
OPERATING & CAPITAL BUDGET MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 16, 2015 | 3:00pm
Council Chambers | Civic Centre

MEMBERS PRESENT Mayor Sue Paterson
Deputy Mayor Selwyn Hicks
Councillor Steve Fitzsimmons
Councillor Peter Hambly
Councillor Rick Hopkins
Councillor Ed King
Councillor Hazel Pratt-Paige

MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT Brian Tocheri, CAO/Clerk
Christine Walker, Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer
R. Cooper, Director of Public Works
C. Knoll, Acting Chief of Police
A. Rivers-Moore, CEO/Chief Librarian
K. Roseborough, Fire Chief
S. Walden, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture

CHAIRPERSON Mayor Sue Paterson

Mayor Sue Paterson called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

1. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Mayor Paterson made a disclosure of pecuniary interest on Section Tab 5 – Council Budget (Contribution – Hospital Foundation) as she is an employee of the Hanover Hospital Foundation. Mayor Paterson refrained from voting or discussion on this item and left the Council Chambers. Deputy Mayor Hicks assumed the Chair until Mayor Paterson returned.

Councillor Hazel Pratt-Paige made a disclosure of pecuniary interest on Section 2.7 Police Budget, as her spouse is a member of Hanover Police Services. Councillor Pratt-Paige refrained from voting or discussion on this item.

2. BUDGET SUMMARY

Christine Walker, Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer presented an overview and highlights of Report DCS-11-15. The total Town General Gross Budget is \$14,222,900. The User Fee Gross budgets are \$3,246,300 for a total combined Tax and User Fee gross budget of \$17,469,200 being presented. The 2015 tax related budget proposal recommended represents a net operating budget of \$4,917,850 and capital of \$609,200 for a total of \$5,527,050 representing an increase of \$278,675 over 2014 (5.31% increase). With the province wide re-assessment average for residential properties increasing by 2.96% and the new 2015 tax rates, the average Town of Hanover residential taxpayer will see a municipal tax increase of approximately \$73.63 (5.29%). The overall impact when including the County of Grey is an increase of 2.5% or \$52.91 for an average residential taxpayer. Education tax rates currently unknown at meeting time.

3. INTRODUCTION OF NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Paterson brought forward a request to direct the CAO/Clerk to provide an operational review of our services before the 2016 budget. She indicated that there will be some difficult decisions once this service summary is completed. After a brief discussion the following recommendations was approved.

Moved by COUNCILLOR HAMBLY | Seconded by COUNCILLOR HOPKINS

That the CAO/Clerk prepare a report outlining options for completing a review of operational programs/services, including time lines, cost, and scope of work. **CARRIED**

Deputy Mayor Hicks wanted to know about the operational review and update with respect to the Police and Fire Services review as requested during the 2014 budget. With Police being the largest item on our budget, an operational review was to be completed. Mayor Paterson indicated the Police Services Business Plan will be coming to Council and part of that plan is to review operations or other alternatives.

There is currently a moratorium on policing with OPP until the fall of 2015. It was noted that a report from the previous CAO/Clerk was presented to Council at the September 29, 2014 meeting regarding the options.

Deputy Mayor Hicks indicated that he would like this direction to our Police Services Board to look into this in fine detail and to be very transparent. It is time to review this and would like a thorough review. During discussions it was noted that the Police Services Board looks after the operational functions of the police force (whether it be a local force, OPP etc.) and the Council looks after the purchase of the service. After a brief discussion it was noted that the CAO/Clerk will do some investigation into this (reviewing the recent Pembroke and Meaford services that undertook this review recently) and will bring a report back to Council in April to provide some options for Council's review. Once this has been determined it was indicated that a letter from Council would then be forwarded to the Police Services Board with Council's direction regarding policing services.

Deputy Mayor Hicks requested that the \$147,000 monies to be returned from the County of Grey to the Town of Hanover should be used for Community needs specifically for social services and housing. He provided some statistics with regards to the affordable housing shortfall in Grey County and in particular the Town of Hanover which has 21% of the needy (85 of the 406) that meet the eligible criteria for housing, however there is no affordable housing available. He requested that the \$147,000 be placed in the Investing in Hanover Fund for future services in the near future – possible partnerships. It was reiterated several times that social housing is a County matter and a definition regarding Social Services was also provided.

After a lengthy discussion the following motion was presented.

Moved by COUNCILLOR HICKS | Seconded by COUNCILLOR FITZSIMMONS
THAT the funds to be returned to Hanover from the County be directed into the Investing in Hanover Fund;
AND FURTHER THAT these funds be used for social services issues in the Town of Hanover. **CARRIED**

4. REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

At this point in the meeting, the recommendation from Report DCS-11-15 was reviewed.

4.1 Report DCS-11-15 – 2015 Operating & Capital Budget

Moved by COUNCILLOR KING | Seconded by COUNCILLOR PRATT-PAIGE
THAT the Council of the Town of Hanover accept the Town of Hanover 2015 Operating and Capital Budget as contained in Report DCS-11-15, for a town levy increase of \$278,675.00, resulting in a town residential tax rate increase of 2.26%;
AND THAT the necessary by-law to adopt the estimates of the sums required to obtain the rates of taxation for the Town of Hanover, the County of Grey, Education and the Downtown Improvement Area be prepared for Council's decision at an upcoming Council meeting pending the Provincial Education Tax Rates. **CARRIED**

5. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by COUNCILLOR HAMBLY | Seconded by COUNCILLOR HOPKINS
THAT this meeting of the Hanover Budget Committee now be adjourned at 6:50 pm. **CARRIED**

Sue Paterson, Mayor

Brian Tocheri, CAO/Clerk