



Special meeting held on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014

**Minutes of the special meeting of the Town of Hudson Council, held at the Community Centre, on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014.**

**Are present:**

Ed Prévost	-	Mayor
Robert Spencer	-	Councillor / Electoral District #1
Ron Goldenberg	-	Councillor / Electoral District #2
Nicole Durand	-	Councillor / Electoral District #3
Barbara Robinson	-	Councillor / Electoral District #4
Deborah Woodhead	-	Councillor / Electoral District #5
Natalie Best	-	Councillor / Electoral District #6

Catherine Haulard, Director General  
Ramin Jawanda, Treasurer  
Vincent Maranda, Town Clerk

1. **Opening and confirmation of quorum**

Quorum was reached and Mayor Ed Prévost calls the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

2. **Adoption of agenda**

**No: R3736-2014**

**It is moved by Councillor Nicole Durand  
Seconded by Councillor Deborah Woodhead  
And unanimously resolved:**

That the Town of Hudson Municipal Council adopt the agenda of the December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014, special meeting as submitted.

**CARRIED**

3. **Presentation of the 2015 budget**

Mayor Ed Prévost's speech and presentation of the 2015 Budget by Councillors Ron Goldenberg and Robert Spencer and mainly by Mrs. Catherine Haulard, Director General, and Mrs. Ramin Jawanda, Treasurer.

4. **Adoption of the budget of the Town of Hudson for year 2015**

**No: R3737-2014**

**CONSIDERING** the presentation of the budget proposal for the year 2015.

**CONSIDERING** the Council has prepared a budget of anticipated expenditures for the year 2015 and equivalent revenues

**It is moved by Councillor Robert Spencer  
Seconded by Councillor Nicole Durand  
And unanimously resolved:**

That the 2015 Budget be adopted with expenses of \$10,402,989 which is attached to the present minutes to form an integral part hereof as if herein reproduced.

**CARRIED**

5. **Adoption of By-Law n° 656-2014 concerning tariffs and compensation for 2015**

**No: R3738-2014**

**WHEREAS** Notice of Motion has been duly given at the regular Council meeting held on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014;

**It is moved by Councillor Barbara Robinson**



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**Seconded by Councillor Nicole Durand  
And unanimously resolved:**

To adopt by-law N° 656-2014 concerning tariffs and compensation for 2015.

**CARRIED**

6. **Establishment of interest rates on tax arrears**

**No: R3739-2014**

**TO ESTABLISH** the interest rates on tax arrears and other unpaid amounts due to the Town of Hudson at 15% per annum.

**It is moved by Councillor Nicole Durand  
Seconded by Councillor Natalie Best  
And unanimously resolved:**

**CARRIED**

7. **Questions from citizens**

7.1. **Mr. Jim Duff – 127 Charleswood**

- Questions on audit meeting in November, how does it fit with last year's budget and the year before, are we still looking at a 1.75 million dollar operating loss? Questions on various loan by-laws.

Mayor Ed Prévost answers that this is not a result of the 2013 exercise, it is a cumulative deficit and goes back to 2003. Council will make sure that citizens are not penalized by this situation, assets will be sold. Mayor Prévost mentions that he is optimistic about most loan by-laws but not about the fire station.

7.2. **Mr. Bill Driver – 104 Elm**

- Questions the non-reference to trains and savings that could be achieved by its elimination.

Mayor Prévost replies that this issue has not yet been dealt with specifically, Council and Mr. Vincent Maranda are looking at the decree, the options and costs. There will be a meeting with the AMT in early 2015 and these discussions will take place.

7.3. **Mr. Bill Nash**

- Would like Council to elaborate on the tighter controls mentioned at the beginning of the meeting. How is the municipality tracking budget versus actual year-to-date?

Mayor Ed Prévost answers that he feels confident that tracking will be done quite well. Mrs. Ramin Jawanda, Treasurer, addresses the issue and mentions that internal controls have already been implemented. Financial controls will be put into place such as purchase order controls.

7.4. **Mrs. Katie Shaar – 80 Birch Hill**

- Question concerning commercial water tax; numbers given today are different from committee numbers, why are they higher? What was taken from the committee recommendations?

Councillor Ron Goldenberg answers that using the committee numbers would have been a disaster but certain suggestions will be implemented; water meters will be put in as recommended, certain categories were changed.

7.5. **Mr. Bill Driver – 104 Elm**

- What is the mandate for the consultant at \$46,000?

Mayor Ed Prévost answers that it is for the preparation of material required for the negotiation of the labour agreement.

7.6. **Mrs. Diane Piacente – 692A Main Road**

- Asks where the legal fees are? What about the issue with the employees' tax deductions?

Councillor Robert Spencer and Mayor Ed Prévost answer that these fees are in the administration section. General Manager Mrs. Catherine Haulard answers that there is a reserve in the financial statements for this.

7.7. **Mr. Frank Hicks – 46 Quarry Point**

- Is there an increase in business taxes?



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Councillor Ron Goldenberg replies that business taxes will remain the same as last year to give businesses a break.

7.8. **Mr. Blair Mackay – 102 Oakland**

- Will the presentation be on the internet site? What about other items?

Mayor Ed Prévost answers that the presentation will be on the internet site and the other items will be included in the strategic plan which will be presented in January or early February.

7.9. **Mr. Trail Grubert – 101 Como Gardens**

- Questions the Province downloading taxes on municipalities, garbage tax increases and selling of park land.

Mayor Ed Prévost answers that the provincial situation has been considered during budget preparation. Garbage pick-up will be done every second week for the first three months which will save the Town about \$4,000 per month, the Town will be going to tender for a new contract, hopefully cost will be reduced. Concerning selling of park land, there is no plan at the moment but there will be one eventually, it will be made public when ready.

7.10. **Mrs. Diane Piacente – 692A Main Road**

- Questions garbage pick-up savings.

Mayor Prévost reiterates that pick-up every 2 weeks will reduce costs substantially.

7.11. **Mr. Marcus Owen – 60 Main Road**

- Questions the 2.2% average tax increase next year, what is keeping you awake at night in terms of the softness, any numbers you are nervous about?

Mayor Ed Prévost answers that there are buffers such as group insurance, Town used to fund at 100%, now its 50-50, premiums have been reduced by 26%. Councillors Robert Spencer and Ron Goldenberg also address the issue.

8. **Termination of Meeting**

**No: R3740-2014**

**It if moved by Councillor Deborah Woodhead  
Seconded by Councillor Ron Goldenberg  
And unanimously resolved:**

That this meeting of the Hudson Town Council be adjourned at 8:40 PM.

**CARRIED**

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**Ed Prévost  
Mayor**

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**Vincent Maranda  
Town Clerk**