

A special meeting of the Committee of the Whole of Middleton Town Council was held at the Town Hall on Tuesday, May 13, 2014, starting at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Chairing the meeting, Mayor Calvin Eddy; Deputy Mayor Dan Smith; Councillors Gail Smith, John Himmelman, Marc Britney and Melinda den Haan; Chief Administrative Officer, Rachel Turner; Director of Finance, Marianne Daine; and Recording Secretary, Sharon McAuley.

Regrets: Councillor Darren Boates.

Also in attendance were Director of Public Works, John Pearson; Director of Recreation and Community Services, Jennifer Coolen and Fire Chief, Chris Barker.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Eddy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

140513.01: It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda as circulated. Motion carried.

Mayor Eddy informed Council that the Town had received a letter from the Minister of Justice, the Honorable Lena Metlege Diab, thanking the Town for their correspondence in relation to office space occupied by the RCMP in the Town of Middleton and that she has referred the letter to Public Safety and Security Division for review and to arrange a meeting with the Town of Middleton to discuss the matter further.

3. BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

CAO Turner presented the Committee with an overview of the Town of Middleton Draft General Operating Budget 2014-15 including:

- status to date;
- revenues;
- expenditures;
- tax rate scenarios;
- tax revenue and grants in lieu changes;
- 2013-14 year end;
- options.

Changes to the budget include:

Grant Requests

- CAO Turner will confirm that the Community Policing Officer position is now a RCMP position and funding to Annapolis County is not required.
- Soldiers' Memorial Hospital has a palliative care unit and funding from the Town should not fund the proposed hospice in Kentville; remove the two thousand dollars (\$2,000) currently proposed.
- Reduce Trans County Transportation to two thousand dollars (\$2,000).
- Reduce Future View Training to one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

Deputy Mayor Smith declared a conflict of interest on discussions concerning the Macdonald Museum.

Tax Rate

- CAO Turner reviewed the options available to the Committee:
 - reduce/adjust service levels and/or programming;
 - re-evaluate grant requests;
 - utilize additional funds from reserves;
 - increase tax rate;
 - combination of two or more of these options.
- Committee directed staff to incorporate the following into the next budget draft:
 - maintain service and programming levels to Town residents;
 - the Town will begin to pay back the loan on the sewer lagoons this fiscal year which will increase the sewer rate by two cents (\$0.02);
 - raise the residential and commercial tax rates by one cent (\$0.01) with the remaining shortfall taken from the 2013/14 surplus.

Committee agreed to hold a Special Town Council Meeting prior to the June 16, 2014 Committee of the Whole Meeting. The draft water utility budget and final draft of the general operating budget will be available for the June 16, 2014 meeting.

4. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded by that the Committee adjourn at 8:33 p.m. Motion carried.


MAYOR


RECORDING SECRETARY