



## Agenda

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Special Meeting of Council  
Corporation of the Township of The North Shore  
Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
6:00 PM

Township of the North Shore is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87247877579?pwd=FQAw2UNJ43HSXqDcsScljavcR1oK5a.1>

Meeting ID: 872 4787 7579  
Passcode: 665946

*This meeting is being held in a Hybrid setting. Attendees may choose to attend via ZOOM or in person in the Municipal Office Council Chambers located at 1385 Highway 17, Algoma Mills.*

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
3. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST
4. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATION
5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES
6. COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORT
7. REPORTS AND MOTIONS OF MUNICIPAL STAFF, COMMITTEES, AND COMMUNICATIONS
  - a) Draft Budget report
8. OLD BUSINESS (INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING WRITTEN LETTERS/REPORTS
  9. INTRODUCTION, READING AND CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS
10. NOTICES OF MOTION
11. QUESTION PERIOD
12. CLOSED SESSION
13. REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION
14. CONFIRMATORY BY-LAW
  - By-law 25-18 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting held April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025, be read a first, second and third time enacted and passed.
15. ADJOURNMENT



Prepared April 24, 2025

For Council meeting of April 29, 2025

## **Council Report**

**SUBJECT: DRAFT BUDGET**

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 1. That Council provide appropriate direction in the form of resolutions.**

**Information**

At the Council meeting of April 15, 2025, Members were asked to submit comments prior to the end of day, Monday April 21, 2025 and a report would be created to address concerns. One submission was received prior to the end of day, April 21, 2025 and an extension was requested for one further submission received in the evening of Tuesday, April 22, 2025. This report is intended to address concerns and provide Council a platform for further budget deliberations.

**General Statements**

At the December meeting of Council, a budget plan was presented to Council. This plan noted that the 2024 experience had many budget meetings that lasted less than 15 minutes. For this reason, it was proposed that for 2025, budget reports would be included in the agendas for regular sessions. There was no different direction provided when this report was presented for Council's deliberations and, as such, Staff proceeded as noted.

The meeting of February 5<sup>th</sup> included a report on the Capital Budget including unused (or deferred) Grant Revenue. The February 18<sup>th</sup> meeting included draft budgets for both the Capital and Operating Budgets and these reports discussed items such as Full Time Equivalent Staff and how these costs are proposed to be recorded, as well as a departmental overview of the expenditure side of the Operating Budget. Capital items were presented by project with funding allocations being used wherever possible.

As noted in previous reports, subject to adjustments as the 2024 audit is completed, the Township has reserves and reserve funds of \$676k as well as deferred revenue of \$800k (was reported as \$966k with the addition of the expected 2025 allocations included). Using NORDS, OCIF and Gas Tax Funds reduces the deferred revenue amounts. The last draft Capital budget presented for Council's consideration included a proposed transfer from reserves for capital purposes of \$126,250 which would reduce the \$676k figure above.

Also Contained in the second submission received are a couple references of Council having lost control of the budget.

### Road Priorities

To be clear, other than Riverview Road, there are no directions from Council to include other roads as priorities. The Lauzon Village Road became a priority reported to Council due to the condition of the culvert and as culvert replacements were the priority noted in the draft capital budget (use of grant revenue) the replacement of the culvert on Wagoosh Road was included as a project. While there is no specific resolution declaring Handy Spot Road as a priority, it has been noted as requiring work through discussions and through road patrols and repairs.

### Handy Spot Road

As was noted during the meeting of April 16<sup>th</sup>, following the presentation of the new surface treatment that was presented to Council, should Council be of the mind to consider trying this product that Handy Spot Road may be the best area for this test project. Other than receiving a rough estimate from the supplier, there has been no other costing completed. So yes, the \$200k included in the draft Capital budget could be considered a placeholder. What seems to be forgotten is that Staff added this project in case Council wanted to try this new product. If Council does not want to try this product it can simply be removed.

### Fire Communication System

It is true that this has been budgeted for a few years although the project is still outstanding as was explained at the meeting at the meeting of April 16<sup>th</sup>. While the amount budgeted for 'funded from reserves' included the \$15,000 in this budget line, funds are only transferred from reserves as projects are completed. So, although this has been included in the budget, the funds to complete the project remain in reserves until the project is completed.

### Bunker Gear

Yes, there were two sets of Bunker Gear purchased last year and this budget proposes the purchase to two more sets of Bunker Gear. Bunker Gear is sized to the wearer and given that we added recruits last year, adding two sets of Bunker Gear this year will still leave us 2 units short. Also, Bunker Gear has a estimated life of 10 years. If there were no changes in the personnel complement, each year, an average of 1.4 units would need to be replaced based on 14 Volunteers.

### Streetlights

There are three, perhaps four locations that are mentioned in passing. Some of these do require the input and approval of Corridor Management of the Ministry of Transportation and could quite possibly be their responsibility. For the Sunnyside Drive, the 2024 budget estimate was one prepared by the former Treasurer. The quote received for this light was \$8,600 plus the cost of a pole leading to the updated estimate of \$13,500.

As for the other streetlight locations, other than mentioning in passing there has been no direction from Council regarding their inclusion nor has there been any estimates received. This also seems to be a moving target with different lights being mentioned. We could add two more locations, with Council direction and then Staff could have discussions with Corridor Management and obtain estimates as appropriate. While the amounts in this case would, once again, be placeholders, the estimates would be based on previous knowledge. By including the estimates in the budget is an indication that Council has approved the project.

## Recreation

The Gazebo project was approved in the 2024 Capital budget. Only the materials were purchased with site preparation and other project costs remaining outstanding. The placement of the Gazebo became an issue so Staff are waiting for direction on where to place this and these costs estimates should remain in the budget until direction on where to place or to declare the materials surplus and sell comes from Council.

Council Travel – present estimate \$3,000 – Proposed \$500

Council Seminars and Workshops – present estimate \$10,000 – Proposed \$5,000

The reason for the increase was due to comments at a Council meeting that Council could look at some professional assistance for teambuilding exercises. If Council is of the opinion that this type of service will not be sought then it could be removed from the proposed budget

Integrity Commissioner – Present Estimate \$20,000 – Proposed \$10,000 (or 0)

One of the submissions received suggested removing this budget. One suggested keeping the budget at the 2024 level. The present estimate represented a little less than half of what was spent during 2024. While neither Council nor Staff have control over when complaints may be made or the validity of these complaints, the estimate was based on historical use. Council direction is required.

Consultants – present estimate - \$42,000

As explained at the February 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of Council, this amount is for the present Interim Treasurer with 0.5 FTE for a hired Treasurer included in estimates for Administration Salary and Benefits.

Administration – Materials and Supplies – present estimate \$2,000 – Proposed \$1,000

The increase is mostly related to consolidating other departments into the Administration Department. Cheques will most likely be required this year which typically adds \$800 to expenses.

Administration – Telephone – present estimate \$10,000

The increase of this line is related to incorporating the TELE department into administration. The TELE included internet connections.

Administration – Office Supplies – present estimates \$2,500 – Proposed \$1,500

Same comments as materials and supplies

Fire Department Wage – present estimate \$34,500 – Proposed \$23,500

As was explained in the operating budget report presented for Councils' consideration on February 18<sup>th</sup>, the present estimate was based on 14 Volunteers including the Chief and Officers. With \$2500 estimated per volunteer plus \$1,000 for the trainer and an additional \$3,500 for the Chief, the total is \$34,500. While last year the actual was \$23,640, it should also be remembered that there were several new recruits added in the last seven months of the year.

Included in this area is the concern that Volunteers that are also members of Staff are paid twice when they respond to a call during working hours. As has been explained several times as well as being included in the report from the Integrity Commissioner in December 2024, part-time staff are not paid for hours when on a fire call as an employee. For salaried personnel, Volunteer time available during working hours to the typical

Volunteer are not claimed when a call is received during normal working hours. Hopefully, this puts this to rest but the same explanation has been offered before.

#### Fire Materials and Supplies

While this was included in the reporting of the 2024 Q4 reporting, this year there was costs related to materials to support new recruits of \$497.96 and replacing first aid kits and AED batteries totalling \$530.00. The total of these is \$1,027.96.

#### Fire Heating Fuel – present estimate \$6,000 – Proposed \$4,000

Budget was left the same as previous years. The largest contributing factor to the cost of fuel is the average winter temperature.

#### Roads Wages

As noted in the Draft Operating Report presented for Council's consideration on February 18<sup>th</sup>, Roads and Recreation share 1.5 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) and the two students. This cost has been split equally between the Roads Department and the Recreation Department for budget purposes.

#### Roads Materials and Services – present estimate \$4,500 – Proposed \$2000

The 2024 actual was \$2,323 which is higher than the proposed amount from the member. Items in this account will fluctuate from year to year. Leaving the estimate as is would provide room to address needs should they arise during the year.

#### John Deere Backhoe – proposed estimate \$5,000 – Proposed \$2,500

As equipment ages there may be additional costs. With the policy of the municipality to transfer unspent amounts to reserves at the end of the year, what is not required to be spent in repairs and operating expenses would be transferred to future capital reserves.

#### Plow Truck

The 2024 amount reported of \$3,170 was for the old Yellow Plow Truck.

#### PW Vehicle – Dodge Ram

Last year, there were one-time repairs that were not known at budget time that were required to keep this vehicle in service. This became more important when there was a warranty repair on the GM that took a few months due to GM delays.

The repairs completed were brakes replaced, front axle shaft replaced, transmission lines replaced, heater core replaced and a used transmission.

This vehicle is intended to be a secondary vehicle and used mostly in the summer months transporting Students to grass cutting areas.

#### PW Vehicle #2 – GM 3500

This account accumulates all costs for the vehicle and plow unit including fuel, maintenance and repairs. With the Plow Truck taken out of service there was more use of this vehicle. This coupled with the price of fuel would account for the overage. With the new to us Plow Truck coming into service the use of this vehicle for winter events should be reduced.

### Landfill Wages

As explained in the Draft Operating Budget Report presented for Council's consideration at the meeting of February 18<sup>th</sup>, last year there was an allocation of other wages charged to this account. This year includes the part-time landfill attendant only.

### Landfill Monitoring and Reporting

Budget Estimate came from AECOM on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

Recreation – Materials and Supplies – present estimate \$2,500 – Proposed \$2,000  
Last year the actual was \$71 – Awaiting Council direction.

### Deer Trail Information Centre

We do have an agreement with the City of Elliot Lake concerning the use of this facility. In 2024, we charged a weekly maintenance charge.

Based on the term of the agreement, Council should have discussions on the future use and ownership of the facility. From a budget perspective, this is expected to be a break even proposal so these discussions do not have to be held prior to the approval of the budget.

### Rate from Blind River – Fire

Blind River Response Cost – There appears to be a lack of understanding on how different agreements work in a municipal context related to fire protection. There are Mutual aid Agreements, Automatic Aid agreements and coverage agreements. Mutual aid agreements are typically at no cost but with the understanding that our equipment and personnel will be at the ready should they be required to respond or assist in the response to a fire in a neighbouring jurisdiction. Automatic Aid agreements will dispatch equipment and personnel from a neighbouring jurisdiction at the same time our department is dispatched. Typically, these cover periods in the day (working hours for example) where our personnel are out of the municipality at their place of employment. These Automatic Aid agreements typically come with a previously agreed to hourly rate. The last type of agreement is a coverage agreement. This is where we would no longer have a department but, instead, coverage would be provided by another jurisdiction.

From this, it is not necessarily a simple task of providing a rate. With coverage agreements there are many different circumstances that need to be addressed by the Town of Blind River before they would agree to provide coverage and this could increase the initial costs based on negotiations.

As such, regardless the view of the Councillor, having a simple price is not so simple. Even with Automatic Agreements, while the hourly rate would be readily available, there is a process to reach an agreement which there may be costs to.

In order to provide an estimate, we can look at the rates the Ministry of Transportation provides for response to accidents along the King's Highways. These rates are per equipment which include a minimal personnel complement. This rate is updated each year and by type of equipment but the average appears to be \$550 per hour. So, the quick answer is that it would cost \$550 per hour per responding equipment for Blind River to respond to a fire in our municipality. This is dependant on Blind River agreeing to this and could have different coverages in difference parts of the municipality. The effect on homeowner's insurance is also something that should be consider if Council wishes to explore alternative options for fire protection.

### Assessment by Ward

This can be provided on Council direction. It is important to note that we have not, in the past, established budgets based on Wards and the Municipal Act require general levies be applied to all assessments on the basis of a weighted tax rate.

### GPS Tracking Unit

While still waiting for estimates for GPS Tracking for our equipment. Other items that should be considered is providing Council direction, especially to Staff to develop policies surrounding the use of GPS Tracking for our four pieces of equipment operated by, at most, two individuals at a time.

### Summary

What has never been confirmed is what Council would like to see the 2025 taxation be. The draft budget prepared and presented for Council's consideration on February 18<sup>th</sup> suggested a 2.9% increase in line with the Consumer Price Index but Council direction has never been received in this regard.

As is noted in every report included in Council Agendas, these are prepared for Council's consideration and deliberation. Budget reports, including recommendations on tax rates or budgeted amounts is the job of Staff while overall budget direction, requesting amendments is the role of Council. Both have a role to play in the creation of the annual budget.

Respectively Submitted

Craig Davidson, Interim Treasurer

**BY-LAW 25-18**

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF THE NORTH SHORE**

**Being a bylaw to confirm the proceedings of Council  
at its Special Council Meeting of April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025.**

**The Council of the Corporation of the Township of The North Shore hereby enacts as follows:**

WHEREAS Section 5(3) of the *Municipal Act, 2001, S. O. 2001, c.25*, as amended requires municipal Council to exercise a municipal power including a municipality's capacity, rights, powers and privileges under Section 9, by by-law unless the municipality is specifically authorized to do otherwise;

AND WHEREAS the Corporation of the Township of the North Shore deems it desirable to confirm the proceedings of Council at its Special Council Meeting of April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Township of the North Shore hereby enacts as follows:

1. That each motion, resolution, and other action passed and taken by the Council at its Special Council meeting of April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025, is hereby adopted, and ratified and confirmed.
2. The Head of Council and the proper officers of the Corporation of the Township of the North Shore are hereby authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to the said action or to obtain approval where required and except where otherwise provided, the Mayor and the Clerk, or if absent, the designate, are hereby directed to affix the Corporate Seal of the Municipality to all such documents.

**READ A FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME ENACTED AND FINALLY PASSED  
THIS 29<sup>th</sup> DAY OF APRIL 2025.**

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Tony Moor, Mayor

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Rachel Jean Schneider, Clerk/Deputy Treasurer