

Gogama Local Services Board
2017-2018 Annual Budget Estimates Meeting
&
User Fees Approval
Gogama Community Centre at 7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

1. Call meeting to order and roll call

Andre Jodouin presiding as Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M.

Present

Andre Jodouin – Chairperson
Gilles Veronneau – Vice Chairperson
Rachelle Minarik – Board Member
Daniel Mantha – Board Member
Michel Veronneau – Board Member
Natalie Gaudette – Bookkeeper
Christine Bedard – Secretary

Absent with Regrets

41 members of the public in attendance

2. Declaration of conflict of interest – As the meeting progresses.

3. Acceptance of the agenda

The Chairperson asked for a motion to accept the agenda.

The motion to accept the agenda was moved by Michel Veronneau and seconded by Daniel Mantha.
Motion Carried

4. Statement from the Board

The Chairperson thanked the members of the public in attendance and welcomed them to the meeting. The Chairperson advised all in attendance that this evening's meeting was intended solely for the purpose of presenting the 2017-2018 Budget Estimates to the public and to have the public vote on the User Fees increases for the Garbage Collection/Disposal and Recreation Budgets.

The Chairperson announced that the Board would be holding a special public meeting the following Monday, December 18, 2017, here at the Community Centre at 7:00 P.M. where the Board hoped that the Watershed 144 Owners as well as Mr. Benson would be in attendance so they may put forward their concerns to the Board in a public forum setting.

The Chairperson asked that all questions, non-budget related and not on the agenda, could be forwarded to the Board office and would be addressed at the January 18, 2018 Board meeting. The Chairperson advised the members of the public that only the questions that will be answered tonight

would be those that pertained directly to tonight's presentation and all questions would be answered by the Bookkeeper, Ms. Natalie Gaudette, on behalf of the Board. The Chairperson asked that all related questions be kept for the end of the meeting.

The Chairperson turned the floor to the Bookkeeper to proceed with item 5 of the agenda.

5. Presentation of 2017-2018 Budget Estimates & User and Service Fees

Having technical issues with the overhead projector, Ms. Gaudette advised the members of the public in attendance that they could follow along in the Budget Handout that was available to everyone as they entered tonight's meeting. Ms. Gaudette asked those that did not have a copy of the Budget to please raise their hands and Board Member, Rachelle Minarik would bring them one.

Ms. Gaudette began her presentation to the public by announcing that tonight's proposed User Fees changes would pertain only to the Garbage Collection/Disposal and Recreation Budgets and that all other User Fees in all other budgets would remain the same as in 2016-2017.

Ms. Gaudette took the members of the public and the Board through the 2017-2018 User Fees Guidelines, explaining in detail the increases daily, weekly, monthly and annually. She went on to explain the methodology with which the Board came to the results being proposed this evening in order to arrive at a balanced budget for the fiscal year.

Having spoken to and reviewed all individual budgets in-depth, Ms. Gaudette concluded her presentation and invited the public to ask any clarifying questions pertaining to the information she had just presented.

6. Deputations or Delegations or Discussions from the floor

Q. Mr. Edmond Chenier wanted to know what the commercial increases would be as opposed to residential.

A. Ms. Gaudette explained that as per the breakdown of the 2017-2018 User Fees document in their packages, the percentage increase to the commercial Garbage Collection/Disposal budget was the same as the increase on the residential side, that increase percentage being 18.5%.

Q. Mr. Paul Veronneau asked why the recreation user fee applied only to residential and not commercial?

A. Ms. Gaudette explained that the Recreation User Fee only applies to the residential category as it was defined in the Guidelines to Invoicing procedure as applicable only to properties with a residential building whether or not that building is used at the time of invoicing.

Q. Mr. Edward Benson asked for an explanation for the increase to the recreation user fee as the Board was declining hall rentals and the manager/custodian contract cost had been substantially reduced from \$10,200.00 annually to \$7,200.00 annually?

- A. Ms. Gaudette clarified that last week's isolated occurrence had nothing to do with the Board's decision to increase the recreation user fee. Also, even though the manager/custodian contract cost had been substantially reduced from the previous year, the Board saw approximately 8 revenue generating hall rentals last year as most of the Recreation Committee events held did not pay a hall rental fee. Ms. Gaudette went on to explained that for these reasons coupled with the steady rise in the cost of utilities such as Hydro and Propane, the Board had no choice but to increase the user fee to the recreation user fee budget. Ms. Gaudette reminded the public that they had enjoyed a 0% increase to all User Fees budgets for the past two years and that it would not be prudent to continue as this would eventually affect the Board's eligibility for grants on which they relied greatly to correct items listed on the Asset Management Plan.
- Q. Mr. Homer Vine asked how much the Board currently has in its Reserve account?
- A. Ms. Gaudette stated that although she did not have that specific number in front of her at this time, she estimated that the Board had approximately \$40,000.00 in the Reserve account. She went on to explain that the Board has continued the practice of setting aside monies every fiscal year to the Reserve account from each budget to cover things such as water/sewer breaks, and other various capital expenditures that may arise. The Board had been very fortunate in the the past few years to not having had any water/sewer breaks but, as auditor, Mr. Paul Rokerby, had explained during his presentation of the Board's financials last year, it would be prudent to have a much higher reserve in the event that the Board met with larger issues.
- Q. Mr. Edward Benson asked why the Board had not made any repairs to the Helipad as of yet?
- A. Ms. Gaudette stated that a few years ago, the Board had repaired and replaced the patio stones at the landing site and that the Board inspects the site annually, usually in the Spring, to ensure that the site is fully maintained and operational.
- Q. Mr. Edward Benson asked what else was considered repair and maintenance where it concerned the Helipad?
- A. Ms. Gaudette stated that other than the patio stones, there were the lights and reflective cones, the stands on which the lights were mounted, and any other physical aspects related to the Helipad's functionality and proper operation as defined in the ORNGE/GLSB Agreement.
- Q. Mr. Edward Benson asked if the Board had any plans for repairs to the Helipad this fiscal year?
- A. Ms. Gaudette stated that yes, the Board did have plans for various repairs and maintenance to the Helipad this year but these plans require to have to wait until Spring.

- Q. Mr. Paul Veronneau asked if Ms. Gaudette could confirm that the Board has in fact carried over monies to the Reserve account?
- A. Ms. Gaudette stated that she can confirm that the Board has carried money over to the Reserve account but that this carry over does not impact User Fees. Ms. Gaudette went on to state that where the Library is concerned, the Board does not budget fundraising monies therefore, is not included and does not impact User Fees.
- Q. Mrs. Magda Benson asked for clarification on the previous year's revenue for hall rentals, why was it only \$1000.00?
- A. Ms. Gaudette clarified that although there were numerous activities and events that took place during the 2016/2017 fiscal year, only 5 of those events generated hall rental fees and 1 event was cancelled and reimbursed. The remainder of the events were those hosted by the Recreation Committee, such as Bingos, Children's Halloween Party, Children's Christmas Party and Children's Easter Egg Brunch. The Board did incur the cost for utilities during these events with no hall rental fees collected to offset costs.
- Ms. Gaudette went on to explain that the recreation budget has been budgeted the same every year for several years now and the Board felt it necessary to propose an increase to the recreation budget this year.
- Q. Mr. Edward Benson asked why the Board felt the need for a 30% increase to the recreation budget?
- A. Ms. Gaudette explained that the Board has been running in the deficit for at least 3 years and the increase in cost for propane, snow removal and hydro merited the increase.
- Q. Mr. Edmond Chenier asked if this deficit was caused by the actions of the 2016/2017 Board?
- A. Ms. Gaudette stated that this was a result of a compound issue and not the result of the actions taken by the any specific Board.
- Q. Mr. Paul Veronneau asked if the \$1897.00 the amount by which the Board is in the deficit?
- A. Ms. Gaudette stated that no, this is what is used from the Reserve account to balance the budget this year. She further explained that there just isn't any more extra money and this was the reason for the Board's request to increase these specific User Fees.
- Q. Mr. Edward Benson asked why this carry over in this budget?
- A. Ms. Gaudette stated that this carry over was not necessarily from last year's budget but rather from previous years overall.

- Q. Mr. Edward Benson asked if there was a way to see where the money was spent last year specifically?
- A. Ms. Gaudette explained that she did not have that specific number in front of her at this time but can confirm that it was much higher than \$1897.00.
- Q. Mr. Paul Veronneau asked if Ms. Gaudette could confirm that the entire carry over of \$1897.00 was applied?
- A. Ms. Gaudette stated that not the entire amount was put on the community this year, only 3% was applied.
- Q. Mr. Gerry Talbot asked if the Garbage Collection/Disposal contractor had provided an explanation to the Board for his increase?
- A. Ms. Gaudette explained that Garbage Collection/Disposal is a fairly new service and is not funded by the government at all therefore, it is 100% funded by the community. Ms. Gaudette confirmed for public that the contractor had provided the Board with numerous reasons for requesting an increase in cost, more specifically, his increase in insurance cost due to new MNRF compliances, equipment repairs, and newly enforced MOECC rules and regulations.
- Q. Mr. Gerry Talbot asked if there were a lot of services and paid items that are currently being paid by the Gogama Fire Department?
- A. Ms. Gaudette confirmed that the Gogama Fire Department have been and continue to be quite generous in their contributions to the community in ways of services and that there are several things that the Gogama Fire Department owns as costs, such as the daily operation & maintenance of the second building adjacent to the main fire hall building.
- Q. Mr. Edward Benson asked what the Board's plans were for the user fees collected?
- A. Ms. Gaudette explained the Board's Asset Management Plan to the public and stated that user fees collect go towards being able to upgrade, repair and maintain Board assets. Ms. Gaudette went on to explain that unfortunately, user fees by themselves aren't enough to cover all costs for all projects currently on the Board's Asset Management Plan which is why the Board is working diligently in making applications for various grants available every year in order to dedicate more money to this list.
- Q. Mr. Paul Veronneau asked how long the Asset Management Plan had been in place?
- A. Ms. Gaudette stated the Asset Management Plan had been in place for 4 years but that only minor projects had been addressed in the past and this year the Board is focused on completing some of the major projects.

- Q. Mrs. Donna Garreau asked who did consulting and inspections for the Board and are they qualified consultants?
- A. Ms. Gaudette explained that the Board had retained the services of certified engineers in the past and that she, by bid, had been retained by the Board to perform the inspection. She went on to explain that in the Asset Management Plan, all structural and engineering recommendations had been made by the group of engineers and that general inspections not related to structural or engineering matters had been inspected by her. She stated that for the items she was asked to inspect, the Board did ensure that she held the required experience and qualifications to complete the task. Ms. Gaudette confirmed that the Board had always done their due diligence in ensuring that properly qualified consultants were brought in.
- Q. Ms. Donna Garreau asked why the cost for the internet at the water treatment plant was so high? She stated that her home internet only cost annually does not come close the amount spent on internet by the Board.
- A. Ms. Gaudette explained that this cost is for multiple lines, one being the regular internet line and the other being a dedicated line for the remote monitoring equipment installed in the facility.
- Ms. Gaudette touched on the grants the Board had been successful in obtaining to date, more specifically the OCIF grant from OMAFFRA. She explained the Board had been granted an extra 3 years at \$50,000.00 each year and that these funds were being used to pay OCWA's consulting fees for the operation and maintenance of the water/sewer plants. She also stated that the Board had applied for and was successful in obtaining a CWWF grant in the total amount of \$96,000.00. She explained that these funds would cover the cost for 5 projects that were water/sewer related this year. This grant was comprised of a provincial portion, a federal portion and lastly, a community contribution portion of 10%. She explained that not all grants came without community contributions requirements, in fact, most grants required between 10 – 35% as a community contribution and this money would need to come from the Board's budget.
- Q. Mr. Edward Benson asked if the Board was taking the \$24,000.00 community contribution out of the \$40,000.00 Reserve Account?
- A. Ms. Gaudette explained that no, the \$40,000.00 in the reserve account was after the CWWF community contribution portion had been calculated.
- Q. Mr. Gerry Talbot stated that by his observations, there appeared to be a lot of carry overs done within this budget, could Ms. Gaudette confirm that this has not always been the case?
- A. Ms. Gaudette stated that yes, Mr. Talbot's observations were correct, she confirmed that the previous Board had not spent a lot of money last year on items outside of operational expenses therefore the funds from that budget carried over into this budget in order to

minimize the amount of increases. This is why the Board is proposing increases to only the Garbage Collection/Disposal and Recreation user fees budgets and not all user fees.

Q. Mr. Gerry Talbot asked why the Board was waiting so long to put the money into the Reserve account?

A. Ms. Gaudette stated that the Board has been diligent in putting money in the Reserve Account every year.

Having no further questions from the public, Ms. Gaudette explained that the public would now be asked to vote on the matters of the user fees increase for the Garbage Collection/Disposal and Recreation budgets only. She explained that the public would need to choose whether the vote would be conducted by show of hands or secret ballot vote. By show of hands, Ms. Gaudette identified that the majority of the public had selected to vote by show of hands.

On the matter of the increase in user fees for the Garbage Collection/Disposal budget, the vote was counted by the Secretary and was announced at 39 votes yes and 2 votes no.

On the matter of the increase in user fees for the Recreation budget, the vote was counted by the Secretary and was announced at 33 votes yes and 13 votes no. The Secretary identified a discrepancy in the total number of votes for this increase as there appeared to have been several people who voted both yes and no therefore a recount of the no vote was redone and the final vote was announced at 33 votes yes and 8 votes no.

The Chairperson asked for a Board motion to accept the public vote results approving the user fees increases for the Garbage Collection/Disposal and Recreation Budgets.

The motion to accept the public vote results approving the user fees increases for the Garbage Collection/Disposal and Recreation Budgets was moved by Gilles Veronneau and seconded by Daniel Mantha. **Motion Carried**

The Chairperson asked for a motion to approve by-law #2017-2018-19 Annual Budget Estimates.

The motion to approve the by-law #2017-2018-19 Annual Budget Estimates was moved by Michel Veronneau and seconded by Rachelle Minarik. **Motion Carried**

The Chairperson asked for a motion to approve by-law #2017-2018-20 OPTA User Fees.

The motion to approve by-law #2017-2018-20 OPTA User Fees was moved by Rachelle Minarik and seconded by Daniel Mantha. **Motion Carried**

The Chairperson asked for a motion to approve by-law #2017-2018-21 Service Fees.

The motion to approve by-law #2017-2018-21 Service Fees was moved by Daniel Mantha and seconded by Gilles Veronneau. **Motion Carried**

7. Adjournment

Having concluded the 2017-2018 Annual Budget Estimates and User Fees Approval meeting, the Chairperson thanked the public for their attendance and participation and asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

The motion to adjourn the 2017-2018 Annual Budget Estimates and User Fees Approval meeting at 8:20 P.M. was moved by Gilles Veronneau and seconded by Rachelle Minarik. **Motion Carried**


Christine Bedard
Secretary
Andre Jodouin
Chairperson