

COUNTY OF RENFREW



MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS of the COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION of the COUNTY OF RENFREW

- Budget Workshop -

County Council
Pembroke, Ontario
January 24 and 25, 2024

BUDGET WORKSHOP SESSION

The Budget Workshop Session of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Renfrew was held at 9:30 a.m. on January 24 and 25, 2024.

The Warden, Peter Emon, presided.

Warden Emon recited the Land Acknowledgement, identifying that the meeting was being held on the traditional territory of the Algonquin People.

The roll was called and all members were found to be present except Councillor Jahn. No pecuniary interest was disclosed.

The meeting opened with a moment of silent reflection and the singing of the National Anthem.

Councillor Jennifer Murphy, Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee, thanked all staff who were involved in preparing the proposed draft budget and recommended that County Council ask questions as the budget is reviewed.

Warden Emon thanked everyone for preparing and attending this morning's 2024 budget deliberations and thanked the Directors and their teams for their dedicated time to present the budget along with the implications of the proposed figures.

The Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk introduced the draft 2024 Budget.

The Acting Treasurer/Finance Manager overviewed the draft 2024 Budget and suggested that Council ask questions and discuss items while he is presenting, as he would be requesting consensus on the ranking pressures of reductions and enhancements as discussed during Committee Meetings.

Finance and Administration

Council requested that the reference to the Warden's Banquet be referred to as a Service Awards Banquet.

Consensus was provided for the proposed reductions and enhancements presented in the Finance and Administration and Information Technology portion of the budget.

Development and Property

Council directed staff to provide a report on all building security associated costs.

Direction was also given to provide additional information on the OPP building reserve account.

Council requested that the Forestry Management Plan be reviewed at an upcoming meeting.

Consensus was provided for the proposed reductions and enhancements presented in the Development and Property portion of the budget.

Consensus was provided for the proposed reductions and enhancements presented in the Development and Property portion of the budget.

Council recessed at 11:00 a.m. Council reconvened at 11:15 a.m. with the same persons present.

The Acting Treasurer/Manager of Finance continued to overview the Draft 2024 Budget

Operations Committee

Council suggested that staff determine the type of condition assessment required for the patrol yards, prioritize one yard per year, and consider a master plan for all buildings.

Murphy Road was discussed as per a recent delegation from the Town of Petawawa requesting the County of Renfrew consider an enhanced rehabilitation of Murphy Road at a total cost of \$3.3 million with a contribution from the Town of Petawawa of \$2.2 million. The Town of Petawawa and the County of Renfrew staff will continue to negotiate solutions and provide proposals for cost sharing.

Council provided direction and consensus on the Operations Committee portion of the budget.

Council recessed for lunch 12:48 p.m. Council reconvened at 1:33 p.m. with the same persons present.

Health Committee

A request from the Pembroke Regional Hospital to support their investment in an electronic medical record system was removed from the budget and Council offered to advocate for the Province to properly fund the Provincial Health Care System.

Council provided direction and consensus on the Health Committee portion of the budget.

Council recessed at 2:50 p.m. and reconvened at 3:05 pm. with the same persons present.

Community Services

The CAO /Clerk presented the Homeless/Housing/Mental Health/Addiction Hub project and overviewed the proposal.

Council provided direction and consensus on the Community Services portion of the budget.

Moved by Councillor Nicholson

Seconded by Councillor Doncaster

THAT County Council recess at 4:32 p.m. and reconvene at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 25, with attendance virtually if necessary (due to forecasted weather). CARRIED.

Warden Emon called the County Council Budget Workshop meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. on January 25, 2024, and provided the land acknowledgment.

The roll was called and all members were found to be present except Councillors Giardini and Jahn. No pecuniary interest was disclosed.

The Acting Treasurer/Manager of Finance, continued to overview the Draft 2024 Budget, providing an explanation on reserves.

Councillor Serviss requested clarification on the rehabilitation of the roads in relation to the pavement condition index (PCI). Staff noted that they have requested the Province consider a standard PCI funding base. Council discussed that if the County reduces the PCI levels, the rehabilitation of roads will eventually increase the overall operational costs.

The Acting Treasurer/Manager of Finance provided an educational video produced by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC).

Council discussed the revenue aspect of the budget and the impacts, including the consensus ranking pressures and enhancement items discussed during budget deliberation. They further discussed the Operational Department reduction to the PCI and noted their concerns with the proposed reduction.

Council recessed at 10:59 a.m. and reconvened at 11:13 a.m. with the same persons present.

The Acting Treasurer/Manager of Finance provided a revised baseline budget for Council to consider.

Council reviewed options for reducing the proposed levy increase, the feasibility of adjusting services, existing revenues and the potential of increasing revenue sources, and reserves.

Moved By: Councillor MacKenzie

Seconded By: Councillor Donohue

THAT the suggested level 2 enhanced capital reduction of \$795,669 is added back in the proposed 2024 Budget. DEFEATED.

Councillor MacKenzie requested a recorded vote.

County Council Weighted Vote						
County Council Meeting:		January 25, 2024 - Budget				
Resolution:		THAT the suggested level 2 enhanced capital reduction of \$795,669 is added back in the proposed 2024 Budget.				
			For	Against	For	Against
MUNICIPALITY	COUNCILLOR	# Votes	x	x	Wtd	Wtd
Township of Horton	Bennett, D.	8		x	0	8
Township of North Algona Wilberforce	Brose, J.	10		x	0	10
Town of Deep River	Doncaster, G.	8		x	0	8
Township of Admaston/Bromley	Donohue, M.	9		x	0	9
Town of Renfrew	Emon, P.	15		x	0	15
Town of Laurentian Hills	Giardini, A.	7		x	0	7
Township of Head, Clara & Maria	Grills, D.	2		x	0	2
Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch & Raglan	Jahn, V.	7			0	0
Town of Arnprior	Lynch, D.	18		x	0	18
Township of McNab/Braeside	MacKenzie, M.	16	x		16	0
Township of Killaloe, Hagarty & Richards	Mayville, D.	8		x	0	8
Township of Bonnechere Valley	Murphy, J.	12		x	0	12
Township of Whitewater Region	Nicholson, N.	18	x		18	0
Town of Petawawa	Serviss, G.	33	x		33	0
Township of Laurentian Valley	Watt, K.	19	x		19	0
Township of Greater Madawaska	Weir, R.	16	x		16	0
Township of Madawaska Valley	Willmer, M.	15		x	0	15
TOTAL		221	5	11	102	112
			Motion Failed			

Moved By: Councillor Lynch
 Seconded By: Councillor Donohue

THAT the Gallagher Report for Council remuneration not be followed for 2024; AND THAT the Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) for County Council be removed from the 2024 Council remuneration. DEFEATED.

Council recessed at 12:24 p.m. and reconvened at 12:53 p.m. with the same persons present.

Moved by Councillor Donohue
 Seconded by Councillor Brose

THAT By-law 4-24 a by-law to adopt the estimates of the sums required during the year for 2024 for general, capital and all purposes of the County of Renfrew in the amount of \$57,403,120.00 be adopted at this session of County Council; AND FURTHER THAT the 2024 tax rates for County purposes be adopted by by-law after the adoption of the 2024 tax policy by-laws. Carried.

Warden Emon, along with Council, thanked staff for the presented budget, noting that consideration was given to the services the County of Renfrew provides and maintaining them in an acceptable way across divisions. He further requested that future deliberation and discussion continue throughout the year regarding Asset Management, Building Condition Assessments (BCA), Pavement Condition Index (PCI), amongst other items that are considered during budget deliberation.

Moved by Councillor Willmer
 Seconded by Councillor Weir

THAT By-law 5-24, being a By-law to Confirm the Proceedings of the Council of the County of Renfrew at the meeting held on January 24 and 25, 2024, be now numbered, deemed read three times and passed. CARRIED.

Moved by Councillor Grills

Seconded by Councillor Murphy

THAT County Council adjourn. Time 1:04 p.m. CARRIED.