

Council Meeting Minutes
Special Meeting
January 30, 2023
Town Hall

IN ATTENDANCE:

Elaine Nash, Kevin McDonald, Doug Dean, Brenda Young, F. David Power (via phone), Brenda Pike, Stacey Dean

REGRETS

Ian Goudie

MEETING CHAIR:

Elaine Nash, Mayor

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order at 10:06 a.m.

BUDGET 2023

Council reviewed the draft budget for 2023. Council agreed that the proposed mil rate is fair.

Council discussed the inconsistency of vacant land assessments and noted that vacant land should also be calculated using the mil rate with \$150 as the minimum tax. It was suggested that the vacant land tax be reviewed again prior to tax bills being distributed.

The church property was discussed. As it is no longer being used as a church, it no longer qualifies for a tax exemption under the legislation. Council instructed the Town Clerk to send a tax bill for the property for 2023.

It was noted that this is Council's first budget with property tax and it may need to be tweaked in the years to come as more things come to light. It was suggested that any questions regarding assessments should be recorded and presented to the Municipal Assessment Agency for clarity and consideration in future years.

Motion # 2023-01-30-379: Brenda Young; Kevin McDonald

Adopt the municipal budget for the 2023 calendar year.

All in Favor; None Opposed

Motion Carried

TRAILS COMMITTEE BUDGET

Councillor Goudie advised that the Trails Committee would like Council to budget \$1750 for trails, a figure that was determined in the Trails Committee working document. Council had budgeted \$1000 for each of the recreation groups as this was not brought to Council prior to budget development and Council was unaware of the request. Council noted that the funding request should have been submitted prior to the budget development, as budget discussions have been in progress for months and ample time and reminders were

provided to Councillors. Council agreed that the Trail Committee may present their formal funding request at the next public meeting for consideration. It was noted that all committee spending requires Council approval.

TOWN CLERK COMPENSATION

The Town Clerk requested an additional 6 hours pay for extra time spent developing the budget to meet the submission deadline of January 31st. Council approved the request.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.