



**Village of Belledune
Committee of Whole Council Meeting
Budget Meeting
November 22, 2022**

Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Belledune Council Chambers
Mayor, Paul Arseneault
Councillor, Lilliane Carmichael
Present: Councillor, Cynthia Robinson
Councillor, Marilyn Guitard-McDonnell
Councillor, Ron Bourque
Councillor, Kristie Carrier
Interim CAO, Chris Kingston
Staff Present: Clerk - Treasurer, Brenda Cormier
Administrative Assistant, Nicole Carrier

Call to Order & Welcome

Mayor, Arseneault called the meeting to order.

- Acknowledgement of "Treaties of Peace and Friendship"
Mayor Arseneault read the Acknowledgement of "Treaties of Peace and Friendship".

- Reaffirm Oath of Office
Council reaffirmed the Oath of Office.

Adopt Agenda

M 2022/11/22-172

Ron Bourque moved that the Agenda be Adopted as Presented seconded by Marilyn Guitard-McDonnell. MOTION CARRIED.

Statements of Conflict-of-Interest Nil

Presentations / Petitions / Delegations Nil

Business

- 2023 General Operating & Utility Operating Budget

Councillor, Carmichael asked Deputy Mayor, Bourque if he would preside, because she is having voice issues.

Deputy Mayor, Bourque advised that a committee of Councillor Carmichael, Mayor Arseneault, CAO Kingston, Clerk/Treasurer Cormier and himself met and filled in some of the budget numbers. Tonight, all Council will have opportunity to view and agree with finalized numbers to pass the Budget.

Deputy Mayor, Bourque explained the Non-Residential and Tax ratio options between 1.4% -1.7%.

Clerk/Treasurer, Cormier clarified how the provincial government in the past applies a 1.5% to all Non-Residential and Industry assessments. Since the Local Government Reform, the province has now given the authority for municipalities to apply this rate and they can use between 1.4%-1.7% ratio.

Mayor, Arseneault discussed the new mandates of the Service Commissions and the impact on the municipal budget and consideration between 1.6% or 1.7% for the Non-Residential and Industry assessments.

Deputy Mayor, Bourque discussed the issue with lost tax base from Glencore closure, the increased cost for the Regional Service Commission services, and the projects that Council want to do.

Topics of Discussion by Council included

- Budget for Solicitor - \$30,000
 - Current expenditures exceeding that amount
- No Strategic Plan – No direction on what to Budget for
- Asset Management Plan in progress – Needed to develop a Capital Plan (Year 2023 to complete)
- Housing deficiency & Population decline
- 2022 allocation for signs (municipal building)
- Incentive Program for Fire Dept. (Policy rescinded 2015 - Dept. still purchases items)
- Fire Dept. – Shower request (Budget in 2022 for planning, not completed)
- Fire Dept. need to plan purchases better – Fire Chief responsibility
- Fire Building \$80,000– explain what is included in that Budget. Included cost associated with both building (Included Stn. 1 and Stn. 2 split between Dept. & Public Works, as well vehicle costs, etc.)
- CRSC Regional EMO
- Disaster Control – Need for practice
 - Mayor, Arseneault advised that Scott Poupart will meet this weekend with the Council members attending the Firefighter Conference in Fredericton
- Winter Snow Removal Program – Serviced and Non-Serviced Roads
 - Interim CAO, Kingston noted the rate of \$130 per hour is recommended with perhaps a clause in the agreement for a cost adjustment if the fuel goes up over \$3.00 per litre
 - Councillor, Carrier noted she has a hard time justifying doing more maintenance on roads already maintained, while others are not maintained at all.
 - Need a review of roads in the Village, maintained, not maintained, public and private, # of residents on each road, issues with rail way crossings, etc. (propose to review in 2023 and carry forward for 2024)

- Housing plan, no Strategic Plan – needs to be done
- Jacquet River Beach Accessibility
 - Councillor, Robinson requested that money be put back in the 2023 budget to have some engineering who specialized in accessibility projects, to see what can be done to have access. Look for project funding.
- Zamboni – purchase new one
 - Interim CAO, Kingston advised the current one is 20 plus years old.
 - Could see if this facility could be put on the Regional Facility list for cost sharing
- Recreation Centre – Kitchen Renovation
 - What do renovation look like.
 - Interim CAO, Kingston advised that there is no design, just a basic floor plan. The two washrooms at the back would be lost, there would be food warmers installed, redo the cupboards, ceiling repairs, light replaced, some new equipment, etc.
- Playground – Needs repairs (fencing falling down, gazebo need repairs, security system needed, etc.) Look for some grant money.

Council determined the 2023 list of capital projects that will be included in the 2023 Operating Budget and the capital projects to be earmarked to be paid from Capital Reserve fund.

The Non-Residential and Industrial rate ratio was set at 1.6%

2023 Utility Operation Budget is good as is.

Clerk-Treasurer, Cormier will implement the changes identified at this meeting and at the Closed meeting at 6:30 p.m. for personnel, and forward the updated budget to Council to bring forward for adoption at the Regular Meeting on November 28, 2022.

Adjournment

M 2022/11/72-173

**Ron Bourque moved that the meeting adjourned at 8:52 P.M., seconded by Lilliane Carmichael.
MOTION CARRIED.**

Mayor

Clerk/Treasurer