



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SOUTHWOLD

MINUTES

Special Council Meeting – Budget Deliberations
Thursday November 6, 2025
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: Jeff Carswell, CAO/Clerk
Michele Lant, Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer
Jeff McArthur, Director of Emergency Services/Fire Chief

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

DISCLOSURES: Deputy Mayor Pennings declared a pecuniary interest with respect to the Report FIN 2025-27 and application of a CPI Adjustment to the Fire Department Wage Grid as he is a member of the Fire Department.

REPORT:

FIN 2025-26 2026 Capital Budget – Report #2

Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer Michele Lant presented the initial budget report to Council, including the categories assigned by staff for consideration of capital investment, including critical, important and recommended and the schedule for future meetings.

2026 Budget Deliberations

Fire Capital

Director of Emergency Services/Fire Chief Jeff McArthur reviewed the Fire Department Capital Forecast. Significant projects identified include Shedden Station – 4th Apparatus Bay, Talbotville Rescue Replacement planned for 2027, Recurring Equipment Replacement, Shedden Station Bunker Gear Room/Washroom Improvements to be Grant Funded. Council reviewed the projects and provided feedback on the proposed plans.

REPORT:

FIN 2025-27 2026 Wage Grid Adjustment, Assessment and Budget Direction Report

Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer Michele Lant reviewed the CPI Adjustment to be applied to the Wage Grid in accordance with the Pay Administration Policy. The report also highlighted anticipated assessment impacts for 2026, significant impacts to the overall budget including OPP costs, grant changes, insurance renewal and needs to further examine overall cash flow impacts with so many, high value projects planned for 2026 – 2027. Many projects are committed which limits flexibility for the proposed capital forecast. The operating budget is being developed and will be incorporated with the 2026 Capital Budget for an overall 2026 Budget. Staff will also be further examining the Tax Stabilization Reserve and Cash Flow. The upcoming Asset Management Plan Workshop will also help to inform the capital forecast.

CONFIRMATION BY-LAW:

- By-law No. 2025-61, being a by-law to confirm the resolutions and motions of the Council of the Township of Southwold, which were adopted on November 6, 2025

Confirmation By-law

2025-314 Deputy Mayor Pennings - Councillor Emons

RESOLVED THAT By-law No. 2025-61 be read a first and second time, considered read a third time and finally passed this 6th day of November, 2025.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT:

2025-315 Councillor Fellows – Councillor Emons

RESOLVED THAT Council for the Township of Southwold adjourns this Special meeting of Council at **8:02 p.m.**

CARRIED

Original signed by:

Mayor
Grant Jones

Original signed by:

CAO/Clerk
Jeff Carswell