

THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF SPRINGFIELD

SPECIAL MEETING

MONDAY, MAY 11, 2009

Present: Councillor Bob Bodnaruk
Councillor Karen Lalonde
Councillor Brian Thompson
Councillor Ken Lucko
Councillor Lorne Vaags
Larry Tetrault, Chief Administrative Officer
Randall Znamirovski, Chief Financial Officer
Colleen Draper, Recording Secretary

Absent: Reeve Peter Skrupski

Deputy Reeve Vaags called the public hearing portion of the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

09-230 VAAGS
THOMPSON

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Agenda be approved as presented. CARRIED (5-0)

OPENING REMARKS

Deputy Reeve Vaags thanked everyone in attendance for taking an interest in the Financial Plan. He thanked the Chief Financial Officer and Chief Administrative Officer for all of their hard work to prepare for the hearing.

The CAO welcomed everyone to the 2009 Operating Budget and 2010-2014 Capital Budget Presentation. He noted that the CFO would provide a detailed overview of the changes in the financial plan from the first copy distributed on April 27 and that at the conclusion of the presentation there would be a question/answer period.

The CFO gave a detailed overview of the budgeted and capital expenditures, reserves and five year capital plan proposed by Council in the 2009 Financial Plan accompanied with a power point presentation. He advised that the audited financial statements were not yet available and would be presented at a separate meeting as final entries were still being reviewed.

Darryl Speer addressed Council regarding the lack of funds provided for water protection. He requested that Council act on their resolution to hire an environmental consultant to inspect gravel pits and ensure the water is being protected.

Council noted that funds were not put in the plan as they feel that it is Provincial jurisdiction. \$80,000 is budgeted for the municipal wells and daily water and well testing.

Peter Williams addressed Council regarding cost effectiveness and essential services. He questioned why the fire hall was not built in the Industrial Area as originally planned and what the money in the 5 year capital plan under Fire hall was intended for.

Council advised him that it was decided to enter into a three year lease for a 2-stall building within the Industrial Area with enough room for a fire truck and sanding truck or plow because it was believed to be more cost effective. Money in the 5 year capital plan is for a proposed fire hall in Cook's Creek and a new fire hall in Oakbank.

Keith Sharpe addressed Council regarding the regional lagoon expansion that was completed in 2004/2005. He questioned why it is being expanded already when it should have lasted at least 10 years. Council advised Mr. Sharpe that Water Services Board had used old data during the expansion of the lagoon and that the money was put in the financial plan so that if grants become available the municipality could apply for them.

Mr. Sharpe also addressed the drainage issue in Dugald. He noted that over \$6 million is proposed to be spent over the next 2 years for the proposed Springfield Centre however money can not be found to fix the long standing drainage issue in Dugald. Council advised Mr. Sharpe that money is in the budget to acquire land in Dugald to help correct the drainage issues.

Linda Hanson addressed Council regarding the proposed assisted living home in Dugald. She questioned whether Council was comfortable putting a senior's home close to a railroad track. Ms. Hanson also questioned Council whether land would be available for the ambulance building and when it would be built as well as what type of audit Council receives for \$7,000.00.

Heather Erickson asked for a breakdown of where the \$2,000,000.00 allocated for Springfield Recreational Facilities is going to. Council explained that various community groups can come to Council throughout the year to request support.

Darryl Speer addressed Council regarding aquifer protection and why he was told by Council that he had to wait for the 2009 budget for monies and now nothing is in place. He asked when Council decided to not go ahead with the environmental assessment.

Council advised Mr. Speer that the municipality feels that the Province has jurisdiction over water protection and that it is cost prohibitive for the municipality to take it on.

Janet Nylen addressed Council with several concerns.

- Sale of gravel - is the sale of gravel limited or does the municipality sell as much as they like?
- Land sales - clarification of \$280,000, asked Council to consider creating a land ledger that would be available to the public
- Procurement Policy - tender costs are not known, should be available
- Road maintenance labour should be shown on separate line
- Capital Projects - What capital projects weren't completed and carried over? Feels they are being taxed twice for the same projects.
- Debenture debt - clarification on whether it has been paid off yet
- Mill rate increase over last two years, should be kept the same
- Collection of garbage - asked that this be broken down into two lines, contracted vs. landfill costs
- Penalty rates and business taxes should be lowered
- Newsletter should go out to residents
- Provide a hazardous waste day
- Increase scope of audit

The Chair closed the portion of the Public Hearing.

Financial Plan

Councillor Bodnaruk asked for clarification on the added tax and gravel sales amounts.

- 09-231 VAAGS THOMPSON BE IT RESOLVED THAT council adopt the financial plan for 2009 consisting of:
- a) an operating budget;
 - b) a capital budget;
 - c) an estimate of operating revenue and expenditures for the following fiscal year;
 - d) a five year capital expenditure program.
- CARRIED (3-2)

BY-LAWS

By-Law #09-06 - Rates of Taxation

- 09-232 THOMPSON LALONDE BE IT RESOLVED THAT first reading be given to By-Law No. 09-06 being a By-Law of the Rural Municipality of Springfield to establish rates of taxation and impose taxes for 2009.
- CARRIED (3-2)

ADJOURNMENT

VAAGS That this meeting stands adjourned the time being 10:40 p.m.

CARRIED (5-0)

Lorne Vaags
Deputy Reeve

Laurent Tetrault
Chief Administrative Officer