023/24 Operating budget for the Sewer Utility in the amount of \$209,000 and the budget for amortization for 2023/24 in the amount of 70,000.

**MOTION CARRIED (4-0)
(RR#23-03-03)**

4.4 Approval of the 2023-24 Operating Budget for the Water Utility

Moved by Councillor Larry Allen and seconded by Councillor Eric Stewart

THAT Town Council approve the Town of Borden-Carleton 2023/24 Operating budget for the Water Utility in the amount of \$205,000 and the budget for amortization for 2023/24 in the amount of 60,000.

**MOTION CARRIED (4-0)
(RR#23-03-04)**

4.5 Approval of the Wage Scales for 2023/24

Moved by Councillor Nicole Bernard-Arsenault and seconded by Councillor Larry Allen

THAT Town Council approve the wage scales for full-time, part-time, seasonal and summer staff for 2023/24 as per spreadsheet circulated by the CAO. `

**MOTION CARRIED (4-0)
(RR#23-03-05)**

3.6 Set the 2023/24 Municipal Tax Rates for the Town of Borden-Carleton

Moved by Councillor Eric Stewart and seconded by Councillor Larry Allen

WHEREAS Section 160(1) of the Municipal Government Act R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. M-12.1 requires the town to establish tax rates by resolution;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Town Council set the 2023/24 municipal property tax rates for the Town of Borden-Carleton at 57 cents per \$100 of assessment for Non-Commercial properties and \$1.40 per \$100 of assessment for Commercial properties be hereby adopted and approved.

**MOTION CARRIED (4-0)
(RR#23-03-06)**

The Levy as a result of these Tax Rates is estimated to be as follows:

Comm Assessment	Non Comm Assessment	Comm Levy	Non- Comm Levy	Total Levy
22,816,842.00	41,739,688.00	237,916.22	200,817.31	<u>537,352.01</u>

5. OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

5.1 RCMP Extended Services Agreement (ESA)

A discussion took place on the RCMP Extended Services Contract for the Town of Borden-Carleton. No action was taken.

5.2 RESOLUTION – Purchase of PID Number 814962 – 236 Main Street, Borden-Carleton

**Moved by Councillor Eric Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Nicole Bernard-Arsenault**

WHEREAS the Town of Borden-Carleton Council expressed an interest to purchase a 0.51-acre parcel of land, PID number 814962, located at 236 Main Street in Borden-Carleton. The property includes a 3,600 square foot commercial building;

AND WHEREAS the Chief Administrative Officer is authorized to act on behalf of the Town to make an offer on the building;

AND WHEREAS the building is to be used as the Town Hall for the municipality;

AND WHEREAS Council agrees to the negotiated purchase price of \$199,000.00 plus HST for the property with the condition of a favourable inspection report;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Borden-Carleton enter into an agreement of purchase for a property located at 236 Main Street, PID number 814962; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the purchase of the property at 236 Main Street in Borden-Carleton be subject to an acceptable building inspection and a purchase price of \$199,000.00 plus HST.

**MOTION CARRIED (4-0)
(RR#23-03-07)**

6. ADJOURNMENT:

At the end of the meeting Mayor Randy Ahearn thanked the residents present for their participation in the meeting and for asking various questions throughout the evening.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Mayor Randy Ahearn

CAO Jim Wentzell