

March 15, 2023

**HUMAN RESOURCES, ADMINISTRATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS MEETING –
MINUTES**

On Wednesday, March 15, 2023 the Human Resources, Administration & Public Relations Committee held an in-person and Zoom Meeting, livestreamed to YouTube.

Council Present:

Mayor Ethel LaValley
Councillor Sandra Collins, Chair
Councillor Joe Florent
Councillor Joan Kuiack
Councillor Shawn Pigeon (via Zoom)
Councillor Bill Rodnick |
Councillor Laurie Siydock

Township Staff Present:

Bryan Martin, CAO, Clerk-Treasurer
Carla Gatley, Deputy Clerk- *Recording Secretary*
Jennifer Baragar, Deputy Treasurer
Brian Ackney, Operations Foreman
Charlene Alexander, Head Librarian (via Zoom)
Ian Collins, Fire Chief

OPEN MEETING/CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Councillor Collins called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

LAND ACKNOWLEDEMENT

ADDITIONS/AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA: None declared

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by: Mayor LaValley

Seconded by: Councillor Florent

To adopt the agenda as circulated.

DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: 2023 Proposed Budget

Jennifer Baragar presented the 2023 budget to committee and reviewed the presentation with Council.

Charlene Alexander spoke about the two-year pilot project of opening the libraries on Saturdays. To be accredited the main library has to be open 20 hours per week and the other library 12 hours per Week. Ms. Alexander indicated that future grants may depend on the libraries being accredited. She also stated that there has been a consistent increase in the number of visitors.

Fire Chief Collins spoke about the fire budget; thermal image cameras would identify hot spots in a house; bunker gear is required for new volunteers; burn indicator signs for entrances of the township.

Councillor Florent stated that the M&L Parks and Recreation Committee have agreed to fund a new snow blower for the Madawaska Rink, up to \$3,000.00.

Brian Ackney spoke about the works dept. budget; heater/ac unit required for the works yard; road drainage, laser level and plate packer included in budget; the grader has been needing a lot of repairs and has over 12,000 hours; discussion on paving of the helipad, staff to check the Ornge agreement to ensure that it is our responsibility for paving.

Staff is recommending a 5% increase to the tax rate. Bryan Martin gave some examples of increases that other townships have implemented.

Councillor Florent questioned when Major Lake Road repairs would be done as it has been in previous budgets but was not included in this budget.

Consensus of Council was to raise the tax rate by 5%. The necessary by-laws will be brought to the

April 5, 2023 Council meeting for passing.

Council requested a statement be included with the tax bills that explains the increase.

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by: Councillor Florent

Seconded by: Councillor Siydock

To adjourn the Human Resources, Administration & Public Relations Meeting of March 15, 2023 at 11: 07 a.m.

Councillor S. Collins

Carla Gatley, Deputy Clerk
Recording Secretary