

NOTL NEWS

A NEWS UPDATE FROM THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF Niagara-On-The-Lake

Issue # 184 – February 17, 2010

PRIDEAUX RECONSTRUCTION

Council met in special session to consider the road design for Prideaux Street and endorsed the staff report recommendations for the installation of a curb and gutter design. In addition, Council approved the issuance of a 10-year debenture for upgrading the street lighting, with the debt repayment charge being applied against the special area levy for street lighting in urban areas.

2010 CURRENT BUDGET

The Corporate Services Advisory Committee received a detailed presentation on the proposed 2010 Current Budget and referred its consideration to the March 8 Committee meeting. In the interim, Committee members will have the opportunity to review the budget proposals in detail and to formulate any changes they wish to suggest.

The staff proposal is for a net tax levy of \$7,106,065 and, after adjusting for estimated assessment growth, proposes a net tax increase of 3.55 percent. The proposed increase translates to a \$23.62 increase for a typical dwelling assessed at \$291,000 or \$8.12 per \$100,000 of property assessment. It is anticipated the Town's property tax increase will be adjusted slightly in urban areas when special area levies are applied for stormwater and street lighting. The staff report also pointed out the proposed net tax levy is suggested as a starting point and staff presented 20 additional 'business case' items relating to new or enhanced programs, increased transfers, discretionary grants, etc. The report detailed the budget impact of each of the business case proposals.

The staff report also forecasted provincial and regional budget changes. The estimated overall combined property tax impact to a typical residential homeowner is 0.97 percent or \$11.66 per \$100,000 of property assessment.

The proposed 2010 Current Budget material will be posted on the Town's website at www.notl.org during the week of February 16. The goal is to have Council's approval for both Current and Capital Budgets on March 22, 2010.

COUNCIL SUMMARY – FEBRUARY 1, 2010

Lord Mayor Gary Burroughs opened the Council meeting and congratulated the Chamber of Commerce on the success of a number of recent events, including the Spirit of Niagara Awards, the Ice Wine Festival, and the Canadian Jazz Hall of Fame brunch. The Lord Mayor also reported the Region is moving forward with an Inter-Municipal Transit study and will be developing a transit plan and preparing cost analysis for review. He noted there are concerns from the smaller municipalities relating to costs.

In review of the Corporate Services Advisory Committee recommendations, Council deferred approval of a ten year lease extension for 99 River Beach Road to the next Council meeting.

Council modified the 2010 Capital Budget proposals by adjusting the engineering and design costs for a construction project on Concession 4 Road and a resurfacing project on Concession 2 Road. Council also amended the budget proposal regarding the funding for the Town's Transit Needs Survey.

The balance of the Committee of the Whole recommendations were adopted without change.

Council endorsed a staff report to move forward with the designation of Laura Secord Memorial School and property pursuant to Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. Council proceeded with the action after deferring the recommendation in December for discussions with the property owner. A deputation was heard from the school board opposing the designation and from three deputants in favour of the designation.

Council debated the Prideaux Street reconstruction; however, did not determine whether to install curbs and gutters or to provide the swale with catch basins design. The matter will be revisited when all members of Council are in attendance. Council provided direction to staff to install the overhead wiring underground and to install the enhanced lighting plan, with the financing for the design changes to be determined. The costs are estimated at \$183,600.

In other business, Council determined to engage legal counsel and planning expertise relating to the DSBN's appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board following Council's refusal to rezone lands for an elementary school in the Virgil area.

The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 22, 2010, with regular business starting at 7:00 p.m. This newsletter, as well as information on meeting schedules and deputation procedures, is also available on the Town's website at www.notl.org. Further questions may also be directed to the Clerk's Department at 905-468-3266.

Lord Mayor Gary Burroughs, Councillors: Jim Collard, Dennis Dick, Terry Flynn, Andrea Kaiser, Jack Lowrey, Martin Mazza, Art Viola, Gary Zalepa