



**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**  
**Tuesday, January 7, 2019**  
**8:30 a.m.**  
**City Hall Council Chambers**

**Present:** Mayor D. Reynard  
Councillor M. Goss  
Councillor R. McMillan  
Councillor A. Poirier  
Councillor K. Ralko (left @ 9:27 a.m. returned at 10:17 a.m.)  
Councillor S. Smith  
Councillor C. Van Wallegghem

**Staff:** Karen Brown, CAO, Heather Kasprick, City Clerk, Jon Ranger, Deputy Treasurer, Charlotte Edie, Treasurer, Jeff Hawley, Manager of Operations & Infrastructure, Bruce Graham, HR Strategist, Todd Skene, Fire & Emergency Services Manager, Stace Gander, Community Services Manager

**Call Meeting to Order**

Mayor Reynard called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**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 at the start of the meeting, and at 11:10 a.m. Councillor Poirier introduced an indirect pecuniary interest pertaining to any discussion regarding the Public Library. His spouse is a member of the Library Board.

**Deputations**

None.

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**1. Operating Budget Review**

Jon Ranger, Deputy Treasurer, provided a high level summary of the general purpose tax levy for 2019 with Council.

Council discussed the reserves and that we do have healthy reserves but never enough for aging City infrastructure.

Jon explained the tax rates and how they are established.

Council then moved into department budget review by specific departments.

Councillor K. Ralko left the meeting at 9:27 a.m. and returned at 10:17 a.m.

The Mayor and Council budget was reviewed with no changes recommended.

The total external impacts which are outside the City's control is \$784,400. It is a large portion of the impacts to the budget in which Council has no control over these external impacts.

Council questioned the Hydro merger and how that will be reflected in the 2019 budget. Heather explained that we are still establishing the fees that will be charged for services provided past the merger date however there will be fees for processing our bills that have water tied to the accounts as well.

Conventional Transit is now costing the tax payer over \$300,000 to operate. We need to evaluate the transit operation again as the costs are just getting too high to continue the same operation.

At 11:10 a.m. Councillor Poirier declared an indirect pecuniary interest regarding operating budget discussions pertaining to the Public Library Board.

Council then moved onto the options for consideration. These items on the consideration list is not included in the draft budget. Any additions from the consideration list would add to the budget. The Roads Streetscan is a \$1,500 increase which Council supported being included. There is an option to add in the asset management plan percentage increase of \$280,100. Administration is strongly recommending some type of allocation.

The doctor recruitment initiative is extremely important in our community and there is great progress being made. Council suggested we commit to this year of \$25,000 but it is coming out of reserves. This is taxpayers dollars but the other partners need to either become equal partners or find other resources for this funding. We are equal partners but the funding needs to be equal partnerships. It will be on a year to year basis but the message will be brought back to the committee that it is a one time commitment and that the partnerships need to be equal.

Planning Advisory Committee will be reduced to \$1,000 for the per diems but not the full \$6,000 additional budget increase.

Council did not support adding Sunset Country membership of \$4,300 coming from taxpayers dollars. This has been deferred to the LOWDC for their decision on membership.

The NWHU \$9,500 we do not have a choice as this is one of the external funding organizations that we are required to fund.

Council recommended we look at the ice rental costs. We should look at increasing the rates for ice rentals and Stace is going to look at the overall rates for recreation and bring recommendations back.

The conventional transit needs to be looked at and options to bring that cost down. This item will be reviewed and administration will come back with options at a later date.

The Municipal Accommodation tax coming is in the hands of the LOWDC. They get the MAT and Council suggested we let them work with those dollars. The \$77,500 budget request would not be included in the 2019 operating budget and reflects a reduction. Now we are seeing the investments in the community and a new revenue stream so now the community should see the benefits of this. It was questioned how much MAT would be recognized in the first year?

Council discussed the Saturday parking option. A conservative estimate is \$45,000 to enforce Saturday parking. Traditionally we have not enforced Saturday parking, but during a tight budget year, we need to look at additional revenue sources. Council supported the enforcement of Saturday parking.

Vehicle Reserve – we increased the vehicle reserve a few years ago, and it has been reviewed again and we believe we could work with \$650,000 per year and reducing our allocation of \$750,000. It would reduce the allocation and stay a bit below what we had in the past year.

The art gallery has a large budget request and this needs to be looked at closely.

### **1. Adjourn to Closed Session**

#### **Moved by C. Van Walleghem, Seconded by M. Goss & Carried:-**

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 12:18 p.m. to discuss the following items:

Labour Relations (1 matter)

### **2. Reconvene to Open Meeting**

Council reconvenes to open session at 3:45 p.m. with no reports from its closed session.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.