



MINUTES
SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Monday, January 4, 2021
8:00 a.m.
Virtual Attendance

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Council met electronically as permitted by Council's Procedural Bylaw. Citizens and our Media Partners are encouraged to view the virtual meeting via the Public Live Stream Event recorded at:

<https://video.isilive.ca/kenora/2021-01-04.html>

Present: Mayor D. Reynard
Councillor M. Goss
Councillor R. McMillan
Councillor A. Poirier
Councillor K. Ralko
Councillor S. Smith
Councillor C. Van Wallegghem

Staff: Kyle Attanasio, CAO, Heather Pihulak, Manager of Administration/City Clerk, Jon Ranger, Deputy Treasurer, Charlotte Edie, Manager of Finance/Treasurer, Jeff Hawley, Manager of Operations & Infrastructure, Stace Gander, Community Services Manager, Adam Smith, Manager of Development Services, Roberta Marsh, HR Manager

Call Meeting to Order

Mayor Reynard called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

Blessing & Land Acknowledgement

Delivered by Councillor McMillan

As we gather, we recognize that we are on Treaty Three Lands which are steeped in rich Indigenous history and home to many First Nations and Metis people today. We continue to be thankful for the partnerships with our Indigenous people.

We give thanks for the many blessings we enjoy in the City of Kenora. We seek wisdom in our minds, clearness in our thinking, truth in our speaking and always love in our hearts, so that we may try always to unite the Citizens of Kenora. Let these principles guide us in our decision making.

Public Notices

Take Notice that as required under Notice By-law #144-2007, Council intends to adopt the following items at this Special Meeting of Council:

N/A

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest & General Nature thereof

i) On Today's Agenda

ii) From a Meeting at which a Member was not in Attendance

There were none declared.

Deputations

None.

1. 2021 Municipal Operating Budget Review

Jon Ranger, Deputy Treasurer presented an overview of the 2021 Operating budget for the City.

The 2021 budget highlights include a 3% increase in the levy requirement from the 2020 budgeted levy. A 1% levy impact is approximately \$269k. The 2021 operating budget projects total operating expenditures of \$32.5 million before capital expenditures and reserve appropriations. Combined operating, capital and reserve requirements total \$46 million. The city intends on raising \$27.75 million through general tax dollars.

The general purpose tax levy purpose is to summarize the 2021 combined levy requirement. The net program costs agrees to tab 6 in the binder review, and the special projects and unusual spend agrees to tab 9 in the capital section. Capital expenditures agrees to tab 2 in the capital section, and the appropriation to reserves agrees to tab 10.

Council was concerned that \$100,000 in training was cut from all the various budgets and how are we going to incorporate that back into the 2022 budgets. Council questioned if administration has a plan for that amount facing the 2022 budget. Council questioned the increase to succession planning reserves.

Preliminary major impacts include the allocation to the OMPF decrease of \$9,000. The policing contract increase of \$388,000, the KDSB shows an increase overall of \$25,000 but comparing budget of 2020 to budget of 2021. Last year we didn't get the budget in time to include in the 2020 budget so it was under budgeted so this increase to the 2021 is factoring that in. It is an actual decrease of \$2,000 but reflects a two year change. It is a positive impact to the NWHU budget of \$56,000 because the 2020 came in lower so this is reflected in 2021 budget. Pinecrest Home for the Aged is 4.5% and this is comparing the 2020 budgeted amount to the 2021 budgeted amount. Some of the others include the Library budget which did change from the budget presented to Council due to a wage change that happened. The LOW Museum and Art Centre changed due to the wages. Total external impacts are \$509,000. Staff related impacts are also included and some will be discussed in closed. We increased the succession planning reserve by \$180,000 and are showing a POA decrease of \$53,000 and is only an estimate. We are expecting a significant increase to insurance and have estimated that amount in the budget. We have included an expected reduction in recreation revenues which is expected that is approximately \$303,000 reduction. The COVID funding will make up a lot of those differences which is a positive note of \$683,000. The \$683,000 is the remaining balance which has the Province has provided to date in COVID funding. This number could change.

For the succession planning increase to reserves, we have three senior leadership positions that will be preparing for retirement. While this amount is quite high, we might see

something in the same ballpark next year to get us through these positions that are coming in the next two years.

Council questioned if there will be a line for costs for negotiations. Jon can put together the costs of negotiations for Council as far as the consultant's time including travel and accommodations and wages.

This is the first budget that has presented a three year overview and forecast of budgeting beyond the existing year in the department detail. It is a good indication of forecasting for the next few years. Jon went through each budget allocation tab by tab and reviewed the major changes to each budget.

Council indicated they would like to see a member of Council on the Pinecrest Home for the Aged Board so we have some say in their budget.

There is a significant increase in the flower bed contact. Stace is working with the only bidder to try to reduce that number as this is a significant increase over 2020.

It was questioned why the Whitecap Pavillion shows no revenues in 2021 and beyond. Jon will look into this and bring back to Council.

Department 860, 861 and 862 are essentially being funded by the MAT tax. There is a budget established to discuss the MAT tax. In 860 \$22,500 they have coming in provincial funding. Of that, there is \$171,000 in various projects allocated in 2021. At this point because the strategic plan isn't complete that's all they have allocated at this point. To balance this department we are allocating \$156,000 in MAT tax. We are taking \$77,000 from the MAT tax to pay for that. These budgets should always be balanced to the MAT tax. For special events, there are some revenues, we have taken \$10,000 from the MAT tax to balance this budget and expected revenues for 2021 we are anticipating \$450,000 in MAT tax of that \$140,000 goes directly to the KHA so that has been allocated. The \$243,000 is the allocation of \$10,000, \$77,000 and \$156,000 and we are dropping \$56,000 into MAT tax deferred revenue. There is \$301,700 in deferred from 2019. We are actually going to be spending more in future years than revenues, which will be taken from those deferred from 2019.

Council had no further questions pertaining to the presented 2021 operating budget.

2. Motion to Adjourn to Closed Session

That pursuant to Section 239 of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, authorization is hereby given for Committee to move into a Closed Session at 10:20 a.m. to discuss the following item:

Labour Relations (1 matter-2021 staffing considerations)

2. Reconvene to Open Meeting

Council reconvenes to open session at 11:45 a.m. with one report from its closed session.

That Council hereby accepts the staffing related impacts of a combined impact of \$6,200 to the 2021 operating budget.

Meeting adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

