

TOWN OF THORSBY
MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
March 19, 2019
7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Rod Raymond
Deputy Mayor Ivor Foster
Councillors: Cory Gilbert
Nathan Raymond
Ken Poffenroth - attended electronically

CAO/Town Manager: Christine Burke
CFO Fay Purdie

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of Council was called to order by Mayor Raymond at 7:02 p.m.

2. AGENDA ADDITIONS / DELETIONS / ADOPTION

Additions/changes

- Discussion item 5.5 May Long Weekend
- Discussion item 5.6 Economic Development Conference Banff
- Discussion item 5.7 Library Budget
- Discussion item 5.8 Security
- Discussion item 5.9 Spring Leadership Conference and EOEP Training

2019-CoW08 Motion by Councillor Gilbert to accept the agenda as amended
Carried.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

None

4. DELEGATIONS

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

5.1 Utilities Update (Power and Gas)

CFO Purdey provided information to Council on the overage of costs in 2018 for utilities. Actual costs were over \$56,0000. The budget had been increased by distribution charges and carbon levy exceeded the 17% increase allowance that had been build in.

5.2 Skid Steer financing

CFO Purdy advised Council that financing for the skid steer was now included in the budget presented to Council this evening.

5.3 2019 Budget

CFO Purdey presented to Council the updated 2019 budget which now incorporated actual costs for insurance and WCB, reduced revenue from property taxation based on latest assessed values, and increases to utilities based on actual 2018 experience and further expected increased distribution costs.

The budget presented was running at a \$71,055 deficit.

Council and administration jointly reviewed the budget and identified the following adjustments:

Reduce recreation advertising 2-12-220-00 by \$6,000 (focus on social media – not paper)
Reduce Bylaw Officer contract 2-26-526-00 by \$9,000 (vacant position savings)
Reduce Legal Fees 2-12-233-00 by \$10,000 (no major o/s legal matters)

Mill rate to be increased to realign property tax revenues by \$10,475 to 2018 levels

Remaining shortfall \$35,580 to be covered by transfer to operating from electrical franchise fee reserves to offset distribution cost increases.

5.4 Economic Development updates

CAO Burke presented draft terms of reference for the Thorsby Regional Economic Development Committee.

CAO Burke to clarify if the two council councillors who have previously attended meetings are sitting representing the County or County members at large.

CAO Burke provided copy of the article prepared for submission in this weeks Thorsby Target, regarding Economic Development updates.

5.5 May Long Weekend

Discussion occurred regarding timing of events and involvement of groups and outside parties in the decision-making process.

CAO Burke to call a joint meeting of various entities to ensure timing and smooth running of activities.

5.6 Economic Development Conference

Following recent developments on economic development a brief discussion occurred and it was agreed that EDC Rempel should attend the conference in place of CAO Burke.

5.7 Library Budget

Concerns were raised on behalf of the library board by Councillor Foster that the current library budget would mean a reduction in service by 100 hours for the year, following the introduction of the minimum wage to \$15.00

Based on budget difficulties discussed earlier in the meeting, Council were unable to consider the requested \$1,400 increase.

5.8 Security

Concerns were raised regarding security of Library staff working alone in the library behind the desk.

Council were advised an additional security camera had been installed that provided a visual on the library entrance and desk area from the corridor and options for personal alarms were already under review for all staff in the recreation complex, not just the library.

5.9 Spring leadership conference and EOEP training

CAO Burke followed up on previously offered conference - Spring Leadership Conference and Council EOEP training module – Council's role in Municipal Service Delivery. Council advised they still did not wish to attend.

5.9 Tie Dye Hockey Shirts

Information provided to C.A.O. Burke to progress

6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Council availability for Joint Public Hearing

C.A.O. Burke enquired as to any date limitations on Council availability for the joint public hearing with Leduc County for the IDP.

6.2 Council open house

Date set for May 1, availability of the Seniors Centre to be checked out.

7 CLOSED SESSION


None

8 ADJOURNMENT

2018-CoW09

Motion Deputy Mayor Foster to adjourn the Committee of the Whole at 9:47 p.m.

Carried



Rod Raymond, Mayor

Christine Burke, CAO

March 26, 2019

Date Adopted