

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Municipality of Middlesex Centre held this date at the Municipal Office, Coldstream at 3:00 p.m.

### **ATTENDANCE**

#### **PRESENT**

Al Edmondson  
Albert Bannister  
Ken Filson (arrived at 3:25)  
John Brennan  
Clare Bloomfield  
Brian Ritchie  
Frank Berze

#### **ALSO PRESENT**

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Greg Watterton        | Acting Chief Administrative Officer           |
| Maureen Looby         | Director, Public Works and Engineering        |
| Arnie Marsman         | Director, Planning & Development Services/CBO |
| Wayne Shipley         | Acting Fire Chief                             |
| Stephanie Troyer-Boyd | Acting Clerk                                  |

Al Edmondson presided.

### **ADDITIONS**

None were disclosed by any of the members.

### **DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

None were disclosed by any of the members.

### **MINUTES**

1. CW#2010/001  
Moved by Albert Bannister  
Seconded by Clare Bloomfield

THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of Committee of the Whole held on December 9, 2009 be approved.

- Carried -

### **2010 BUDGET PRESENTATION**

Greg Watterton, Director of Finance and Community Services, presented the 2010 draft budget to Committee. Mr. Watterton summarized the 2010 levy analysis report and proposed changes that had resulted from 2010 capital budget discussions in late 2009. Mr. Watterton detailed the proposed revisions and the net tax levy reduction resulting from the capital deferrals.

Greg Watterton acknowledged that the 2010 proposed operating budget has increased in excess of \$ 1,100,000 over 2009. He provided a operating levy analysis which showed the overage by department compared to 2009 and the significant reasons why the levies have increased. In addition, he indicated that because of the change in accounting principles, items that were previously included in capital are part of the operating budget. He stated that staff has made significant efforts to lower the operating budget but cannot maintain 2009 levels

Mr. Watterton stated that as a result of 2010 proposed capital projects, significant funds have to come from reserve funds to finance the projects. He provided a reserve fund activity spreadsheet which provided detail on a project by project basis and where the funding was proposed to come from. Brian Ritchie spoke to the tax rate stabilization account and suggested that it would be used for exceptional projects over which the municipality has no control. It was agreed that the 2010

UTRCA Administration Building Levy could be funded through the Tax Rate Stabilization account rather than through the tax levy.

Ken Filson stated that the municipality should be establishing benchmarks in order to measure service levels and set goals. He stated that assessment growth should be used to benefit the taxpayer and subsidize the tax rate.

Frank Berze noted that the proposed 2010 budget does not add any money to reserve funds and suggested that committee consider budgeting funds to increase reserves. He asked staff if there was any recommendation for putting funds back into the reserves. Greg Watterton stated that he has presented the proposed capital project financing and reserve fund activity report to Committee and is prepared to add to the budget in order to increase the reserves if that direction is given.

Ken Filson noted that the Public Works and Engineering proposed operating budget has increased 16% over 2009. He questioned if this type of increase is expected to continue. Maureen Looby, Director of Public Work and Engineering, indicated that a large portion of the increase is from the recommendation of the Roads Needs Study and is being phased in over a 2-3 year period in order to ease the financial burden.

Committee acknowledged that the Recreation and Facilities Services budget had increased 32% over 2009 and questioned the reason for the proposal. Greg Watterton indicated that he would research the need for new tables at the Ilderton community centre and arena and the necessity for a new ½ tonne truck for the department.

Clare Bloomfield expressed concern with the \$ 11,000,000 that would have to be debentured and the burden being placed on the taxpayer in future years. Ken Filson recognized the same concern but stated buying assets and paying for them over time is a responsible thing to do.

Greg Watterton was questioned on the anticipated 2009 surplus and the possibility of using it to contribute to reserves. He cautioned against depending on a surplus to increase the reserve funds. Ken Filson stated that he believes there is too much funding coming from reserve funds and would like to see some money put back in. Clare Bloomfield stated that he also does not like to see the reserves being depleted.

Brian Ritchie indicated he would like to see what the county and school boards are planning for increases in their 2010 budgets. Greg Watterton indicated that he would like to see Middlesex Centre make budget decisions on their merit and not having to consider how the tax rate would be affected by the county and school boards.

Albert Bannister stated that he would like to see a 0% tax increase and feels that restraint should be shown in the 2010 budget year. He indicated that the growth and reassessment should provide enough funds to maintain the same tax level as in 2009.

Committee concurred that all proposed revisions to the draft capital budget should remain as presented.

Albert Bannister asked for a recorded vote.

1. Resolution #2010/002  
Moved by Ken Filson  
Seconded by Clare Bloomfield

THAT staff be directed to bring forward to the March 3, 2010 Council meeting the 2010 Budget for consideration of approval based on a 2% residential tax rate increase with the Tax Rate Stabilization Fund used to fund the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority building levy.

| Name             | Yes | No |
|------------------|-----|----|
| Albert Bannister |     | ■  |
| Frank Berze      | ■   |    |
| Clare Bloomfield | ■   |    |
| John Brennan     | ■   |    |
| Al Edmondson     | ■   |    |
| Ken Filson       | ■   |    |
| Brian Ritchie    | ■   |    |

- Carried -

### **IN CLOSED SESSION**

1. Resolution # 2010/003  
Moved by Ken Filson  
Seconded by Brian Ritchie

THAT Committee of the Whole move in to closed session at 5:42 p.m. for personal matters regarding an identifiable individual in accordance with Sections 239 (2) (b) of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, c.25, as amended.

- Carried –

### **REGULAR COUNCIL RESUME**

1. Resolution # 2010/004  
Moved by Clare Ritchie  
Seconded by John Brennan

THAT Committee of the Whole reconvene in regular session at 5:59 p.m.

- Carried -

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECESSED FOR DINNER AT 6:00 P.M.

### **COUNCIL PROCEDURES DISCUSSION**

Albert Bannister presided.

Al Edmondson led a discussion with Committee members and staff regarding preferred procedures for inquiries of staff, reporting by staff and Council conduct and debate.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, this meeting of the Committee of the Whole adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIR

\_\_\_\_\_  
CLERK