

SPECIAL COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET SESSION

Council Chambers, County Building
London, 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 9, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER AND WARDEN'S REMARKS

Council met with all members electronically. Warden Burghardt-Jesson presided.

2. PROVISION FOR DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None

3. 2021 BUDGET POWER POINT PRESENTATION

- Presentation by Cindy Howard, General Manager of Finance and Community Services. A copy of the presentation is attached to the minutes.

This was a special meeting of County Council to review the 2021 Estimates

The Budget Committee established by County Council to review in detail the departmental budgets and development an overall budget philosophy consisted of Warden Burghardt-Jesson, Past Warden Kurtis Smith; Councillor DeViet and Councillor Ropp. Councillor Vanderheyden, Councillor Warwick and Councillor Elliott also attended budget committee meetings.

The Key 2021 Proposed Budget Investments are:

- Implementation of Middlesex County Cycling Strategy
- Bridge funding to reflect findings of bridge study
- 64.5 lane km scheduled for reconstruction/rehab
- Work to begin on Glendon Drive roundabout
- Funding of additional 26 centreline km of roads assumed from local municipalities
- Addition of 3 new 12 hour ambulances
- Additional County resources in order to execute the Economic Development Strategic Plan objectives
- Radio-frequency identification (RFID) project to enhance and streamline library inventory control
- ITS Strategic Plan Development
- Building access control system replacement at Strathmere Lodge

The Budget Committee recommendations were as follows:

1. Administration (Reduction of \$97,384.)
 - Remove the procurement (purchasing) position in Administration
 - Consider this position as part of the Modernization discussion

2. Economic Development (Reduction of \$45,000.)
 - Membership in Southern Ontario Marketing Alliance (SOMA) removed from budget
 - Budget Committee recommended that SOMA attend a future County Council Meeting to discuss the benefits of being part of SOMA in the future

3. Transportation (Winter Maintenance Surplus - \$494,532.)
 - 50% of the winter maintenance 2020 surplus applied to the 2021 budget. 50% to be applied to Winter Maintenance Reserve
 - This direction was one time only

4. Library (\$355,000)
 - \$355,000 to be funded from the One Time Modernization Provincial Funding (Library budget approved by the Library Board included this amount funded by 2020 surplus)
 - The Library Budget has not been impacted (Amount of 2020 surplus has been revised)
 - Portion of the 2020 Library surplus to be applied to 2021 County budget
 - This direction is a one time direction

5. Tax Rate Stabilization (withdrawal of \$1,420,450.00 from reserve)
 - In 2021 the Budget Committee is recommending that the Tax Rate Stabilization reserve be used to limit the Tax Rate increase to be 1.7%
 - The rationale to limit the amount used from the reserve was based on potential future funding pressures
 - to apply the budget surplus to tax rate stabilization (2020 actual surplus is \$1.6 million)

4. **2021 BUDGET**

The following items were circulated to County Council

- a) 2021 Budget Summary
- b) 2021 Budget Committee Recommendations
- c) Administration
- d) Planning and Woodlots
- e) Economic Development
- f) Information Technology Services
- g) Social Services
- h) Transportation
- i) Strathmere Lodge
- j) Middlesex-London Emergency Medical Services
- k) Middlesex County Library Board
- l) Reserve - Tax Rate Stabilization

- m) OMPF (Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund)
- n) Reserves and Reserve Funds
- o) Middlesex-London Health Unit

Moved by Councillor Smith

Seconded by Councillor Richards

That the 2021 Estimates be approved and that the necessary by-laws be presented to Middlesex County Council at the March 23, 2021 meeting.

Carried.

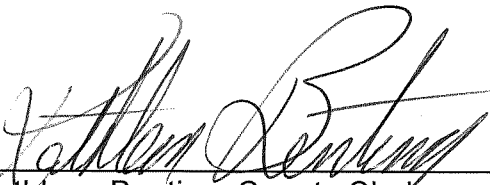
5. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Warwick


Seconded by Councillor Mayhew

That the meeting adjourn at 11:10 a.m.

Carried.



Kathleen Bunting, County Clerk



Cathy Burghardt-Jesson, Warden

