Special Council Meeting
For the purpose of Budget Deliberations
Thursday January 10, 2019
4:00 p.m., Council Chambers, Fingal

PRESENT:  
Mayor  G. Jones
Deputy Mayor  R. Monteith
Councillors:  S. Emons
P. North
J. Pennings

ALSO PRESENT:  Lisa Higgs, CAO/Clerk
Kim Grogan, Treasurer

DISCLOSURES:
There were no disclosures made.

OTHER BUSINESS

(a) 2019 Budget Deliberations
   - Operating Budget

Tab 1 – Summary
Kim Grogan provided Council with a summary of the proposed 2019 budget for Council deliberations. Ms. Grogan noted that the preliminary budget presented for 2019 deliberations includes an 11.25% levy increase, which results in a 6.4% tax rate increase, assuming tax ratios set by the County remain the same.

Tab 2 – Taxation
Ms. Grogan reviewed the taxation data with the Council and reviewed the growth projections included in the 2018 budget and the impact on miscalculations of projected growth in 2018 on the budget.

2019-001  Deputy Mayor Monteith - Councillor Emons  Inclusion of Growth in Budget

THAT estimated tax levy growth related to anticipated development be included in the 2019 budget, as presented.

CARRIED

Tab 3 - Other Revenue
Ms. Grogan outlined other revenues included in the 2019 budget, noting specifically that the OMPF funding allocation may change and that the Township is awaiting information from the Minister of Finance, which may substantially impact the proposed levy change.

Ms. Grogan spoke to the revenues collected as Payments in Lieu (PIL) and noted that there is a projected increase in PIL revenues related to Landfill Assessment changes.
Ms. Grogan noted that revenues were removed from the German Solar project, since the project was cancelled by the province.

Tab 4 – Council

Ms. Grogan noted that the total change in projected Council budget was a total of $7,800, which is largely made up of the elimination of a 1/3 tax free exemption. Ms. Grogan noted that AMO is lobbying to reinstall the 1/3 exemption.

Ms. Higgs provided a brief explanation of the Volunteer Appreciation Night and the recommendation to include funds for 2019.

Tab 5 – Administration

CAO/Clerk Lisa Higgs provided a report to Council on the general administration budget items.

STAFF DIRECTION
Council directed staff to report back the possible savings for grass cutting if staff were to take on more and provide an account of Bears services.

Tab 7 – Police

Council was provided a report from the Treasurer on the impact of OPP police billings. Ms. Grogan explained how OPP billing adjustments are provided based on total residents from previous years.

Council discussed the possible impact on policing costs related to enhanced enforcement related to highway 401 construction and whether there was a way to receive funding from the Province related to the 401 project.

2019-002 Councillor North - Councillor Pennings 2019 Court Costs & Reserve Funded

THAT Council approve funding of 2019 Court Costs from the Policing Reserve.

CARRIED

Tab 8 – Animal Control

Ms. Grogan reviewed the budget for Animal Control in the Township, outlining the various costs for animal control.

Tab 9 – Building

Treasurer Grogan provided Council with information on the building department.

CAO/Clerk Higgs provided a proposed adjustment to the fee schedules. No comments from Council were received.

Tab 12 – Street Lights

Ms. Grogan noted that the balance of the Street Light Reserve approximates $110,000 and can be used for any in-year street light improvements. Staff was directed to survey the residents in the affected areas regarding street lighting needs on Fowler Street & Argyle Street in Fingal. Councillor Emons questioned the difference styles of lighting and directional light. Councillor Pennings commented on the lights for the new subdivisions and questioned if we utilize motion...
They may cost more to buy upfront but if we mandate a higher end fixture we can maintain them longer.

Tab 14 – Garbage
Ms. Grogan indicated that there have been changing revenues related to post-consumer waste. A more detailed report will to come to Council regarding garbage costs. A report on the cost of Green Bins with an area rate perspective will be provided to Council in the future. Staff have put a request to the City of St. Thomas for 2018 data from the St. Thomas Recycling Centre.

Tab 15 – Medical Centre
Ms. Grogan indicated that the 2019 budget includes a 2% increase in rates for both units, which is not a significant value in the overall budget, but the rates have not been adjusted since 2014. Mayor Jones indicated that he supported a 2% increase.

2019-003  **Deputy Mayor Monteith – Councillor Pennings**  Medical Centre Rent

THAT rent for both units at the Shedden Medical Centre be increased by 2%, effective February 1st, 2019.

CARRIED

Tab 16 – Cemeteries
No grant allocations included for Cemeteries and no communications from Boards in regards to requests from the cemetery board.

Tab 18 – Library/Old Library/Plaza/Leased Lands

Treasurer Grogan reported that September 2013 was the last time rent was increased for the Commercial properties in Shedden.

Staff was directed to report back to Council on the cost of installing a new roof on the commercial plaza.

2019-004  **Deputy Mayor Monteith – Councillor Emons**  Commercial Plaza Rent

THAT rent for both units at the Commercial Plaza be increased by 2%, effective February 1st, 2019.

CARRIED

Tab 20 – Planning and Development

2019-005  **Deputy Mayor Monteith – Councillor Pennings**  History Committee Budget

THAT Council directs staff to request funding from the Green Lane Community Trust Fund in the amount of $2 000.00 for the History Committee Budget.

CARRIED

2019-006  **Councillor North – Councillor Emons**  Senior Committee Budget

THAT Council directs staff to request funding from the Green Lane Community Trust Fund in the amount of $9 150.00 for the Senior Committee budget.

CARRIED
2019-007 Deputy Mayor Monteith – Councillor Emons

THAT Council directs staff to request funding from the Green Lane Community Trust Fund in the amount of $750.00 for the Green Communities Initiative.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

2019-008 Councillor Pennings – Councillor North

THAT Council of the Township of Southwold adjourns this Special Budget meeting of Council at 7:15 p.m.

CARRIED

Clerk
Lisa Higgs

Mayor
Grant Jones