

TOWN OF WATSON LAKE

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

February 4, 2020
Meeting #3

ATTENDANCE

ABSENT

CHERYL O'BRIEN - MAYOR
CHRIS IRVIN - COUNCILOR
ERIN LABONTE- COUNCILOR
LAUREN HANCHAR – COUNCILOR
THOMAS SLAGER- COUNCILOR

PUBLIC
L.Cole
J/L Bruce

ADMINISTRATION

CAM LOCKWOOD - Electronic
SHANNON BERGERON – Finance Comptroller
TERRI CLOSE – Municipal Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mayor O'Brien.

AGENDA

MOTION 020-03-21

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Labonte
that:

The Agenda be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED -

MINUTES

Council acknowledged the draft minutes from the Special Council meeting of
January 21,2019.

REPORTS

CAO Report

Administration informed Council that funding has been secured to cover
registration costs for the CAO to attend the 2020 CAMA Conference being held
in Ontario in June,2020 and the only cost to the Town is \$700.00 for travel
expenses.

Drawings for the firehall/Public Works facility have been finalized incorporating
the modifications as suggested from the Fire Department and the architect is
proceeding with the funding that is in place.

There are structural column issues with the windows alongside the
Administrative Building. The Engineer will be arriving to look at resolving the
structural issues.

February 17th is the Community Dinner and Kick-Off to the Official Community
Plan from 6 pm to 8 pm at the Watson Lake Community Hall. Everyone is
welcome. Stantec would like to meet with Council after the community meeting.
Council suggest the meeting be held with Stantec prior to the Community dinner.

One of the outstanding tax accounts that was in the final stage of tax lien has been
paid in full. Two other properties have been given a February 15th deadline to
remit payment.

NEW & UNFINISHED

SOURCE WATER
PROTECTION

Council was in receipt of the source ground water protection report that was prepared by Morrison Herschfield. Administration advised Council that the report addresses high risk areas within the aquafir catchment area and recommendations and incentives to monitor contamination. Council agreed to review the document and reintroduce at the February 18th Council meeting.

COMMITTEE
APPOINTMENTS

Council reviewed submissions from the Public pertaining to an expression of interest to sit on various committees.

The Recreation Review Committee received one submission, the Tourism Review Committee received five submissions, and the OCP Review Committee received six submissions.

MOTION 020-03-22

Moved by Councilor Labonte, seconded by Councilor Hanchar
that:

Council extend the deadline for the various Committees to close on February 17th.

-CARRIED-

Council discussed the submissions for the OCP Review Committee. The Community dinner and OCP workshop is scheduled for February 17th and therefore it was suggested that the applications for the OCP Review Committee be accepted.

MOTION 020-03-23

Moved by Councilor Irvin, seconded by Councilor Slager
that:

Motion 020-03-22 be amended to approve the six submissions for the OCP Committee and extend the deadline for the Recreation Review and Tourism Review committee to close February 17th.

-CARRIED-

Opposed: Councilor Labonte

MOTION 020-03-24

Moved by Councilor Slager, seconded by Councilor Irvin
that:

The following persons be appointed to the OCP Review Committee:

Justin Brown
Brenda Leach
Lelah Bruce
Barry Drury
Shannon Bergeron
Daman Werrun

-CARRIED-

Opposed: Councilor Labonte

Council reviewed both the O/M and Capital Budgets. Councilor Hanchar questioned the projected revenue from the Accommodation levy and was informed that the revenue would be approximately \$20,00.00. Council addressed the funds that are allocated for reserves and suggested that a percentage of surplus funds be put into reserves annually. It was suggested that 1% of the O/M Budget be allocated for reserves. Administration informed Council that any surplus funding will not be known until the end of the year. Council stressed the importance that the reserves be replenished and funds allocated for reserves. In order to have a balanced budget, it will be necessary for Council to discuss increasing fees for services provided as infrastructure is deteriorating and any surplus funds are necessary to repair/replace or operate.

Mayor O'Brien thanked the staff and departments for preparing the budget and appreciate the work that the departments are doing, only spending as needed.

Council agreed to introduce the Capital Budget for Third & Final Reading at the February 18th Council meeting. Council agreed to remove the steamer from the budget in addition to having the skateboard park as a discussion item for the Recreation Review Committee.

SKI CLUB
LEASE AGREEMENT

Council discussed the Ski Club lease agreement that expires December 31,2022. Council addressed the funding that is provided to the Ski Club annually in addition to the O/M funds budgeted for the operation of the building. It was agreed that this item be discussed further with the Recreation Review Committee and a review of the finances be done prior to any funds being forwarded to the Ski Club for the 2020/2021 ski season.

2020 PROPERTY
TAX ACCOUNT REVIEW

Administration provided Council with comparisons of 2019 and 2020 tax notices for various properties. The increase in the tax assessment has projected an increase of approximately \$72,000 in revenue without Council implementing a property tax increase. The 2020 mill rate bylaw will be provided at the February 18th Council meeting for Second Reading.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor O'Brien was in receipt of correspondence from Government of Yukon advising the Energy Branch can provide \$30,000 to continue support for the development of a feasibility study for the district heating system expansion.

COUNCILOR OPEN FORUM

Councilor Labonte inquired as to when the Christmas lights were expected to be taken down and what was the problem with certain lights not being illuminated. Administration advised that the Recreation Department is short staffed and lights will be removed when staff are available, also that Atco Electric will be fixing light standards this summer.

Mayor O'Brien addressed recent drug related activity that occurred in the community whereby three persons were apprehended. Mayor & Council fully support and encourage the RCMP in their initiative that will decrease drug activity within the community, and suggest the Crown Prosecutor address denying reentry into the community of these repeat offenders.

Council were reminded of the dinner with Minister Streicker on February 9th, a meeting with Minister Dendys on February 13th and the Solar Energy meeting on February 10th.

GALLERY
OPEN FORUM

Mr. Jerry Bruce updated Council on a meeting scheduled with a representative from Solvest to discuss solar energy options for the community.

He addressed the budget for the Town of Watson Lake and agreed with the importance of funding the reserves and a government structure going forward that will provide a financial plan for the future of the community.

Ms. Laurel Cole addressed the WL Ski Club and the misunderstanding of funding that the Ski Club has requested and received from both the Town and outside funding bodies to support them as needed. Mayor O'Brien suggested a conversation be arranged with the Ski Club to work together.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 020-03-25

Moved by Councilor Hanchar, seconded by Councilor Slager
that:

There being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Cheryl O'Brien
Cheryl O'Brien – Mayor

- CARRIED -

Terri Close
Terri Close – Municipal Clerk