



Township of Georgian Bluffs Special Council Minutes

**January 30, 2024, 9:00 a.m.
Council Chambers
Township Administration Offices
177964 Grey Road 18, RR#3, Owen Sound ON N4K 5N5**

Members Present: Mayor Sue Carleton
Councillor Cathy Moore Coburn
Deputy Mayor Grant Pringle
Councillor Ryan Thompson
Councillor Rick Winters
Councillor Tobin Day
Councillor Isaac Shouldice

Staff Present: Niall Lobley, Chief Administrative Officer
Brittany Drury, Director of Corporate Services
Carly Craig, Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk
Samantha Buchanan, Treasurer
Brian Anderson, Deputy Treasurer
Kevin Verkindt, Manager of Infrastructure and Engineering
Jerry Haan, Manager of Operations, Waste and Fleet
Hailey Thompson, Communication Specialist

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1. Call to Order

Mayor Sue Carleton called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Land Acknowledgement Statement

Mayor Sue Carleton opened the meeting with the land acknowledgement statement.

3. Approval of Agenda/Additions to the Agenda

RES2024-014

Moved By: Councillor Rick Winters

Seconded By: Councillor Ryan Thompson

That the agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

4. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

5. 2024 Draft Budget Presentation

Chief Administrative Officer, Niall Loble opened 2024 budget discussions. He noted the strong focus on infrastructure, repairs, and planning for the future of the Township.

Operations Manager, Leo Frigault, from Ontario Clean Water Agency was in attendance and provided an overview of the Township's water systems and identified the following repair recommendations ([PowerPoint Presentation \(escribemeetings.com\)](#)):

- East Linton Plant - \$93,250 in maintenance repairs identified
- Shallow Lake System - \$124,500 in maintenance repairs identified
- Pottawatomi System - \$5,500 in maintenance repairs identified

Council took a recess from 9:53 a.m. and returned at 10:10 a.m.

The Treasurer provided an overview of the 2024 Draft Budget: ([2024 Draft Budget Presentation - Jan 30, 2024.pptx \(escribemeetings.com\)](#)). She highlighted the budget process, budgets by service/department, areas of cost savings, and additional budget pressures not yet addressed including fire prevention services (\$50,000), short term accommodations (\$65,000), and annual ITFD contribution (153,225). She referred to the Council priorities identified at the December 4th Strategic Session: [Special Council Meeting \(georgianbluffs.ca\)](#). As a result, the 2024 proposed tax rate increase presented was 11.71%.

Councillor Ryan Thompson left the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

Council took a recess from 12:40 p.m. and returned at 1:18 p.m.

As a result of discussions, the motion was amended as follows:

RES2024-015

Moved By: Councillor Cathy Moore Coburn

Seconded By: Councillor Rick Winters

That Council receives the 2024 Draft Budget presentation and all appendices contained therein for information; and

That staff be directed to include the following budget requests not addressed in the 2024 draft budget:

- 1. \$65,000 to implement a short-term accommodation program;**
- 2. \$50,000 for fire prevention services by the City of Owen Sound;**
- 3. An additional \$153,225 for the Township's annual ITFD Contribution;**
and

That the Shallow Lake Dog Park project be deferred to 2025 budget deliberations to allow for community engagement and additional community fundraising; and

That the Council Chambers upgrades budget request be reduced by \$75,000 and that all non-technology upgrades be deferred; and

That the winter control line item be reduced by \$50,000; and

That the Facilities Master Plan be funded over a 2-year period, deferring \$100,000 of the budget request to the 2025 budget; and

That the "Cold in Place Asphalt Recycling" project be referred to as "Surface Treatment" in all future project materials and publications; and

That Council hereby directs staff to present the 2024 Sums Required By-law for approval with the proposed changes and any directions resulting from the February 7th Public Input Session; and

That upon County of Grey's adoption of its 2024 Budget and 2024 Tax Policy, staff are hereby directed to present the 2024 Tax Rates By-Law for approval.

Carried

Council also proposed the following in advance of next year's budget cycle:

- A review by the Council Remuneration Committee of the Council professional development budget as part of its Council compensation review in 2025.
- A potential reduction of the Council donation budget, as part of the review of the Council Donation Policy as directed by Council in late 2023.

The Treasurer noted that following the discussion and proposed changes, the proposed tax increase over 2023 would be 9.19%.

6. **Confirming By-law**

RES2024-016

Moved By: Councillor Cathy Moore Coburn

Seconded By: Councillor Isaac Shouldice

That By-law No. 2024-006, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Special Council on January 30, 2024, be read a first, second and third time, finally passed, signed by the Mayor and Clerk, sealed with the Seal of the Corporation and engrossed in the By-law Book.

Carried

7. **Date of Next Regular Meeting/Adjournment**

Committee of the Whole – February 7, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

Council – February 14, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

Moved By: Deputy Mayor Grant Pringle

Seconded By: Councillor Tobin Day

That the meeting be adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

Carried

Mayor, Sue Carleton

Clerk, Carly Craig

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