



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SOUTHWOLD

MINUTES

Special Council Meeting – Budget Deliberations
Tuesday November 5, 2024
7:00 p.m. Council Chambers, Fingal/Via Video Link

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Grant Jones
Deputy Mayor Justin Pennings
Councillor John Adzija
Councillor Sarah Emons
Councillor Scott Fellows

COUNCIL ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Lisa Higgs, CAO/Clerk
Michele Lant, Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer
Aaron Van Oorspronk , Dir. of Infrastructure & Development
Services
Corey Pemberton, Director of Building & Community
Services/Chief Building Official (vacated the Chambers at 7:37
pm)

Mayor Jones called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

DISCLOSURES:

None.

REPORT:

FIN 2024-25 2025 Capital Budget – Report #1

Treasurer Michele Lant presented the initial budget report to Council, outlining the categories assigned by staff for consideration of capital investment, including critical, important and recommended.

2025 Budget Deliberations

Administrative Capital

CAO/Clerk Lisa Higgs presented her report to Council on the proposed projects, including a Council Chamber renovation, computer and administrative reserve, and Ward boundary review. Council commented that there may be audio visual improvements for the Council Chambers that could be implemented and included in future deliberations. Council also indicated that they would have a preference for Ward boundary review to be undertaken using internal resources, if required.

Parks Capital

Director of Community Services Corey Pemberton provided a report to Council on the proposed parks projects. Council asked a series of questions about the changes to the grass cutting contract and the costs allocated in response to the grant application for trails. There was general concurrence that replacing the refrigerators at the Keystone Complex and pavilion is warranted and the connection of certain municipal facilities to the sanitary system is good planning.

Roads/Infrastructure Capital Improvements

Director of Infrastructure and Development VanOorspronk initiated his presentation by addressing the draft capital budget sheets, highlighting the phase-in of contributions to reserves in response to the Roads Needs Study and the introduction of an annual allocation for ditching. Mr. VanOorspronk initiated his report by outlining the annual reinvestment values required to maintain existing assets and framing the discussion by exploring the total road classifications, lifecycles, and makeup.

Mr. VanOorspronk spoke to the proposed roads and infrastructure projects, including John Wise Line and Longhurst Line rehabilitation. Mayor Jones spoke to the improvements required at the time of original Site Plan approval to cost share with the ownership group of Ontario Plants and staff agreed that the private business would be approached to cost share the road improvements.

Mr. VanOorspronk recommended surface treatment for Scotch Line and Begg Road Rehabilitation. Staff were directed to explore the legal implications of potentially divesting of the road (or partial divestiture) for longer term cost savings.

Mr. VanOorspronk shared the recommendation to reconstruct Thomas Road, converting it to a more urban cross system, noting that the installation of a PRV for the water system be completed at the same time. The surface treatment for the final section of Bush Line was recommended as well.

Engineering work for Fingal Line and Union Road, completed in partnership with Elgin County was presented by Mr. VanOorspronk, rated as critical by staff, given that it is a requirement to complete the work as part of the HEWSF grant works.

Mr. VanOorspronk presented on the Shedden Sanitary Sewer Construction project, taking place from the WWTP to the intersection of Talbot Line and Union Road. Bridges and Culvert replacements were presented next and included the Scotch Line Culvert replacement, Lyle Bridge, and Iona Road Culvert.

The water and sanitary system budgets were presented by Mr. VanOorspronk, including the recommended investment in pressure regulating valves.

Mr. VanOorspronk provided an estimate of the impact of the roads needs study on the average assessed household, indicating that an approximate \$80.00 charge annually would be added to the average property.

ADJOURNMENT:

2024-339

Councillor Emons – Councillor Adzija

THAT Council for the Township of Southwold adjourns this Special meeting of Council at **8:49 p.m.**

CARRIED

Original signed by:

Mayor
Grant Jones

Original signed by:

CAO/Clerk
Lisa Higgs