



Minutes of the Special Council Meeting

Place: Council Chambers, Zoom, streamed live to Facebook
Date: Wednesday, May 8, 2024
Presiding Officer: Mayor Greg Henley
Councillors Present: Deputy Mayor Arnold MacDonald, Carla Black, Olivia Canning, Brenton Colborne, Chrystal McNutt, and Paul Jones
Councillor Regrets: Nil

A quorum was present throughout the meeting.

Staff in attendance: Linda Cloney - CAO, Stan McDougall - Admin Assistant (recording secretary), Ruthann Brookins - Manager of Finance, Nick Purdy – Public Works Supervisor (via Zoom)

Presenters in attendance: Nil

Media and Gallery in attendance: Mark Rushton, Six Rivers News, Radio, and TV, and Jason Haughn, Municipal Advisor, Department of Municipal Affairs.

1. **Call to Order**

At 6:27 PM, Mayor Henley called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance at the meeting.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Councillor Jones and seconded by Councillor Black that the agenda of the Special Council Meeting for Wednesday, May 8, 2024, be approved, as presented.

Motion Carried

3. **Draft 2024/2025 Budgets – Ruthann Brookins, Manager of Finance presenting and recommendation from the Audit Committee.**

Ruthann Brookins, Manager of Finance, presented the draft General Operating, Water Operating and Capital Budget for 2024/25. At the last Audit Committee Meeting on May 1, 2024, it was the recommendation by the committee to present the draft 2024/25 budget to the Council for approval as presented.

The 2024/25 budget presented no increase to the residential or commercial tax rates and there was no increase to the sewer rates. There was an increase in the rates for water as directed by the UARB.

Moved by Councillor McNutt and seconded by Councillor Canning that the Council of the Town of Oxford estimates that the sum required for the lawful purposes of the Town of the year 2024/2025, after crediting revenues from all sources, other than the rates for the year, is the sum of **\$3,120,457** and;

Further resolved that the Deed Transfer Tax will remain the same at **1.5%** and;

Further resolved that the Town Council hereby authorizes the levying and collection of a rate for the current year of **\$4.2804** per \$100 on the value of the property assessed in the assessment roll as Commercial property and **\$1.7874** per \$100 on the value of the property assessed in the assessment roll as Residential and Resource property, and **\$0.25** on the value of the property assessed in the assessment roll as Forest Acreage under 50,000 and;

Further resolved that the Sewer rates will remain the same and they are as follows:

SEWR Sewer Flat Rate	\$325.00
SW 2 Sewer Flat Rate Sen #1	\$4,875.00
SW01 Oxford Frozen Foods Rate	\$15,725.00
SW10 Sewer Flat Rate	\$325.00
SW12 Sewer Flat Rate	\$487.00
SW13 Sewer Flat Rate	\$569.00
SW14 Sewer Flat Rate	\$650.00
SW15 Sewer Flat Rate	\$731.00
SW16 Sewer Flat Rate	\$812.00
SW17 Sewer Flat Rate	\$975.00
SW18 Sewer Flat Rate	\$1,381.00
SW19 Sewer Flat Rate	\$1,137.00
SW20 Sewer Flat Rate	\$1,300.00
SW21 Sewer Flat Rate	\$1,462.00
SW22 Sewer Flat Rate Sen #2	\$3,635.00
SW23 Apt Complex OES	\$6,337.00
SW25 OREC Sewer Rate	\$7,812.00
SW28 Oxford Frozen Foods Office Building 05979188	\$974.00

and;

Further resolved that an interest rate of 1.5% per month, or 18% per annum, compounded, be charged on the 2024/2025 tax bills that interest charges are applied on the first day of each month for outstanding amounts.

Councillor McNutt – Yay
Mayor Henley – Yay
Councillor Black – Yay
Councillor Canning – Yay
Councillor Jones - Yay
Councillor Colborne – Yay
Deputy Mayor MacDonald – Yay

Moved by Councillor McNutt and seconded by Deputy Mayor MacDonald that the Council of the Town of Oxford approve the 2024/2025 Capital Budget as presented in the amount of **\$3,684,001.00**.

Councillor McNutt – Yay
Deputy Mayor MacDonald – Yay
Mayor Henley – Yay
Councillor Black – Yay
Councillor Colborne – Yay
Councillor Canning – Yay
Councillor Jones – Yay

Moved by Councillor McNutt and seconded by Councillor Black that the Council of the Town of Oxford approve the 2024/2025 Water Operating Budget as presented and that in accordance with the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB) Order for the 2024/25 fiscal year, the rates are as follows:

Water Base Charges (Quarterly)

Unmetered (based on 15,000 imp. gal. per quarter) \$109.55

Size of Meter

5/8"	\$80.30
¾"	\$117.84
1"	\$192.92
1.5"	\$380.61
2"	\$605.85

3"	\$1206.47
4"	\$1882.18
6"	\$3759.14

Consumption Rate (per 1000 Imp. Gallons)

1st Block (0 to 140,000,000 imp gal per year per Customer) \$1.95 per 1000 Imp. Gallons

Minimum Bill

The minimum bill shall be the Base Charge.

Councillor McNutt – Yay
 Deputy Mayor MacDonald – Yay
 Mayor Henley – Yay
 Councillor Black – Yay
 Councillor Canning – Yay
 Councillor Colborne – Yay
 Councillor Jones - Yay

4. **Revision of Boards / Committees 2024 – 2024 – appoint Councillor Jones to Fire Department Committee**

Moved by Deputy Mayor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor McNutt to revise the Boards and Committees 2024-25 to appoint Councillor Jones to the Fire Department Committee.

Motion Carried

5. **In Camera**

5.1 acquisition, sale, lease, and security of municipal property

At 7:07 PM it was moved by Councillor Colborne and seconded by Councillor Jones to go in-camera to discuss the acquisition, sale, lease, and security of municipal property.

Motion Carried

At 7:37 PM it was moved by Deputy Mayor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Black to come out of in-camera and resume the Special Council Meeting.

Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor Jones and seconded by Councillor Black that the Town of Oxford grant the Oxford Boxing Club a tax exemption for 2024/25.

Motion Carried

6. **Adjournment**

Before the adjournment of the meeting, Mayor Henley reminded the Council and all in attendance that there was a benefit dance for the Pettigrew family at the Oxford Legion on Saturday, May 11, 2024, who experienced a tragic fire. A live band will be in attendance. Doors opened at 8:30 PM. Deputy Mayor MacDonald requested that everyone wear something purple.

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 PM



Mayor **Greg Henley, Chair**



Stan McDougall, Admin Assistant

05-22-2024

Date Approved

