

Local Services Board of Gogama
Board Budget Estimates Meeting – November 30th, 2015
Gogama Community Centre – 7:00 p.m.

1. Call meeting to order at 7:00 and roll call

Attendance:

Andre Jodouin - Chairperson & presiding
Claude Secord – Vice Chairperson
Gilles Veronneau– Board Member

By teleconference:

Michel Veronneau – Board Member
Roxanne Veronneau – Board Member

Gerry Talbot – Secretary
Natalie Gaudette – Treasurer

2. **NSBA interpretation art 4 (a):** The secretary distributed a copy of an article taken from the NSBA Act and the LSB for Inhabitants to show the definition of rates, levies and fees as it pertains to User Fees. The board reviewed the articles and concluded that they were not necessarily clear enough for the Board to reference them and put them into action especially Article 23-4 (a). The Treasurer suggested to the board members to obtain legal interpretation from MNDM in order to eliminate any guessing as to the interpretation of the article. The board members agreed and directed the secretary to obtain the legal interpretation.

3. **Time constraint for public budget estimate meeting mail out:** The board discussed the timely delivery of the budget meeting mail out to all seasonal residents and due to time constraints for the meeting opted not to move forward with the seasonal resident mail out. The Board agreed to carry out a local mail out only. The chairperson asked for a motion not to send meeting notifications to seasonal residents.

Moved by Mike Veronneau seconded by Roxanne Veronneau
Carried

Motion

4. **The chairperson proceeded to ask the Treasurer to present the revised proposed budget estimates and User Fees:** The treasurer reported to the Board:

- recommend cutting the proposed User Fees presented at the November 26/15 meeting by 50%
- The revised residential rate would decrease by 50% from the proposed User Fees presented at the November 26th budget meeting.
- The monies contributing to the decrease would come from the OCIF Formula Base Funding grant causing the proposed \$10,000.00 valve repair project to be cancelled for 2015-2016.
- Ms, Gaudette suggested that the \$15,000.00 Lagoon brush clearing project remain intact due to the recommendation by MOE to clear trees and brush from the lagoon cells.

- Surplus dollars carry over and use of reserve funds being directed to the User Fees.
- Mr. Talbot mentioned to the board members that the Base Formula Funding guidelines permitted using some of the OCIF monies to be used to pay for third party managing of the town water/sewage system.
- Mrs. Veronneau asked if the Board has to hold a public meeting to approve the User Fees. The Treasurer responded that until an interpretation of the NSBA article 23-4 (a) is obtained from MNDM, the board proceed with the public meeting vote.
- Mr. Talbot mentioned that Mr. Richard-MNDM officer mentioned that the current process being used by the board is the preferred options.
- Ms. Gaudette asked for feedback on the information provided.

The board members discussed the details provided by Ms. Gaudette and proceeded to determine the course of action to be taken regarding the proposed User Fees. The comments varied from:

- Agree that the valve repair project could be put on hold for one year
- The monies would be coming from a grant program and not the base budget
- Leave the proposed User Fees as presented at the November 26th budget meeting

The chairperson asked for a motion to approve the revised User Fees decrease of 50% for the Water and Sewage fees.

Moved by Claude Secord seconded by Mike Veronneau
Carried

Motion

5. Setting date of Budget Estimates/User Fees public meeting: The Board discussed the proposed date of December 4th for the public budget estimates meeting but decided that December 7th would be better allowing for the attendance of all board members at the meeting. The chairperson asked for a motion to approve the date of December 7th for the next public budget meeting.

Moved by Roxanne Veronneau seconded by Mike Veronneau
Carried

Motion

6. Monies received from CN for hall rentals: The Treasurer reported to the board members of a request made by Tracy Smith at the November 26th public budget meeting to communicate to the people of the community how much money was paid to the Board for hall rental by CN and what was done with the money. The request also mentioned that the information should appear on the general mail out. The board discussed the matter and agreed to the suggestion. The chairperson asked for a motion to approve including the information on the mail out.

Moved by Mike Veronneau seconded by Claude Secord
Carried

Motion

7. Local mail out information: The board members discussed what information should appear on the local mail out and agreed to include the revised 2015-2016 User Fee structure the

particulars of the meeting and include the hall rental information. All of the budget sheets would not be included as they had been included in the original mail out . The chairperson asked for a motion to approve the process of information.

Moved by Mike Veronneau seconded by Claude Secord
Carried

Motion

8. Water sampling frequency of town water: The board members discussed a request made at the November 26th meeting by Paul Secord to ask CN or MOE if they would test the town water for a period of one year at monthly intervals and that costs be the responsibility of CN or MOE. At the November 26th meeting, the Board agreed that they would ask CN or MOE if they would carry out the monthly sampling for a period of one year. The secretary was directed to contact CN and MOE and make the request stating that an answer was being requested before the December 7th budget meeting.

9. Notification to Gilles Veronneau by phone of the proceedings of this meeting: Mr. Talbot reported to the board members that he would be calling Gilles Veronneau to update him of the details of this meeting. The call was made and Gilles Veronneau was updated about the details of the meeting.

-10.0 Adjournment:

-Having no more business to discuss, the chairperson asked for a motion to adjourn.

Moved by Claude Secord to adjourn the meeting.

Gerry Talbot
Secretary

Andre Jodouin
Chairperson