



MINUTES
SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Monday, January 13, 2020
8:30 a.m.
City Hall Council Chambers

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

Regrets: Councillor K. Ralko

Staff: Heather Pihulak, City Clerk, A/CAO, Kelly Galbraith, Deputy Clerk, Jon Ranger, Deputy Treasurer, Charlotte Edie, Manager of Finance/Treasurer, Jeff Hawley, Manager of Operations & Infrastructure, Biman Paudel, Water & Wastewater Division Lead, Mukesh Pokharel, Environmental Division Lead

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.

Deputations

None.

1. 2020 Water & Wastewater Budget Review

Jon Ranger, Deputy Treasurer shared that the Water and Wastewater budget is being presented separate from the municipal capital and operating budgets as it is not reliant on tax dollars.

The Municipal Drinking Water Licensing Program is the result of Ontario Regulation 188/07 made under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), 2002. This regulation was made in response to recommendations from Justice O'Connor's Part II Report of the Walkerton Inquiry. Under this regulation, all municipalities that own municipal residential drinking water systems are required to have a Municipal Drinking Water License. There are two mandatory requirements for getting Drinking Water License, the first one is having an Operational Plan developed in accordance with the guidelines provided within the Drinking Water Quality Management Standard (DWQMS). The second is to ensure that an accredited authority be responsible for system operations. In order to become accredited, an operating authority must establish and maintain a Quality Management System (QMS). As both the Owner and the Operating Authority of our municipal drinking water system, the City of Kenora has already developed its QMS.

In addition to having an accredited QMS in place, the Drinking water Licensing Program also requires that municipalities complete and submit a long range Financial Plan for the Drinking Water System in accordance with Ontario Regulation 453/07. An updated plan is required every five years. The City of Kenora hired BMA Management Consulting Inc. (BMA) to develop its most recent long range financial plan. This plan was approved by Council in November 2015 and is reviewed annually.

The comparison between the BMA report and the actual and projected revenues and expenses was reviewed by Council. Council asked how accurate the 2019 numbers are. Charlotte Edie, Treasurer shared that the numbers are up to date until the end of November and December was projected. It was asked if there is an amount built in for additional consumption use on the system such as new development. Any projected additional consumption has not been built into the comparison at this time. Once new developments are operational there will be a better idea of consumption which can be built in and will have a positive impact on reserves. .

Council questioned that the revenues reflect a 5.4% increase in 2020 and the water and sewer rates were increased by 5.5%. With the multi-unit rates being phased in, there will not be a major impact in 2020. It was noted the revenue exceeds the BMA recommendation but the targets are not met due to higher expenditures. Jeff Hawley, Manager of Operations and Infrastructure shared that there has been a significant increase in the amount of maintenance being done to extend the life of the water and wastewater systems.

Looking forward there are some large projects lined up, including Railway Street and Park Street. Council inquired if the funding received for these projects includes water and sewer upgrades and maintenance. Staff confirmed the funding received is for above ground work. There is additional funding that will be applied for which can be used for these purposes. This funding has not been factored into the budget.

Facilities and equipment were reviewed. It was asked if the new roof on the Water Treatment Plant will be a priority in the spring as this work was to be completed last fall. Weather and contractor availability were factors in the delayed work.

Council expressed their appreciation to staff for all the good things happening for this utility and requested a communication piece outlining the work that has been completed and where the water spending is focused on. Something similar to the roads and infrastructure work that was included in the recent tax bills. Councillor Poirier indicated

that prior to the budget process he had a hard time with the rate increases however through the budget process he has seen great benefit to the community with all of the work and preventative maintenance being done.

Council asked if staff could provide the comparative numbers of pumping stations from surrounding communities such as Dryden and Fort Frances which could be included in the communication piece to help the public understand the challenges and differences with our infrastructure versus other communities.

The 2020 Water & Wastewater Budget will be brought forward to Committee of the Whole on January 14th, and for ratification at Council on January 28th.

2. 2020 Solid Waste Budget Review

Mukesh Pokharel, Environmental Division Lead provided the comparative tons of different types of waste received year over year. The numbers provided were up to December 14, 2019.

Council asked what would be considered contaminated waste. An example of such material is soil from the Downtown Revitalization project which was extracted near a gas station. This material is taken to the landfill and used as cover material. The contaminated waste must meet the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) criteria. The benefit of having contaminated waste from projects is that the City does not have to contract in the material. In 2020, it is anticipated there will be as much or possibly more contaminated waste than 2019.

The lifespan of the current landfill was discussed. Council asked when the City will need to look for a new landfill site. Staff explained that the process has begun through a consultant however the consultant will determine if the existing site can be expanded on or if a new site is required. It was noted that expansion on the existing site does not necessarily mean widening it, there are many approaches that can be taken. It was reiterated that while the process has begun, the current landfill has 26 years remaining in its lifespan.

Council commended staff for items such as scrap metal and recycling being diverted from the landfill, along with the diversion of waste to Winnipeg. Steps are being taken to ensure the maximum lifespan of the landfill.

The 2020 Solid Waste Budget will come forward at the January 14th Committee of the Whole meeting and will be brought to the January 28th Council meeting for approval.

3. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:31 a.m.