



MINUTES OF THE BUDGET MEETING OF COUNCIL FOR THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF BURNS LAKE HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON Tuesday, April 21, 2020 AT 5:30 PM

PRESENT

Via Zoom Electronic Meeting
Mayor D. Funk
Councillor H. Wiebe
Councillor Rensby – arrived at 6:02
Councillor K. White
Councillor D. Hill
CAO DIRECTOR Worthing
Director of Finance S.Meeds
Economic Development Officer L. Watson
Deputy Corporate Officer V. Anderson

GUESTS

None

PUBLIC

No members of the public

MEDIA

None

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Funk called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved and seconded by Council

2020-04-21: 147

THAT the agenda for the Budget Meeting of Council be approved as presented.

CARRIED

PUBLIC AND STATUTORY HEARINGS; AND READINGS OR ADOPTIONS None

REPORTS

2020 Ec Dev COVID-19 Response Request

- The EDO has noticed a need to reach out to the business community.
- Council discussed what businesses need help with.
- Staff believes that businesses need one-on-one support.
- The 2020 Ec Dev work plan is not being worked on due to increased workload due to COVID.
- Staff would direct the consultant to complete projects.
- Council discussed the number of businesses that have asked for assistance.
- Eighty-one businesses have reached out, the Chamber has assisted 17 businesses with applications.

- Council discussed how this initiative will help local businesses.
- Council discussed the tourism initiative.

It was moved and seconded by Council

2020-04-21: 148

THAT a maximum of \$13,440 be drawn from the economic development “previous year’s surplus” to fund a temporary contract, with Ken Guenter, to assist with the COVID-19 business support response.

CARRIED

Introduction – *Director of Finance S. Meeds*

- Director Meeds gave an overview of the process.

Work in Progress from 2019 – *Director of Finance S. Meeds*

- ‘Work in progress’ are projects that were started in 2019 and have not been completed.

It was moved and seconded by Council

2020-04-21: 149

That the following work in progress be carried forward from the 2019 budget to the 2020 budget, along with the associated funding:

- Curling Rink Dehumidifier \$40,000
- Community goodwill donations \$8,805
- Campground expansion \$8,022
- Firehall energy efficiency upgrade \$25,000
- Rod Reid Trailhead re-alignment \$5,550
- Planning \$18,180
- Union negotiations \$6,000
- Pavement patching and sealing \$44,500
- Brand enhancement \$ 72,633
- Under 55 housing study \$ 10,500
- Heritage Centre fob system \$8,000
- Downtown parking lot \$ 228,078
- Water treatment plant \$ 4,058,638
- Curling rink carpets \$1,000
- Firesmart Activities \$ 29,458
- Boot racks for multiplex entrance \$1,000
- SCBA air tank testing \$1,000
- Emergency preparedness \$3,635
- Emergency social services \$990
- Asset management implementation \$ 54,235
- Museum hot water tank \$1500

CARRIED

Budget Adjustments – *Director S. Meeds*

- 'Budget Adjustments' are items that have occurred after the 2020 budget was adopted.
- Council discussed the need for replacing the toilets in the arena. The budget is for replacement with commercial grade toilets.
- Council discussed the 2006 JD Loader sandblasting.
- Projects that require grant funding will not be completed if the grant(s) are not received.

It was moved and seconded by Council.

2020-04-21: 150

That the 2020 budget be adjusted as follows:

- Tsf from Comfor Reserve – Rec Building/Equip Assessment \$20,000
- CEPF grant to purchase wildland firefighting equipment \$25,000
- Rural Dividend Grant for mobile visitors centre \$70,000
- Tsf from Community Adjustment reserve for mobile visitor centre \$11,000
- Tsf from Anglican Church reserve for stained glass window repair \$50,000
- Tsf from fire operating reserve for firehall furnace \$7,000
- Burns Lake Pool Committee Donation for splash park \$50,000
- Tsf from Northern Capital Planning Grant reserve for splash park \$400,000
- Donation from LDSS for hockey "shooter tutor" \$1,000
- Contribution from LBN for 7th Avenue lift station rehab \$106,500
- BC Active Transportation grant for sidewalks \$432,000
- Contribution from LBN for sidewalks \$54,000
- Tsf from general capital reserve for sidewalks \$54,000
- Tsf from arena operating reserve for arena toilet replacements \$6,000
- Tsf from surplus for loader/backhoe paint \$9,000
- Tsf from office furniture and equipment reserve account for used folder/insert mailing machine \$2,471

Revenue reductions:

- Grants – Rec Building/Equip Assessment \$20,000
- Tsf from sewer capital reserve for 7th Avenue lift station rehab \$106,500

Expenditure increases:

- Museum furnace \$3,600 - funded from museum reserve
- Wildland firefighting equipment - \$25,000
- Mobile Visitors Centre \$81,000
- Anglican Church stained glass windows repair \$50,000

- Firehall furnace replacement \$7,000
- Splash Park \$450,000
- Hockey “shooter tutor” \$1,000
- Sidewalks on Sus Ave, Centre St, 9th Ave and Lorne St \$540,000
- Replacement of toilets in arena \$6,000
- Sandblast and paint JD 444J backhoe/loader \$9,000
- Office furniture and equipment \$3,000

Expenditure reductions:

- Museum parking lot sealing \$2,500
- Chamber parking lot sealing \$2,500
- Library parking lot sealing \$2,500
- Computer hardware \$529;

AND THAT the Sandblast and paint of JD 444 backhoe/loader of \$9,000 be removed from the budget amendment.

CARRIED

2020 Property Taxes – COVID 19 Considerations – *Director of Finance S. Meeds*

- Municipalities can set their own tax penalties and due dates in the annual tax rate bylaw.
- If the municipality changes a due date, property owners could elect to follow the provincial scheme, which is typically 10% July 2.
- The province has offered October 2 as a due date for businesses, not residential.
- School taxes have been cut by 50% for commercial properties.
- Council could extend the due date for residential property owners to match commercial.
- **Option:**
- Council could choose a 0% increase and 4% in the following year to keep up with inflation, assuming an annual inflation rate of 2%.
- **Option:**
- Keep tax date as July 2, and implement a 5% penalty on October 2, and have a further 5% penalty on December 31.
- It is important to encourage those who can, to pay on the July due date.
- Council discussed a 0% increase for 2020.

It was moved and seconded by Council.

2020-04-21: 151

THAT the property tax due date for 2020 be established as July 2, 2020;

AND THAT penalties for late payment of 2020 property taxes be set at 5% for amounts unpaid as of October 2, 2020 and a further 5% for amounts unpaid as of December 31, 2020;

AND THAT the previously budgeted 2% property tax increase be reduced to 0% for 2020, to be funded by 2019 and 2020 expenditure reductions for Council attendance at the 2019 UBCM and 2020 NCLGA.

CARRIED

2020 Property Tax Rates – *Director of Finance S. Meeds*

- The ratio is the difference between business and residential classes.
- Staff gave an overview of the classes.
- Staff discussed Light Industry ratio, which is higher than nearby municipalities and regional districts.
- Council discussed the lack of major industries within municipal limits.
- Utility Business Tax could be increased to the maximum and it would reduce the business tax by a small amount.

- **Option 1** leave ratios the same as they currently are.
- **Option 2** shift some of the light Industrial tax burden to the Utilities and Business Class.

It was moved and seconded by Council.

THAT the tax ratios remain the same as 2019 with the exception of the Utility Class;

2020-04-21: 152

AND THAT the Utility Tax be raised to the allowable maximum as permitted by provincial legislation.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING	None
NEW BUSINESS	None
PUBLIC COMMENT	None

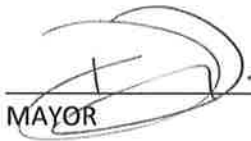
ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded by Council

2020-04-21: 153

THAT the April 21, budget meeting be adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

CARRIED


MAYOR


CORPORATE OFFICER

Certified to be a true copy of the minutes of the Budget Meeting of Council for the Corporation of the Village of Burns Lake held on Tuesday, April 21, 2020.