

**SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, TOWN HALL**

In attendance were Mayor John Higham, Deputy Mayor Ron Aiken and Councillors Bruce Phinney, Allison Butcher, Andrew Black, Joyce O'Neil, Megan Mitton and Bill Evans. Also in attendance were CAO Phil Handrahan, Treasurer Michael Beal, Assistant Treasurer Elizabeth Hartling, Engineer Dwayne Acton, Fire Chief Craig Bowser, Senior Manager of Corporate Projects Jamie Burke, Manager of Parks and Facilities Todd Cole, Manager of Public Works Todd Hicks, Manager of Recreation Programs and Events Matt Pryde, Manager of Tourism and Business Development Ron Kelly-Spurles, Assistant Clerk Stacey Hicks and Clerk Donna.

In attendance Press and two residents

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor John Higham called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR JOYCE O'NEIL AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR
MEGAN MITTON THAT COUNCIL APPROVE THE AGENDA OF THE SPECIAL
MEETING OF COUNCIL OF NOVEMBER 29, 2017 AS CIRCULATED. MOTION
CARRIED.

2017 OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS PRESENTATION

Mayor John Higham requested comments from the CAO who provided information on the overall assessment reduction of \$9,200,000 from the Province. The CAO noted the difficulties that such a shortfall provides as well as the need for Council to consider the Town's finances beyond 2018 as there are implications from this assessment reduction that will carry over into 2019.

CAO Phil Handrahan then turned the meeting over to Treasurer Michael Beal who proceeded with the presentation of the 2nd Draft of the 2018 Municipal Operating and Capital Budgets. Treasurer Mike Beal noted that the Town had received their figures from the Province on Friday November 24, 2017. The Town received a 1.47% reduction in tax base which resulted in a shortfall of Revenue over Expenditures of between \$180,000 and \$185,000.00. Mr. Beal explained that the Budget being presented is one that will allow the Town to maintain the services we provide at relatively the same level in 2018.

Councillors discussed four options proposed by staff and the general consensus was option 1 which was to raise the tax rates by \$0.01 per \$100 of Assessment.

Moving forward in 2018, staff will review the Town services which are provided as well as continue to look for Province and Federal Funding opportunities.

From the presentation of the 2018 General and Utility Capital Budgets, Council asked questions as the proposed items were presented and explained. It was reiterated that what has been proposed this evening are the recommendations of Staff for 2018 based on core requirements of the Municipality and the Strategic Priorities of Council. Council gave direction to move forward with developing motions to be brought forward at the December Regular Meeting of Council for approval of the allocation of funds for the 2018 Capital Program.

Mayor John Higham thanked staff for the diligent work in bringing forward the second draft, as well as, the reduction departments made of approximately \$120,000.00 from the first draft, while still maintaining services for the year 2018.

MOVED BY DEPUTY MAYOR RON AIKEN AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR ANDREW BLACK THAT COUNCIL ADJOURN THE SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL OF NOVEMBER 29, 2017. MOTION CARRIED.

Please visit the Town of Sackville's website for the audio recording of this meeting of Wednesday November 29, 2017.

Mayor

Clerk

Assistant Clerk