

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL
BUDGET MEETING**

April 30, 2020

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 8:08 p.m., by videoconference, with the following members present:

- Lindsay (Eddie) Nickerson, Chair
- Murray Atkinson
- Jody Crook
- Shaun Hatfield
- George El-Jakl

- Chris Frotten, CAO
- Leah d'Eon, Director of Finance

DRAFT 2020/21 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Discussion continued on the draft 2020/21 Municipal Budget with the main focus being on the low-income tax exemption program, the rental or purchase of portable toilets and the grants to organizations budget.

LOW-INCOME TAX EXEMPTION PROGRAM

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Municipality has been considering initiatives/programs it could implement to provide financial assistance to those facing financial difficulties during this time. Pursuant to Section 69 of the Municipal Government Act, the Municipality provides a tax exemption for low income earners. One type of assistance the municipality could provide would be to increase the maximum exemption amount and/or income threshold for the low-income property tax exemption program.

Council discussed multiple options, including raising the income threshold, increasing the exemption amounts or both.

Resolution COW200501

Being duly moved and seconded that it be recommended to Council to amend the Low-Income Property Tax Exemption Policy to increase the income brackets and exemptions as follows for a one-year period and reassess thereafter:

Threshold	Amount
\$0 - \$21,000	\$400
\$21,001 - \$25,000	\$300
\$25,001 - \$30,000	\$200

Motion carried unanimously.

PORTABLE TOILETS – RENT VS. PURCHASE

Council discussed in more detail the rent or purchase of portable toilets. It was the consensus of the committee that the purchase of portable toilets be made if it fits within the allotted budget.

GRANTS TO ORGANIZATIONS BUDGET

The grants to organizations budget was reviewed in more detail as another potential initiative the Municipality could implement to provide financial assistance to those facing financial difficulties during this time.

After some discussion, it was the consensus of the committee to maintain status quo on the grants to organizations budget of \$55,000 as included in the draft budget.

IN-CAMERA SESSION RE: CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

An In-Camera Session was held, in accordance with Section 22(2)(c) of the Municipal Government Act, to deal with contract negotiations.

The regular meeting was called back to order.

REPORT TO COMMITTEE

It was reported that during the In-Camera Session discussion took place regarding contract negotiations, but no action was requested.

LETTER OF CONDOLENCE

Due to the recent crash off the coast of Greece of a Canadian helicopter involved in Operation Reassurance with Halifax's HMCS Fredericton, a resident asked whether the Municipality could honour the victims.

Members agreed that a letter of condolence be sent to the Canadian Forces and a statement be made by the Warden.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting