



## MUNICIPALITY OF ARRAN-ELDERSLIE

### Special Council Meeting

### MINUTES

**Meeting No. 5-2023**  
**Tuesday, March 7, 2023, 5:30 p.m.**  
**Council Chambers**  
**1925 Bruce Road 10, Chesley, ON**

Council Present: Mayor Steve Hammell  
Deputy Mayor Jennifer Shaw  
Councillor Ryan Nickason  
Councillor Darryl Hampton  
Councillor Brian Dudgeon  
Councillor Moiken Penner  
Councillor Peter Steinacker

Staff Present: Sylvia Kirkwood - CAO  
Christine Fraser-McDonald - Clerk  
Julie Hamilton - Deputy Clerk  
Scott McLeod - Public Works Manager  
Tracey Neifer - Treasurer  
Carly Steinhoff - Recreation Manager  
Pat Johnston - Chief Building Official  
Steve Tiernan - Fire Chief - present electronically

#### 1. Call to Order

Mayor Hammell called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. A quorum was present.

#### 2. Adoption of Agenda

Council passed the following resolution:

**68-05-2023**

**Moved by:** Councillor Dudgeon

**Seconded by:** Councillor Nickason

Be It Resolved that the agenda for the Special Council Meeting of March 7, 2023 be received and adopted, as distributed by the Clerk.

**Carried**

### 3. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

None at this time.

### 4. New Business

#### 4.1 Hamilton Street Tender Update

Works Manager, Scott McLeod and GSS Engineer Rakesh Sharma, updated council regarding the Hamilton Street Tender.

The Municipality received approval for a watermain grant on Hamilton Street through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP). This was based on past watermain breaks, frozen lines and undersized water lines.

The Municipality also received funding to support the installation of three splashpad projects. The splashpad is proposed to be placed at the entrance to the ball diamond along Hamilton Street. The splashpad requires a two-inch water service which is not available at this time along Hamilton Street.

Due to resident concerns and budget constraints, staff is proposing the watermain be replaced from John Street to Mary Ann Street.

Subsequent to further discussion, Council passed the following resolution:

#### **69-05-2023**

**Moved by:** Councillor Steinacker

**Seconded by:** Councillor Dudgeon

Be it Resolved that the Council of the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie directs staff to proceed with Alternative # 2 (watermain complete, asphalt patching from John to Mary Ann Street. Stormwater, road base, grading and paving from Mary Ann to dead end, \$1,015,068.00) regarding the Hamilton Street Watermain Replacement, Storm Sewer and Road Project in Tara.

**Carried**

### 5. Delegation

#### 5.1 Michael Barrett - CEO South Bruce Grey Health Centre

Michael Barrett, CEO of the South Bruce Grey Health Centre gave an update to Council.

Mr. Barrett noted that on December 5th, 2022, the Chesley hospital Emergency Department (ED) resumed service five (5) days per week, Monday to Friday, during the hours of 7:00am to 5:00pm. They do not anticipate a change to current level of service in the immediate future.

At this time, staffing resources in Chesley remain stable, but precarious, and heavily reliant on agency nurses.

The Ontario Government Programs are available to new graduates which includes New Graduate Guarantee Program (NGG), a Tuition Support Program (TSPN), Community Commitment Program for Nurses (CCPN) and a Learn and Stay Program (new Spring of 2023) as well as a Supervised Practice Experience Partnership (SPEP).

There is a Chesley Working Group is comprised of SBGHC leadership, Chesley site physicians, and community and hospital foundation representatives.

The recommendation of this group is to communicate to the public that seeking health care should not be delayed until the Chesley ED is open, and that efforts continue to increase hours of operation.

There are opportunities for:

- X-Ray Suite Replacement and Renovation at a cost of \$1.1M (to be completed 2024)
- Community support needed to fund this project
- Continued strong support from the Chesley Foundation
- Call for membership on SBGHC Board of Directors
- Community support – galas, fundraisers

He noted that there are very few nurses to fill the vacant positions.

Council thanked Mr. Barrett for his presentation.

## **6. Public Meeting(s)**

### **6.1 2023 Draft Budget**

#### **6.1.1 SRFIN.23.09 – 2023 Operating and Capital Budget for Public Presentation**

Treasurer Tracey Neifer gave her presentation to Council regarding the 2023 Budget.

She noted that there is a 6% tax rate increase. This means that a property that is valued at \$170,521 would have a tax increase of \$80.92.

If Council did use a 7% increase in order to put more money into reserves for bridge repair, then the tax rate increase for a house valued at \$170,521 would be \$94.41.

The municipal budget for operations in 2023 reflects a tax levy increase of \$458,150 which requires a tax rate increase of 6.0% to

achieve a balanced budget. It has been past practice to transfer funds to reserves annually to offset the year's capital budget. In 2021, the budget for reserves was \$1,014,772, for 2022 \$1,041,608, and for 2023 \$1,126,719 to include a 6.0% increase.

The allocation of the tax dollar remains consistent between 2022 and 2023 with the top areas being Policing, Recreation and Transportation Services, representing 78 cents in 2022 and 74 cents in 2023 for every dollar of taxation raised.

The tax requirement for Municipal Services has increased by 8.1% (\$488,947).

Protection Services represents 28.77% (2022 - 30.49%) of the municipal services budget, largely due to the cost of Police Services which are more than \$1M. Overall budget in this area is 2.01% increase or \$37,023.

Transportation Services includes all aspects of road maintenance, streetlights, and salt/snow plowing, as well as the Municipality's contribution to SMART (Saugeen Mobility & Regional Transit), representing 41.29% (2022 - 40.87%) of the municipal services budget and a 9.24% or \$227,783 budget increase.

Environmental Services, in 2022 this represented a small percentage of the municipal services budget, 0.46%, whereas in 2023, this area is revenue generating of \$1,627, so not a draw on taxation. Overall, the budget has decreased by \$29,394. This is largely attributed to a revenue increase in Garbage Collection, and expense savings in both Waste Disposal and Recycling.

Health Services includes the cemeteries in Arran, Chesley, Elderslie, Paisley and Tara, the medical clinics in Chelsey and Paisley, and the costs related to Physician Recruitment and attribute to 0.77% (2022 - 0.74%) of the municipal services budget. An overall budget increase of 12.21% or \$5,524.

Recreation Services includes programs, ball fields, splashpads, facilities, libraries, museum, and day camps, representing 16.23% (2022 - 18.32%) of the municipal services budget and a 4.83% or \$54,153 budget decrease. The budget decrease is attributed to a number of areas as seen below, and is represented by an increase in revenue \$46,865 (7.7%) and \$65,101 (6.1%) decrease in wages and benefits, and an increase in operating expenses of \$22,142 (3.2%).

Planning and Economic Development also includes tile drainage, zoning, gravel pits and our downtown decorations, which

represents 5.09% (2022 – 4.39%) of the municipal services budget and a 24.48% or \$65,808 budget increase. That largest increase is attributed to zoning and downtown decorations.

The budget presented for 2023 includes a realignment of services to better reflect the management and alignment of services for Building and By-law Enforcement. In addition to the two areas previously presented as Building Services, Building Permits and Property Standards, the budget now includes Animal Control and By-law Enforcement. The two departments, Property Standards and By-law Enforcement have been merged into one. The area of By-law Enforcement is operated in accordance with the Municipal Act, whereas Building Permits is governed by the Building Code Act.

Water and Sewer Services are self-funded through the user fees charged to the property owners for the use of the respective systems. Council formally adopted Financial Plans for the period 2021-2026. Staff have reviewed the plans and updated the respective operating budgets where required.

### **70-05-2023**

**Moved by:** Councillor Nickason

**Seconded by:** Councillor Penner

Be It Resolved that Council hereby,

1. Supports the 2023 Operating and Capital Budget as presented on March 7, 2023 and further directs staff to bring back a final budget report and a by-law to adopt the 2023 Budget at the next available Council meeting.

**Carried**

## **6.2 Draft Fees and Charges By-law**

### **6.2.1 SRFIN.23.06 Fees and Charges By-Law for 2023**

Subsequent to further discussion, Council passed the following resolution:

### **71-05-2023**

**Moved by:** Councillor Dudgeon

**Seconded by:** Deputy Mayor Shaw

Be it Resolved that Council directs staff to bring back a by-law to adopt the 2023 Fees and Charges By-law at the next available Council meeting.

**Carried**

**7. Confirming By-law**

**7.1 Confirming By-law 16-2023**

Subsequent to further discussion, Council passed the following resolution:

**72-05-2023**

**Moved by:** Councillor Hampton

**Seconded by:** Councillor Steinacker

Be It Resolved that By-law No. 16-2023 be introduced and read a first, second and third time, signed by the Mayor and Clerk, sealed with the Seal of the Corporation, and engrossed in the By-law Book.

By-law 16-2023 being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Special Council meeting of the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie held March 7, 2023.

**Carried**

**8. Adjournment**

Subsequent to further discussion, Council passed the following resolution:

**73-05-2023**

**Moved by:** Councillor Hampton

**Seconded by:** Councillor Penner

Be It Resolved that the meeting be adjourned to the call of the Mayor at 8:15 p.m.

**Carried**

**9. List of Upcoming Council meetings**

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Steve Hammell, Mayor

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Christine Fraser-McDonald, Clerk