

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING
ON MONDAY, MARCH 15th, 2021 AT 1:00 PM

PRESENT: MAYOR JOANNE SAVAGE
COUNCILLOR YVON DUHAIME
COUNCILLOR CHRISTOPHER FISHER
COUNCILLOR ROLAND LARABIE
COUNCILLOR LÉO MALETTE
COUNCILLOR DAN ROVEDA
COUNCILLOR DENIS SÉNÉCAL
COUNCILLOR LISE SÉNÉCAL
WARD 7 (vacant)

ABSENT:

BUDGET MEETING

A) DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST / DÉCLARATION D'INTÉRÊTS PÉCUNIAIRES

There were no pecuniary interests declared.

B) AGENDA / ORDRE DU JOUR

B-1 A resolution was passed to adopt the Agenda.

No. 2021/76 Moved by: Councillor Chris Fisher
Seconded by: Councillor Yvon Duhaime

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Agenda for the BUDGET meeting of Council held on March 15, 2021 be adopted as presented / amended.

CARRIED

C) 2021 BUDGET PRESENTATIONS (continuation) / PRÉSENTATION BUDGÉTAIRES POUR L'ANNÉE 2021 (suite)

C-1(a) PUBLIC WORKS – CAPITAL PROJECTS, INFRASTRUCTURE, FLEET AND FACILITIES

- The CAO provided a brief update to the last meeting dealing with 2021 Public Works Capital projects, highlighting the projects with which there were questions and/or decision points to be made. The CAO sought direction to allow the Public Works Manager to move forward with tenders for the non-controversial projects;
- The Chair of Public Works reiterated the difficulty in putting out late bids for projects and the Chair also noted that he visited the PW garage in Verner and feels that the repairs are necessary for the safety and well-being of the employees.
- Councillor Roveda stated concern with the sidewalk to Whitewoods to which Councillor L. Sénécal responded that she had forgotten about the letter from the transportation consortium and supports the project;
- Councillor D. Sénécal noted that he wishes the Nature's Trail Bridge be added to the other items which require further discussion (Verner Garage, Muskosung Rd, Pine Poultry, etc.);
- The Mayor noted approval for all projects, except the Verner Garage;
- The CAO suggested that the discussion items be moved to the end of the budget process and there was consensus that the PW Manager may move forward;

C-1(b) COMMUNITY SERVICES - OPERATIONS

- The Director of Community Services provided an overview of the highlights of the 2021 budget;
- The Director outlined Community Services revenues, noting shortfalls in a number of areas in 2020 as a result of the pandemic;
- Councillor Fisher asked for additional detail on revenue, in particular, each area's revenue versus cost;
- Discussion regarding rental revenue and shortfalls eligibility for COVID funding;
- The Director outlined Human Resources expenditures, noting positions (3) which need to be filled;

- Councillor Fisher asked a variety of questions about the museum, including human resources, proposed 2021 opening; property value, use as a vaccine site;
- It was suggested that the museum be a stand-alone Agenda item for an upcoming Committee meeting;
- The Director reiterated the Community Service coordinator position had not been hired due to COVID;
- Community projects, flags, community events, banners, Sturgeon Falls welcome sign.
- Councillor L. Sénécal suggested that the garbage can expenditure be moved to capital and that the lamppost project be finished;
- A lengthy discussion of proposed community projects, in particular, garbage cans, with the consensus being reached for the \$20,000.00 for garbage cans;

No. 2021/77 Moved by: Councillor L. Malette
 Seconded by: Councillor C. Fisher

At approximately 2:35 PM, a motion was tabled for a brief 15 minute recess; following which the Council meeting will continue.

CARRIED

- Councillor Fisher noted that funds be set aside for community events;
- Councillor Fisher requested that, at some point, council discuss the matter of “street trees” as a budgetary item;
- It was suggested that the marina (expansion/slip fees) be put on a future agenda for committee discussion;
- It was agreed that solar panels be put on a future committee agenda;
- The Director advised that there is an allocated budget amount dedicated for the downtown trees;
- The repair or re-purposing or replacement of the fountain was discussed; it was agreed that council be provided with a report on the options for the repair of the fountain.
- Councillor L. Sénécal raised the issue of flags;
- The Mayor requested additional information regarding the expansion of the lamp-posts;
- the request for an increase in the amount to be transferred to reserve was explained by the Director;
- It was agreed that the matter of reserve contribution was set aside for additional discussion at the end of the budget discussions along with the set-aside PW items;
- Councillor L. Sénécal asked about whether or not there are any grants applicable to Community Services to which the Treasurer indicated that the only funds are for summer students;
- Councillor Duhaime indicated that it would be a good idea to have “shovel ready” projects in the event that funding becomes available;

➤ It was agreed that budget discussions would continue on Monday, March 22, 2021 at 1:00PM

D) ADJOURNMENT / AJOURNEMENT

D-1 Confirm the proceedings of Council.

No. 2021/78 Moved by: Councillor L. Malette
 Seconded by: Councillor Y. Duhaime

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law No. **2021/21** being a By-law of the Municipality of West Nipissing to confirm the proceedings of Council at its BUDGET meeting held on the 15th day of March 2021, shall come into force and take effect on the date it is passed.

CARRIED

D-2 Adjourn the meeting of Council.

No. 2021/79 Moved by: Councillor D. Roveda
 Seconded by: Councillor R. Larabie

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the BUDGET meeting of Council held on March 15th, 2021 be adjourned.

CARRIED

« Joanne Savage »
JOANNE SAVAGE
MAYOR

« Melanie Ducharme »
MELANIE DUCHARME
CLERK