

Town of Borden-Carleton
Special Council Meeting
March 18, 2025 – 20 Dickie Road
6:00pm

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Larry Allen, Councillor Barb Wood, Councillor Nicole Bernard-Arsenault, and Councillor Ashley Steele, Councillor Patricia Marshall & Councillor Marcia Green.

REGRETS: Mayor Randy Ahearn

PRESENT: CAO Cora Lee Dunbar, Accountant Henry Le, Administrative Assistant to CAO Alicia Wentzell

ALSO PRESENT: Public (2)

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Deputy Mayor Larry Allen called the meeting to Order at 6:00pm

It was duly moved Councillor Nicole Arsenault, **seconded by** Councillor Ashley Steele **THAT** the Agenda be adopted as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED (5-0) (RR#25-03-01)

The CAO introduces the budget process, mentioning the involvement

The financial statements are broken down by town, arena, sewer, and water, with a focus on tax revenue, assessments for the upcoming fiscal year of 2025/26

2. PRESENTATION DRAFT BUDGETS FOR 2024/25:

CAO Cora Lee Dunbar explained that the purpose of the meeting was for the Council to review the Town, Gateway Arena and Utilities operating budgets for 2025/26 before the presentation of the final draft budgets and approval on Tuesday March 25, 2025. The CAO encouraged Council feedback on the proposed budgeted figures and will answer any questions that Council may have on the draft budget projections.

Town Budget Meeting

The meeting focused on the town's budget, highlighting: a tax increase of 3 cents, bringing in \$21,000.

Tax Assessments and Revenue

- CAO explains the tax assessment process, highlighting the current assessment and the increase of three cents.
- The tax rate for commercial properties is \$1.43 and 60 cents, bringing in \$7,000
- Last year, there was a 25% increase in sewer and water rates, with no property tax increase.

Expenditure Increases and Professional Fees

- CAO notes that expenditures have increased by 57,008, with significant increases in electricity, insurance, and professional fees.
- Professional fees have doubled due to the fabrication yard and potential developments.
- The town is also looking to change bylaws and engage legal services, which will incur additional costs.
- Oil, gas, and snow removal are other major expenditures that have increased.

Balancing the Budget and Cash Flow

- CAO discusses the balance between income and expenses, noting a deficit of \$74,000 but a positive cash flow of \$76,000.
- The town receives grants for summer students and repairs, which help offset operational costs.
- The importance of maintaining a balanced budget and the impact of uncollected debt and HST filings are highlighted.

Grant Applications and Revenue Sources

- CAO mentions the ongoing process of applying for grants, including the Rural Growth application and seniors' initiatives.
- The town is also looking into grants for the lighthouse and other capital projects.
- The importance of timely grant applications and the challenges of finding and applying for grants are discussed.
- The town's revenue is split evenly between commercial and residential, with significant contributions from industry.

Day Camp and Recreation Programs

- CAO discusses the day camp program, noting that it is almost break-even but requires to cover costs.
- The importance of the day camp for the community and the challenges of managing it are highlighted.
- The town is also involved in other recreation programs, including ice rentals and the arena.
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Capital Budget and Wish List

- CAO introduces the capital budget, which includes items like an elevator, front office improvements, and a fire truck.
- The town is considering cheaper options for the elevator and other improvements.
- The fire department is looking into grants for equipment upgrades, with a significant grant available.
- The town is also considering sidewalk improvements and other infrastructure projects.

Marine Rail Park and Official Plan

- CAO mentions the potential transfer of the Marine Rail Park to the province and the benefits of such a move.
- The town is also looking into updating the Official Plan and which was last done in 2015.
- The importance of planning and development for the town's future is emphasized.
- The town is exploring options for planning work and updates to the Official Plan.

Final Discussions and Next Steps

- CAO summarizes the key points of the meeting, including the budget process, tax assessments, and expenditure increases.
- The importance of grants, community involvement, and proper financial management are reiterated.
- The town is preparing for the next steps in the budget process, including finalizing the capital budget and addressing any urgent needs.

The meeting conclude with a focus on the importance of ongoing communication and collaboration among council members and town staff.

It was duly moved by Ashley Steele and seconded by Nicole Arsenault to go into an in-camera – 1 item under section 119(1)(a) commercial information which, if disclosed, would likely be prejudicial to the municipality or parties involved; and several items under section 119(1)(d) human resource matters.

MOTION CARRIED (5-0) (RR#25-03-02)

4. IN CAMERA

The council went in camera at 7:33pm

It was moved by Councillor Marcia Green and seconded by Councillor Barb Wood THAT Council moves back to a public meeting.

MOTION CARRIED (5-0) (RR#25-03-03)

Council returned to open session at 8:22 pm

4. ADJOURNMENT:

X

Deputy Mayor Larry Allen

X

CAO Cora Lee Dunbar