

# Minutes

---

Special Meeting of Council  
Township of the North Shore  
Thursday, May 17, 2018  
7:00  
Municipal Office, Algoma Mills

## ATTENDANCE

Council:           Randi Condie- Mayor  
                      Barbara Barton - Councillor Ward 2  
                      Sandra Kilfoyl - Councillor Ward 1  
                      Joyce Robitaille- Ward 3  
                      Brenda Green- Councillor At Large

Staff:             Mary Lynn Duguay- Clerk

## CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Condie called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

## DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Mayor Condie requested those members present to declare any pecuniary interest with matters appearing on the agenda.

None were declared.

## PURPOSE:

Educational Session - Financial education - Powerpoint presentation by the Treasurer outlining various financial and budgetary reports.

Answers to Petition by Council:

### **1) With respect to the issue of assumption of 1km of Lau Camp Road**

Section 2.4 of the Official Plan sets out the goals of the Municipality. Specifically, section 2.4.4(d) indicates that it is a goal of the Municipality to upgrade and assume existing private roads into the municipal road system where appropriate.

The Municipality has developed a list of roads that are intended to be assumed and the Lau Camp Road was the first priority road identified, and as such, it was the decision of Council that this 1km section of road be assumed and upgraded.

A reason for the timing of this upgrade, is that the Municipality has no debt and has been putting significant funds into the reserve in an appropriate financial planning/management strategy. Recently, the Municipality has been unsuccessful in obtaining funding from the Province, which funding was specifically refused because the Municipality has "two much funds in reserves" and the Municipality was advised to use their own funds. As such, reserve funds were used for this upgrade in an effort to reduce the reserves to a point where municipal funding for projects will again begin to flow. As such, this assumption and upgrading is appropriately in accordance with the Official Plan and was funded through financial reserves.

## 2) Policing

The increase in costs with respect to policing has been imposed by the Provincial Government, not the Township.

In 2010, the policing costs for the Municipality was approximately \$150,000.00. Council was successful in negotiating a lower fee and the bill dropped to \$65,000.00 for 2011.

In 2015, the Province eliminated the ability to negotiate policing charges and the fee was \$80,025

In 2017, the fee for the Municipality was \$125,265.00.

There are two ways that the Municipality can recover the policing costs:

- i) Based on the assessed value of properties, and;
- ii) On a user fee charged per household. Council considered this issue and noted that if the police are called to respond to an emergency, they respond in the same manner regardless of the assessment of property. As such, Council made a decision to implement a uniform user fee per household for police service. This is the decision of Council and will not be revisited.

## 3) Lookout

Council decided to build a lookout in the Municipality overlooking Lake Huron and providing an opportunity for travelers on Highway 17 to stop and visit the Municipality. This will clearly have a benefit for businesses in the Municipality. Again, as indicated with respect to the Lau Camp Road, this was built with reserve funds. It has no impact on taxes apart from annual maintenance. It required no borrowing and the Municipality has no debt at present. This again will reduce reserves, minimally, but hopefully at a point where we can again achieve provincial funding for municipal projects.

## 4) Municipal Taxes

The issue of the 25% increase requires an analysis of tax rate history and also assessment events recently.

While it is true that there was a 25% increase in the tax rate, there has been a history in the Municipality of tax decreases. The tax rate increase is a direct result of an applied adjustment by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation which resulted in substantial decreases in assessments for many properties within the Municipality. As such, although the tax rate increased, the tax rate combined with the reduced assessment role, will produce a much lower increase in tax bills to municipal residents.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved By: Sandra Kilfoyl  
Seconded By: Joyce Robitaille

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this special meeting of Council be adjourned.

**"CARRIED"**

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

---

Randi Condie, Mayor

---

Mary Lynn Duguay, Clerk