



# TOWN OF LASALLE

## BUDGET MEETING

December 21, 2011

A meeting of LaSalle Town Council is held this day at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, there being present: Mayor Ken Antaya, Deputy Mayor Mark Carrick; Councillors Marc Bondy, Terry Burns (arrives at 9:15 a.m.), Sue Desjarlais, Crystal Meloche and Ray Renaud.

Also present are the following members of Administration: Kevin Miller, Chief Administrative Officer, Joe Milicia, Director of Finance/Treasurer, Brenda Andreatta, Director of Council Services/Clerk, Terry Fink, Director of Culture and Recreation, Larry Silani, Director of Planning and Development, John Leontowicz, Chief of Police, Dave Sutton, Acting Fire Chief, Peter Marra, Manager of Water and Wastewater, Rick Hyra, Human Resources Officer, Dale Langlois, Manager of Finance/Deputy Treasurer, Patti Funaro, Supervisor of Programming, Tom Brydon, Supervisor of Parks, Scott Holland, Supervisor of Facility Operations, Diane Hansen, Supervisor of Accounting and Marilyn Abbruzzese, Supervisor of Revenue.

### 1. Call to Order

Mayor Antaya calls the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

### 2. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

Councillor Meloche discloses an interest respecting the request from Skate LaSalle for financial assistance as family members participate in the program.

### 3. Corporate Overview and Budget Summary

Mr. Milicia provides an overview and summary of the 2012 proposed budget.

Councillor Burns arrives at 9:15 a.m.

Mr. Milicia advises that departmental targets were established with the objective of an overall municipal tax rate increase of less than 3%. A wish list of priority items identified by Council prior to budget is included with items being categorized in primary and secondary priority for consideration. Over the past decade the Town has passed on to ratepayers total tax increases that were significantly less than the inflationary rate, known as the inflationary gap. Efficiencies were found in the operating and capital budget of an average of 2.9% annually over the past 5 years in order to deliver the below inflation tax increase. Mr. Milicia asks for consideration of increased funding for capital works and recommends the recapture of any education tax room (lower Provincial Education rate) to effectively reduce the blended or total tax rate to property owners. Other municipalities opt to publish their blended tax rate as opposed to the traditional municipal tax rate. Should Council opt for the recapture, it is anticipated that it will be in the area of \$250,000 in 2012.

Mr. Milicia shows a comparison of municipal and blended tax rates for Essex County municipalities with LaSalle being the fourth lowest among the eight. The attached power point presentation illustrates proposed revenues, gross expenditure by object, net expenditure by function and departmental and non-departmental budgets, as well as capital budget and the civic facilities project.

A question and answer period follows Mr. Milicia's presentation.

#### 4. Delegations

Mr. Andrea Pontoni, representing residents of Tuscany Oaks, appears before Council to request the completion of Reaume Road sidewalk from Matchette to Malden Road as a top priority, citing pedestrian safety concerns.

B1/12 Renaud/Desjarlais

That the administrative report on sidewalk priorities BE BROUGHT to Council by the end of March, 2012 including the option of an asphalt path on Reaume Road from Matchette to Malden as opposed to full infilling of ditches and that Mr. Andrea Pontoni BE NOTIFIED when the matter is to be heard by Council.

Carried.

Ian Chippett, Don Boudreau Sr., Elizabeth Piet and Sharon Frankcom, patrons of the water aerobic classes at the Vollmer Culture and Recreation Centre, appear before Council to request that specialized instructors be brought back to offer the water aerobic classes to ensure appropriate instruction to older patrons of the class who use it for therapeutic reasons.

Mr. Fink responds to the concerns of the delegations advising that the aquafit program is not designed as a therapeutic one and cannot take into consideration the individual physical limitations of all patrons as instructors are not expected to have specialized training in this area.

In response to a question from Council, Ms. Funaro advises that fitness membership fees at the Vollmer Centre range from \$25.00 to \$35.00 per month. The aquafit classes average 25 persons and are offered twice daily.

B2/12 Bondy/Burns

That the request of patrons of the aqua fitness classes at the Vollmer Culture and Recreation Centre (Ian Chippett, Don Boudreau Sr., Elizabeth Alp and Sharon Frankcom, representatives) for the return of instructors rather than lifeguards for aqua fitness classes BE REFERRED to the Parks and Recreation Committee for a recommendation back to Council on what, if any, changes should be made.

Carried.

Mary Clare Koopman, Director, Ad Coordinator, Kiwanis Music Festival Windsor-Essex County, appears before Council in support of the Town sponsored advertisement in the 2012 program in the amount of \$125.00 and expresses appreciation to Council for its past support of the program.

B3/12 Burns/Renaud

That the request of the Kiwanis Music Festival Windsor-Essex County (Mary Clare Koopman, representative) for sponsorship of an advertisement in the annual Kiwanis Music Festival program in the amount of \$125.00 BE APPROVED.

Carried.

Councillor Meloche, having disclosed an interest, leaves the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

B4/12 Carrick/Burns

That the request from Skate LaSalle financial assistance BE APPROVED with a one-time grant in 2012 in an amount equivalent to the relief from taxes afforded the Turtle Club.

Carried. Councillor Bondy voting nay. Councillor Meloche having declared an interest, abstains from voting.

The meeting recesses at 10:35 a.m.

The meeting reconvenes at 10:55 a.m. with all members of Council being in attendance and all members of Administration who were present earlier with the exception of Scott Holland.

## 5. Departmental Review

Mr. Langlois advises that Finance staff met with all departments to project year end. He explains the projected budget variances for 2011 and takes Council through the proposed budgets for Council, Finance and Administration, Council Services, Planning and Development and the Fire Department.

B5/12 Desjarlais/Carrick

That the Director of Planning and Development Services BE REQUESTED to report back on options to increase building activity in the Town.

Carried.

Mr. Langlois refers to the proposed budget for the Culture and Recreation Department.

B6/12 Bondy/Meloche

That a report on utility costs at the Vollmer Culture and Recreation Complex BE PREPARED and brought to Council in January 2012.

Carried.

Mayor Antaya asks that Council be notified of staffing and operational changes in departments affecting the public, perhaps as a monthly report.

Mayor Antaya asks that consideration be given to holding Council meetings in various schools during the period of reconstruction of municipal facilities.

Mayor Antaya asks if participation in all programs/facilities at the Vollmer Complex can be tracked to assist the public in understanding use of the facility.

B7/12 Carrick/Bondy

That a report BE PREPARED on summer ice at the Vollmer Culture and Recreation Centre including revenues, expenses and staffing options if ice is closed.

Carried.

The meeting recesses at 12:45 p.m.

The meeting reconvenes at 1:15 p.m. with all members of Council and Administration being present.

John Leontowicz, Police Chief and John Wladarski, Chair, Police Services Board, appear before Council in support of the proposed 2012 budgets of the department and Board. Chief Leontowicz advises that departmental operating and administration costs were cut by 10%.

Mr. Langlois explains the transportation services, sanitary sewer and water budgets within the Environmental Services Department.

Mr. Milicia outlines the proposed capital budget by department and refers Council to the secondary priority budget items list on page 5 of his report.

B8/12 Bondy/Burns

That the existing programming and availability for Front Road Pool BE CONTINUED in 2012 and that the pool BE CLOSED Labour Day Weekend or as soon as possible thereafter.

Carried.

B9/12 Meloche/Carrick

That Administration BE REQUESTED to report back on asphaltting the parking lot at Riverdance and Vollmer Culture and Recreation Complex.

Carried.

Council reviews the Second Priority Budget Items list on page 5 of the Treasurer's report dated December 1, 2011.

B10/12 Renaud/Bondy

That the amended 2012 proposed budget BE APPROVED in principle with a municipal tax rate increase of 2.8% and a total blended tax rate increase of 2.4%, which includes the recapture of the education tax room which is to be directed toward capital projects with priority given to funding town signage projects and further, that the December 22, 2011 and January 4 and 5, 2012 budget meetings BE CANCELLED.

Carried.

In response to a question from Councillor Burns, Mr. Milicia advises that Administration will try to include an information piece to the public when the budget is advertised to explain contractual increases and their effect on the budget.

## **6. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

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Mayor: K Antaya

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Clerk: B Andreatta