



Rural Municipality of St. Laurent
PUBLIC HEARING - 2021 FINANCIAL PLAN
April 29, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

A Public Hearing was held on Thursday, April 29, 2021, in the Council Chambers, located at 16 St. Laurent Veterans' Memorial Road, St. Laurent, Manitoba. The purpose of the hearing was to present the 2021 Financial Plan to the public, receive comments and/or questions if any, and for CAO and Council to give a response.

A comprehensive package on the 2021 Financial Plan was made available for members of the public, detailing information on the proposed financial plan. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, and to ensure that recommended physical distancing can be achieved at all times members of the public were asked to register by 4:30 p.m., by mail, email or fax questions/concerns/comments. Those who wished to attend, we would accommodate with the recommended physical distancing as advised by Manitoba Health.

Present: Reeve Cheryl Smith, Councillors Frank Bruce, Jerry Combot, and Phil Mathews, and CAO Hilda Zotter.

Regrets: Councillor, Vern Coutu

No. 118/2021 Bruce - Combot

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda for today's date be hereby adopted as presented.

.... Carried

No. 119/2021 Bruce - Combot

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council adjourn into the scheduled public hearing.

.... Carried

Reeve Smith called the hearing to order at 7:00 p.m.

No members of the public attended, no questions by mail, email or fax were received.

Introduction and recital of procedure was dispensed with no members of the public were in attendance.

The CAO, Hilda Zotter and council reviewed said information.

When we looked at building our budget, the first numbers we needed to establish for the framework of the Financial Plan came from Assessment (property values throughout the whole RM), and School Division Mill Rates.

Section by section presentation of the Financial Plan:

Education Tax Levies

The following levies are imposed by the Province and School Divisions for education tax. The Province has also recently announced changes when they announced their budget. We are anticipating more information when available.

General Education Support Levy	8.809 (last year 8.828)
Interlake School Division	12.6143 (last year 12.9967)
Lakeshore School Division	14.710 (last year 14.830)
Prairie Rose School Division	10.540 (last year 10.620)

The majority of the R.M. properties fall, and are taxed, under Prairie Rose School Division rates.

Revenue

- Most revenue lines are the usual with a few words of note.

- The Province is not increasing its support grant. This amount stays at 2016 levels.
- AMBM contribution is \$7,500, and has further confirmed an additional \$2,000 to assist with COVID expenses.
- With the ads to go out soon, we are offering a few pieces of unused equipment as well as two lots on Buors Lane. With the hot real estate market, these two lots are expected to bring good revenue.
- Federal Gas Tax support in 2019 had doubled, but has returned to the usual amount of \$72,007.00 for 2020. A recent Federal announcement is that the Gas Tax support will be doubled once again for 2021, however a formal letter has not yet been received. The mill rate is not affected by any changes.
- We can quickly flip to page 9 shows the number plugged into the blue box on page 2. We have applied for a grant to continue work on the old municipal building; we are looking at applying for a grant to further preserve the big tree at Sandpiper; there are also applications submitted for summer jobs and Green Team. No announcements have been made formally yet.

Questions from the Public: None.

General Government Services

Page 3 - General Government Services

- While we are still trying to climb out of the COVID crisis, we find that some budget lines have increased while others have dropped a bit. We certainly find ourselves having to keep up with the requirement for virtual meetings and updating of our internet connection, hardware and software.
- Most expenses under this section are standard office expenses and are generally adjusted to inflationary increase and some stay much the same as previous years. Staff continues to seek out best pricing for supplies and services to minimize budget requirements.

Questions from the Public: None.

Protective Services

- Still on Page 3 – some reduction of training hours is seen due to COVID-19, however other methods of training are being implemented and maintained such as online instruction.
- We will continue recruitment and training for EMR
- There is ongoing provision for repairs and purchases as needed by the Fire Department such as safety gear, maintenance of Fire Department vehicles and other equipment.
- Other increases are also influenced by the past and expected hike in inflation.
- Municipal insurance coverage has increase again and we have been advised to account for another increase this year.
- We will continue our work installing a hydrant in Oak Point.

Questions from the Public. None

Transportation/Public Works

- Bottom of Page 3, we have made provision for dust control for additional areas and will continue to be done on an as needed and rotational basis. We also have provided for material to fix some of the holes in paved roads. We are ensuring that roads are maintained with adequate topping of material.
- Top of page 4 – The RM owns a pile of approximately 6000 cubic yards of road gravel; we have just tendered out the hauling of 4000 cubic yards to be applied to various roads throughout the RM.
- If we can flip to Page 13 for public works related matters – Here is a listing of capital expenditures planned for 2021: Asphalt application to Governor Road from the Highway to Ludovic; Asphalt application on parts of Ludovic; and signage – all these items come out of the Gas Tax Fund; then we have Chainlink Fencing to install at the Pond at Sandpiper. There are also allowances for further improvements at our parks such as two wheelchair accessible porta-potties. We also will be installing more streetlighting, Christmas lights, and continuing renovation of the old municipal building (which we have applied for funding and hope that grant funding will cover these expenses).

Questions from the Public. None

Environmental Development Services

- Back to Page 4:
- Due to COVID and with the resulting influx of more seasonal visitors and property owners in the RM we have seen a considerable increase in garbage disposal costs especially throughout the summer. Landfill and hauling costs continue to climb.
- This year we are implementing a tag system. The tag is to be carried in your vehicle, and only property owners of the RM showing this tag will be allowed access to the Waste Transfer Site. The tag will be sent out with the property tax bills. Watch for details in the upcoming RM newsletters.
- We have leased a new truck to be used for garbage collection.
- The Waste Transfer Site is continuing its positive transformation. Staff will be rolling out a Facebook page and other communications on how to reduce and recycle waste and how to properly use the services of the Waste Transfer Site.

Questions from the Public: None.

Public Health and Welfare Services

- Standard and yearly contribution to other services.

Questions from the Public: None

Environmental Development Services

- We have included the hiring of a By-law Enforcement Officer under this heading. We are pleased to announce that Sophie Skierszkan will be joining our team in a couple of weeks.

Questions from the Public: None

Recreation and Cultural Services

- Now to Page 5: The Recreation Commission line now combines all expenses associated with wages, benefits and mileage and other items that

will assist the Rec Director in continuing with the work necessary for an active and healthy community.

- Grants (from VLT funding) – these funds are derived from the RM’s share of government-distributed VLT funds. We will be funding some critical repairs at the Assisted Living Centre this year and will also be hosting a training day for non-profit organizations once safe to do so.

Questions from the Public: None.

Fiscal Services (Capital)

- Please refer to Page 13 of the Financial Plan – there is a listing of capital expenditures and from where the funding will come. This is a consolidation of all capital projects not funded by reserve funds.
- This brings us now to Page 8 which summarizes all the numbers gathered from the previous pages. It also shows us what the mill rates are for the school division levies.
- We have made provision for \$80,000.00 to go to Machinery Reserve – still building this reserve for purchase of a grader. We have also included \$30,000.00 to be put into the Fire Department Reserve for the purchase of fire department vehicles.
- The mill rate shown in green plus the mill rates for the reserves equals 18.935.

Questions from the Public: None

Mill Rate Comparisons

A comparison of mill rates since 2012 was shown. This includes all municipal levies for by-law and reserves including the at-large municipal levy. School taxes are not included.

2012	18.542	2018	18.707
2013	20.605	2019	18.472
2014	18.863	2020	18.191
2015	18.317	2021	18.935
2016	17.650		
2017	18.900		
2018	18.707		
2019	18.472		

No. 120/2021 Bruce – Mathews

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the public hearing close and that Council reconvene into regular meeting agenda.

No. 121/2020 Bruce – Combot

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this meeting now adjourn at 7:28 p.m.

.... Carried

Reeve

CAO