



Village of Belledune
Committee of Whole Council Meeting
Budget Session #1
September 14, 2021

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

Call to Order & Welcome

Mayor called meeting to order.
Acknowledgement of “Treaties of Peace and Friendship”

Lilliane Carmichael moved that the Agenda be Adopted as Presented, seconded by Marilyn Guitard-McDonnell. MOTION CARRIED.

Statements of Conflict of Interest: Nil

Councillor, Carmichael noted that when the discussion arises in the Closed Sessions regarding employment salaries, she will declare her Conflict of Interest in reference to the Salmon Barrier and Maintenance.

Councillor, Carmichael (Finance Committee Chairperson) discussed the Finance Committee By-law (adopted in 2018) which only has two Council members being part of the Budget preparation. The responsibility of Budget is a full Council role and it was done this way last year. She is asking if Council are in agreement with removing this By-law and all Council work together to prepare the Budget.

All Council members concur.

(The Repeal of the By-law will be on the Agenda for the September 20, 2021 Regular Meeting for Motion of Council)

Fires Section presented is the Revenue Section. The information on tax base and grants have not been submitted by the province yet – so the amount reviews will be in relation to Non-Tax Revenue section. It was noted that the 2021 amounts for Sales of Service were reflective of the 2020 Covid 19 year and whereas Council was not sure of how the 2021 year would roll out with Covid 19, they stayed conservative in their revenue projects for the Campground, Arena and Festivals.

Clerk/Treasurer, Cormier advised she will submit a 4-year Comparison Report for Council to have information on the post Covid 19 years, to give them better perspective.

Council Discussion included:

- Council expectation regarding Revenue & Expense has to be relayed to those responsible and they should come in on Budget unless there are circumstance unknown.
- How does Council create a Budget with having a 4-Year Plan or Priorities identified?
- Individual Council members projects they are working on – need to be looked at for a 5-Year Plan.
- Big changed coming to the Community – Loss of income – need to work on a Game Plan
- Currently there is no Capital Asset Plan for Belledune – Need to have one as well as an Economic Development Plan and Business Plan
- Need to look at Cost vs Revenue for some operations, the best way to spend money to benefit the most people

Finance Committee Chair, Carmichael noted the Budget deadline is mid-November so we need to start somewhere. Certain amounts are not going to change and if need be, as we go, we can switch and move things around.

Mayor, Arseneault said we can start by putting in the numbers we know tonight and then let's have an evening meeting before the 2nd Budget meeting to discuss priorities, etc.

Clerk/Treasurer, Cormier has submitted the Working Budget document for 2022 – showing the previous year 2021 amounts. The 2022 section has no amounts included, there was no directive given for a starting point. In previous years the document would include the 2022 amount that are non-discretionary. Those would be reviewed with Council to clarify and inform and the discretionary sections of the Budget would their major items they would put on the table for discussion and consensus to include in the Budget.

Council was in agreement that Clerk/Treasurer, Cormier commence the process of reviewing the Budget (Revenue and Expense sections) and include the amounts.

Under the Non-Tax Revenue section, the Campground, Building Rentals and Arena have been increased to reflect what the actuals are indicating for year 2021.

The following Budget Expenditure Services were reviewed with the exception of Personnel, which will be discussed at the future Closed Session of Council – permitted by legislation.

General Government

- Development Seminars – increased from \$10,000 to \$15,000
- Grants were reviews and the Trail Blazer Club has 2 more years for \$20,000 Grant toward their Groomer purchase (year 6 of 7 in 2022) the Jacquet River School Grants - Total of \$15,000 will be part of the Budget, but noted their Report need to show that they are using the money and not just accumulating funds in a bank account. They are required to submit a report in September or October so Council can review their status.

Protective

- The RCMP Policing amount should be reduced this year, due to Belledune tax base decrease in 2020. This should be reflected in their calculation for Belledune's contribution.

- Fire Budgets – the same figures will be put in the Budget; however, the Fire Chief should submit his plan for purchases in 2022. It was noted that Council does not want to see the budget not being spent only at the last part of the year, just because the money is there. The budget should be spent for the things they need as they need them, not just to spend the money because they are worried next year’s Budget will be cut. The Fire Chief needs budget according to their needs and if something happened during the year that was unforeseen, Council can deal with those issues.

Transportation

- The non-discretionary items were
- Public Works Building was reduced by \$15,000 reflective o actual costs in 2020
- Road/Streets, Culvert & Drains and Brush Cutting were left for further discussion
 - Roadside Grass cutting was discussed in terms of the time of year it should start - June, the area that should be done first, # of time to be done in the summer season – it is about beautification.
 - It was noted that the longer back roads (Mitchell, Archibald) were done this summer for safety reasons, to give visibility for large animals coming out onto the road.
 - Guardrails cutting – Having a student program in place for this
 - It was noted that the Village had this done in the past through a contract bidding with individual who charged \$10 per guardrail (and there are many and some very long) and they did them twice during the summer season. It was a very good service and very cost effective.
 - Public Works Supervisor is to be asked if there needs to be extra seasonal employees hired.
- The Mitchell /Lawlor Road Intersection was discussed in terms of what the previous Council getting engineer firms review and options. This money will have to be put in at some point.

Environmental Health

- This is the Solid Waste Collection and the expenditures so far are on target and this part of the Budget will remain the same.

Environmental Development

- The figures from the Chaleur Regional Service Commission have not been receive yet.
- There should be a reduction in the Planning Services contribution as part of the calculation is done on the 2020 tax base, which was decreased for Belledune.
- Economic Development Section is where Council will have discussion develop that budget accordingly. It not only includes the Economic Development, but has the Housing Incentive and Student Subsidy Program.
 - It was noted that the Residential Grant Policy need to be revisited and reviewed and perhaps revised. Council members have opposing views in Belledune resident selling a home and buying one in Belledune and getting a subsidy. This will be discussed in future by Council.
 - For the Student Subsidy Program – there are less business apply for this program and the reason is unknown. Council will review the program and see if some changes are required to address the low usage of the program.

Recreation

- The Recreation & Wellness Budget will be discussed in further detail and budget allocation based upon Council discussions, etc.
- The portion of the Budget under Fairs & Festivals and Community Events – Councillor, Marilyn Guitard-McDonnell (Council representative on the Community Events Committee) will bring information forward to help with determining that portion of the Budget.

Fiscal

- This sector of the Budget includes Debt payments which are fixed amount and will be included for Interest and Principle payments.
- Capital Project paid by the General Operating Fund, if any, are yet to be discussed by Council.

**Lilliane Carmichael moved that the meeting adjourn at 9:45 P.M., seconded by Kristie Carrier.
MOTION CARRIED.**

Mayor

Clerk

Due to technical issues the Meeting failed to stream or record on Village of Belledune You Tube Channel