



2025 CAPITAL & OPERATING BUDGET MEETING MINUTES

December 5, 2024

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

4805 William Hastings Line, Crosshill, Ontario N0B 2M0

9:00am to 1:30pm

Council Present: Mayor Joe Nowak
Councillor Shelley Wagner
Councillor Lori Sebben
Councillor Derek Brick
Councillor Claude Hergott

Staff Present: Chief Administrative Officer, Rik Louwagie
Director of Corporate Services, Jeff Dyck
Municipal Clerk, Grace Kosch
Director of Public Works, Chris Cook
Director of Planning, Tim Van Hinte
Director of Recreation, Danny Roth
Deputy Treasurer, Brian Kim
Deputy Clerk, Amy Harron
Fire Chief, Paul Redman

1. Welcome
2. Call Meeting to Order by Chief Administration Officer, Rik Louwagie

3. Land Acknowledgement

We would like to begin by acknowledging the land on which we gather today is the land traditionally used by the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, and Neutral peoples. We acknowledge the enduring presence and deep traditional knowledge and philosophies of the Indigenous Peoples with whom we share this land today.

4. Delegations

Randy Schaefer, Heidelberg resident re: sidewalk clearing

Randy Schaefer requested that sidewalk snow removal be considered in the 2025 budget and the community benefits of sidewalk snow clearing. Mr. Schaefer made the comparison of street light infrastructure maintenance and sidewalk

infrastructure maintenance noting that they should be managed the same by the Township.

5. Review of items identified November 28, 2024 by Director of Corporate Services – Jeff Dyck

- a. Reserve history and future projections of account balances
- b. Donation policy

\$3,000.00 budget line to remain with staff directed to prepare a policy for the use of the budget.

- c. Fire benefits review

Director Dyck confirmed that the increase for fire benefits in 2025 is consistent with the increase seen from 2023 to 2024.

- d. Updated 2025 Capital budget summary

Director Dyck noted an increase to the 2025 capital plan for mobile devices of approximately \$10,000.00

Director Dyck stated that it is staff recommendation to remove fire pages from the 2025 capital plan of approximately \$20,000.00 in favour of trialling the available mobile app.

- e. St. Clements Fire Station hydro

Director Dyck confirmed the increase in St. Clements Fire Station hydro expenses for 2024 is consistent with the Wellesley station and can be attributed to filling of air tanks/containers.

- f. Statistics on HR consultant utilization

CAO Louwagie stated the the HR consultant does not keep stats of interactions with staff. CAO Louwagie added that the HR consultant has noted that since attending the office once a month there has been an increase in interactions.

- g. Feasibility study

Director of Planning, Tim Van Hinte provided potential options for moving forward in consultation with the public.

Council provided direction to provide more information on the stepped approach at the third budget meeting date.

BREAK

h. Additional 2025 headcount

Director of Recreation, Danny Roth provided a justification for the administrative staff request and operational staff request.

Council provided direction to staff to prepare a report for the 3 day advance ice rental program.

Council provided direction to model a reduction in the 2025 budget for all new roles to reflect actual start dates.

i. Trophy cases

Moved by Derek Brick - Seconded by Joe Nowak

That the Council of the Township of Wellesley cover 100% of the cost for trophy cases in the Bill Gies Recreation Complex up to a maximum of \$40,000; and further,

That the trophy cases may only be used by user groups within the Township of Wellesley.

Carried

j. Blinds in gymnasium

Council deferred a decision to install motorized blinds on the east side of the bill gies recreation centre.

Floor open to Council to discuss budget items

Councillor Brick confirmed that the by-law program in the Township is currently contracted below the cost previously paid based on the eliminated benefit portion. Councillor Brick also asked to confirm that the Township by-law vehicle is being repurposed by Township staff.

CAO Louwagie responded that the information Councillor Brick provided is correct and added that the vehicle replacement reserve will remain in the case that the by-law program changes again.

LUNCH BREAK

Council provided direction to return to the December 18th, 2024 budget meeting with firm figures for the reduction to the budget for proposed new staff to reflect actual hire dates of either 9 or 10 months of 2025.

Councillor Brick requested additional information on the service level increase to the public for the purchase of a roll-off tandem truck rather than a standard tandem truck to justify the additional expense.

Director of Public Works, Chris Cook provided justification for the purchase of the additional equipment and the level of service delivery it is capable of delivering. Director Cook also noted that the additional expense above the direct replacement of the existing truck would be funded through development charges equipment reserve.

Councillor Brick requested more detail on the proposed 2.8% wage increase for non-unionized staff.

CAO Louwagie provided explanation that staff base the wage increase on the September to September CPI with the 2025 proposed increase including a 0.5% increase based on the 1% reduction in the median CPI in 2024 budget.

Director Dyck noted that with the reduction of 0.5% to the staff wages the Township tax increase is at 3.94%.

Discussion will continue to the next budget meeting on December 18, 2024.

Next budget discussion will be rescheduled for Wednesday, December 18th at 9:00a.m.

6. Motion to adjourn

Moved by: Councillor Wagner

Seconded by: Councillor Sebben

That the December 18, 2024 Budget Meeting adjourn.

Carried

Next Scheduled Draft Budget Meetings

Tuesday December 18, 2024 9:00am