



CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF WEST NIPISSING /  
LA CORPORATION DE LA MUNICIPALITÉ DE NIPISSING OUEST

**MINUTES OF THE BUDGET MEETING OF COUNCIL  
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
ON MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2019 AT 6:30 PM**

<b><u>PRESENT:</u></b> MAYOR JOANNE SAVAGE COUNCILLOR YVON DUHAIME COUNCILLOR CHRISTOPHER FISHER COUNCILLOR DAN ROVEDA COUNCILLOR JEREMY SÉGUIN COUNCILLOR DENIS SÉNÉCAL COUNCILLOR LISE SÉNÉCAL	<b><u>ABSENT:</u></b> COUNCILLOR ROLAND LARABIE COUNCILLOR LÉO MALETTE
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**A) DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST / DÉCLARATION D'INTÉRÊTS PÉCUNIAIRES**

There were no pecuniary interests declared.

**B) ADOPTION OF AGENDA / CONFIRMATION DE L'ORDRE DU JOUR**

**B-1** A resolution was passed to approve the Agenda.

**No. 2019/65** Moved by: Councillor Séguin  
Seconded by: Councillor Roveda

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Agenda for the BUDGET meeting of Council held on March 18, 2019 be adopted as  presented /  amended.

**CARRIED**

**C) BUDGET DELIBERATIONS CONTINUED**

- The Mayor summarized the three previous budget meetings as well as the Solid Waste and Sewer and Water budgets which were discussed at Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting on March 12, 2019;
- The CAO summarized the handout for Strategic Decisions for Council;
- The CAO indicated that given the items already dealt with the opening position is 10.7% and requested direction on what the general levy increase will be in order to know which projects can fit within the parameters given.
- The Mayor called for a round table requesting a position on increases and projects;
- Councillor L. Sénécal – requested information on how the new Police building will be paid for and she indicated that 3.5% would be an acceptable increase;
- Councillor Duhaime acknowledged the extent of damage to the roads based on the winter weather and indicated that monies may have to be diverted to deal with the extent of the damage; he indicated that Cache Bay Road as well as a number of downtown streets will require extensive repairs; Councillor Duhaime indicated that perhaps the repairs to the Verner garage can be put off in order to deal with more urgent issues; aside from the sidewalk on Coursol, Councillor Duhaime indicated that perhaps the items identified by members at a February meeting could perhaps be put off to future years; Councillor Duhaime indicated that 2.85% – 3.0% be an acceptable increase;
- Councillor D. Sénécal echoed Councillor Duhaime's sentiment that he would not like to see anything over 3.0%;
- Councillor Seguin indicated that he feels that past councils have neglected necessary increases and the Municipality is now paying for it; he indicated that 8.00% would be acceptable with the reserve from 2018 being used to lower the rate;
- Councillor Fisher agreed that a higher rate was preferable and that the Municipality will have to try and continue to play catch up; Councillor Fisher indicated that he would support an increase of up to 10%;
- Councillor Roveda concurred with Councillors Seguin and Fisher in that a larger increase is preferable and that the Municipality needs to start investing in the municipality; he asked whether it would be possible for scenarios be presented to show what various increase levels would look like;

- The Mayor indicated that the surplus from 2018 is tax payer money which should go back to them; she echoed Councillor Duhaime’s concerns regarding the state of the roads given the bad winter; she indicated that if a threshold of 10% were agreed upon, then she would not feel comfortable asking more than 4-5% from the taxpayers;
- Councillor Lise Sénécal indicated concern with the roads as well, but indicated that 10% would not be an acceptable increase;
- The CAO spoke to PW increases for 2019 and addressed Councillor L. Sénécal’s concerns about “unknowns”;
- Councillor L. Sénécal indicated that she did not feel comfortable with the information provided concerning the police building indicating that she would have preferred to receive a breakdown of each project individually;
- Councillor Roveda indicated that he intends to plead the Municipality’s case with the Federal Government regarding the elevator at Villa St Aubin and that he’s been given direction from DNSSAB; he indicated that the Active Living Committee could be put to the 2020 budget and that the Arts Fund could be put to 2021; he indicated that if Coursol cannot be done this year that it at least be on the radar for 2020;
- Councillor Fisher indicated that he did not feel that this was the year to be conservative given the situation with the roads, the Lavigne building and the IPM & Rural Expo;
- A discussion was held concerning the Economic Development Committee and it was agreed that the Economic Development Committee is a priority;
- Councillor L. Sénécal indicated a wish to see the impact of the proposed increases on the various classes of tax payers;
- The Mayor indicated a priority for sidewalks and roads; she indicated a decrease in Public Works capital from \$310,000 down to \$250,000; replace one pickup only;
- The CAO provided some direction on how to get to an acceptable tax levy by taking 500K from reserves as well as the \$221 for IPM; the CAO reiterated that not raising taxes is taking a risk because if you don’t pay this year, the problem is only being deferred to a future year; the CAO indicated that Public Works is not where anyone should be looking for savings;
- Councillor D. Sénécal indicated that 5.7% is still too high for the Ward 8 residents who are largely paying waterfront tax rates;
- Councillor L. Sénécal again requested a table showing the proposed increases on the different Assessment rates;
- The CAO indicated that going lower than 5.7% without reducing things such as the IPM and CANO is getting into core services.
- Councillor Seguin reiterated his position that minimum taxation results in minimum services;
- Councillor Roveda requested clarification regarding the reserves;
- Councillor Fisher stated that if taxes aren’t increased that the old school will never be able to be demolished;
- Councillor L. Sénécal stated that she believes that West Nipissing has done well in spite of adversity;
- The Mayor stated that she believes that the amount for bilingualism is still too high and that 10K would be sufficient;
- Councillor Fisher and Councillor Roveda both raised the issue of compensation for mileage for council members and volunteers;
- Council sought confirmation that the funds earmarked for Council Chamber equipment upgrades will serve the purpose for which it is intended.
- The CAO indicated that staff will bring back a visual presentation of what 5.7% will look like for the various classes as well as options for “tweaking”;
- Budget deliberations will continue on the first Tuesday in April.

#### D) **ADJOURNMENT / AJOURNEMENT**

It was agreed that the meeting be adjourned to Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at which time general discussions on an acceptable increase can continue.

D-1 A resolution was passed to adopt By-law **2019/16** to confirm the proceedings of Council at its Special Budget meeting.

**No. 2019/66**      Moved by:      Councillor Roveda  
   Seconded by:      Councillor Séguin

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** By-law No. **2019/16** being a By-law of the Municipality of West Nipissing to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting held on the 18th day of March 2019, shall come into force and take effect on the date it is passed.

**CARRIED**

**D-2** A resolution was passed to adjourn the meeting.

**No. 2019/67** Moved by: Councillor Séguin  
Seconded by: Councillor Roveda

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the BUDGET meeting of Council held on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019 be adjourned. **CARRIED**

  
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JOANNE SAVAGE  
MAYOR

  
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MELANIE DUCHARME  
CLERK