

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON

Public Budget Meeting

March 19th, 2024

4:15 p.m.

There was a Public Budget Meeting held on March 19th, 2024. Present was Mayor David Bennett, Deputy Mayor Daina Proctor, Councillor Doug Humphries, Councillor Tom Webster, and Councillor Glen Campbell. Staff present was Hope Dillabough, CAO/Clerk, Nathalie Moore, Treasurer, Adam Knapp, Public Works Manager and Nichole Dubeau, Executive Assistant-Recording Secretary.

Public Advisory Members Spencer Hopping and Susan Humphries were present.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor David Bennett called the Public Meeting to Order at 4:16 pm.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mayor Bennett read the Land Acknowledgement in its entirety.

3. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Campbell

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-25

Seconded by Councillor Humphries

THAT Council adopt the Agenda for the March 19th, 2024 Public Budget Meeting.

Carried

4. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There was no declaration of pecuniary interest.

5. PURPOSE OF PUBLIC MEETING – CAO/CLERK

CAO/Clerk Hope Dillabough stated that the purpose of the meeting was to present the 2024 Operating and Capital Budget.

6. CAO/CLERK'S REPORT ON NOTICE

CAO/Clerk Hope Dillabough stated that the meeting was advertised Wednesday March 6th, 2024, in the Eganville Leader, as well as on the Township's Website and Facebook Page. The budget presentation was also available for download on the Township's Website and for pick-up at the Municipal Office.

7. DELEGATIONS – NONE

8. STAFF REPORT – 2024 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Treasurer Nathalie Moore presented the 2024 Operating and Capital Budgets.

9. STAFF REPORT – PSAB BUDGET REPORT

Treasurer Nathalie Moore reviewed the report.

10. COUNCIL MEMBERS QUESTIONS/CONCERNS

Mayor Bennett thanked Council and Staff for their hard work accomplishing a low levy increase for ratepayers. Councillor Webster thanked the public advisory members for their input as well.

11. PUBLIC QUESTIONS/CONCERNS

Angela Burgess resident stated that the levy increase is not fair to business owners because commercial tax rates are higher. She stated that the Township should be contributing less to reserves to keep the taxes lower. Mayor Bennett stated that the Township has been fortunate over the last few years to keep the levy increases minimal for ratepayers, and pushed strongly for it, but due to the cost of operating, goods, and supplies, it is not feasible in order to maintain the level of service the Township provides and want to continue to provide. Ms. Burgess stated that Council is not aware of what the increase will do to residents, and what the general public is going through with the cost of everything going up. She thanked Treasurer Nathalie Moore for answering all of her questions the week prior. Mayor Bennett thanked Ms. Burgess for her comments.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-26

Moved by Councillor Webster
Seconded by Councillor Campbell

THAT the Recommendations be forwarded to the Regular Council Meeting immediately after the March 19th Public Meeting for adoption of the 2024 Budget.

Carried

12. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Bennett adjourned the public meeting at 4:52 pm.

MAYOR David M. Bennett

CAO/CLERK Hope Dillabough