



Date: December 5, 2024
Time: 9:30 A.M.
Location: Haldimand County Administration Building - Council Chambers

Council Present S. Bentley, Mayor
J. Metcalfe, Councillor
D. Lawrence, Councillor
R. Shirton, Councillor
P. O'Neill, Councillor

Staff Present C. Case, Chief Administrative Officer
M. Evers, General Manager, Community & Development Services
T. Haedrich, General Manager, Engineering & Capital Works
M. Jamieson, General Manager, Corporate & Social Services
M. Merritt, General Manager, Financial & Data Services
D. McKinnon, General Manager, Public Works Operations
C. Burke, Senior Financial Analyst
T. El-Ahmed, Treasurer
H. Love, Supervisor, Budget & Financial Planning
C. Curtis, Municipal Clerk

A. Call to Order

Mayor Bentley called the Special Council meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

B. Land Acknowledgement

Councillor O'Neill read the Land Acknowledgement statement.

C. Roll Call

The Mayor and all Members of Council were in attendance except for Councillor Patterson.

D. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

None.

E. New Business

1 CLE-20-2024 Declaration of Vacant Council Seat

Council asked questions and received answers from staff regarding whether there would be sufficient time to address the Council vacancies at the next Council in Committee meeting.

Resolution 186-24

Moved By: Councillor O'Neill

Seconded By: Councillor Lawrence

1. THAT Report CLE-20-2024 Declaration of Vacant Council Seat be received;
2. AND THAT Council declare a vacancy of the Council seat for Ward 1.

CARRIED

2 2025 Draft Water and Wastewater Rate Supported Operating Budget and Capital Forecast

2.1 Opening Remarks

C. Case, Chief Administrative Officer, introduced the 2025 Draft Water and Wastewater Rate Supported Budget, and clarified that the rate supported budget does not receive any support from property taxes.

It was indicated that the average household can expect an increase of \$6.79 on their monthly water bill and that the main drivers of the increases to rates are:

- Changes to the modelling for consumption rates;
- Increases to costs of service provision;
- Changes to staffing to meet water compliance requirements;
- Changes to contractor costs; and
- Increased cost of water provided from Hamilton.

It was highlighted that, although the rate increases are higher than is typical, they are significantly less than neighbouring communities who are all anticipating double digit increases.

2.2 Overview of the Draft 2025 Rate Supported Budget

M. Merritt, General Manager, Financial & Data Services provided an overview of the budget, including drivers of the increases in cost, and spoke to the impact of inaccurate estimates of customers and consumption in previous years on the budget.

T. El-Ahmed, Treasurer, spoke to the new online budget book.

H. Love, Supervisor, Budget & Financial Planning reviewed the operating budget.

C. Burke, Senior Financial Analyst, reviewed the capital forecast document.

Council asked questions and received answers from staff regarding:

- Whether the federal gas tax fund is used to offset cost of water/wastewater, and whether this will change moving forward;
- The amount of cost recovery that is obtained from urban areas vs. industrial use;
- The impact of climate on the budget (wet vs. dry weather);
- The backflow program and how it is financed;
- Reporting and compliance requirements from the province;
- Water billing and options to offer electronic billing, align billing cycle to month end, or offer billing options directly from Haldimand County;
- Impact on costs if infrastructure was built to replace dependence on Hamilton water supply;
- Explanation of the costs associated with fire protection services;
- Details on the increase of costs for bulk water customers, and plans for a rate study;
- Plans to introduce payment options at the bulk water depots;
- The wastewater receiving station in Dunnville and plans to update/replace the facility; and
- Cost recovery of shared projects with Norfolk County.

Mayor Bentley called a recess at 10:51 a.m.

Council resumed at 11:02 a.m.

2.3 Resolution Approval

Resolution 187-24

Moved By: Councillor Metcalfe

Seconded By: Councillor Shirton

1. THAT the 2025 Draft Rate Supported Water and Wastewater Operating Budget and Capital Forecast be received;
2. AND THAT the 2025 Rate Supported Water Operating Budget be approved, with a net revenue requirement from user rates of \$8,982,040;
3. AND THAT the 2025 Rate Supported Wastewater Operating Budget be approved, with a net revenue requirement from user rates of \$8,142,900;
4. AND THAT any 2025 rate supported net operating surpluses/deficits be contributed to or from the Water or Sewer Rate Stabilization Reserves, to a maximum reserve balance of 25% of applicable rate revenue, with amounts exceeding 25% for four years in a row contributed to the applicable Capital Replacement Reserve Fund;
5. AND THAT the appropriate by-laws be passed to reflect changes in User Fees and Miscellaneous Charges, as identified in the 2025 Draft Rate Supported Water and Wastewater Operating Budget and Capital Forecast, effective January 1, 2025;
6. AND THAT the budgets and related financing be approved for the proposed 2025 water and wastewater capital expenditures, in the amount of \$11,578,930 with projected debenture financing of \$0;
7. AND THAT the Capital Forecast for Rate Supported Services, for the years 2026 to 2034 be approved in principle, in the amount of \$157,472,720 with projected debenture financing of \$0;
8. AND THAT Development Related Debt be issued on existing and future projects as outlined in the 2025 Draft Rate Supported Water and Wastewater Operating Budget and Capital Forecast;
9. AND THAT Council approves the Reserve Transfers as outlined in the approved budget document.

CARRIED

F. By-laws

- 1 By-law 2568/24 to establish water and wastewater fees and service charges and to repeal By-law 2479/23

Resolution 188-24

Moved By: Councillor Lawrence

Seconded By: Councillor O'Neill

THAT By-law 1, as listed, be enacted.

CARRIED

G. Confirming By-law

By-law 2569/24 to confirm the proceedings of Council of The Corporation of Haldimand County

Resolution 189-24

Moved By: Councillor Metcalfe

Seconded By: Councillor Shirton

THAT the Confirmation By-law for the December 5, 2024 Special Council meeting be enacted.

CARRIED

H. Adjournment

Resolution 190-24

Moved By: Councillor O'Neill

Seconded By: Councillor Shirton

THAT this meeting is now adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

CARRIED

MAYOR

CLERK