

- 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 18th 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

