

VILLAGE OF NEW MARYLAND  
SPECIAL SESSION OF COUNCIL

25 January 2016

**Present:** Mayor Judy Wilson-Shee  
Deputy Mayor Gisèle McCaie-Burke  
Councillor Paul LeBlanc  
Councillor Mike Pope  
Councillor Peter Wiggins

**Also Present:** Karen Taylor, Assistant Clerk  
Scott Sparks, Treasurer

**Absent:** Cynthia Geldart, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk

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1. **Call to Order**

Mayor Wilson-Shee called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and reminded all in attendance that the meeting is being video-recorded for broadcast.

2. **Approval of the Agenda**

**MOVED BY** Deputy Mayor McCaie-Burke and **seconded by** Councillor Peter Wiggins to approve the agenda as distributed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

3. **PRESENTATION OF THE 2016 BUDGET**

Councillor LeBlanc delivered the following 2016 Budget speech:

“Your Worship, fellow Councillors and residents it is my privilege to present to you the **2016** General Operating, Utility and Capital Budgets for the Village of New Maryland.

In the **2016** General Operating Fund Non-Tax Revenue Budget we were able to generate a total Non-Tax Revenue of **\$288,052**. Our tax base **shrunk** at a rate of **-0.49%**, resulting in a new tax base of **\$341,981,700**. This represents a loss of revenue of **\$20,457** from the base. In addition to this there were other revenue losses including Fine Sharing Revenue, Summer Grants both Federal and Provincial, as well as smaller reductions from various other fees. Together these items amount to an overall reduction of **\$43,760** in operating revenues.

The **2016** General Operating and Capital Fund Expenditure Budget will be **\$4,422,600**.

General Government Services will increase by **\$26,511** to **\$888,127**. The main factors in this increase are due to the introduction of “Right to Information” cost and expenses for Strategic Plan Facilitator.

Protective Services expenditures will be **\$1,011,525**, a reduction of **\$39,338** over **2015**, which includes the R.C.M.P., Emergency Measure, Building Inspection and Fire Department costs.

Transportation Services expenditures will be **\$590,375**, an increase of **\$35,908**, of which the snow removal contract (due to additional streets), and additional winter maintenance costs were the main drivers.

Environmental Health Services expenditures will be **\$258,400**, an increase of **\$5,960** for the garbage collection and recycling contract.

Environmental Development Services expenditures will be **\$157,678**, an increase of **\$18,836** mainly due to increased costs for beautification and landscaping.

Recreation and Cultural Services expenditures will be **\$635,541**, an increase of **\$26,009**. The main drivers were increases to annual maintenance of the new soccer field and power costs offset by the elimination of one position.

Fiscal Services expenditures for debts will be **\$398,814**, an increase of **\$90,863**. This section includes Interest on Long Term Debt and Principal Instalments. The increase is due to the former capital costs for the Cortland and Gravenstein culverts as well as the paving project in Castle Acres. For **2016** the General Capital Fund will be **\$482,140**, a reduction of **\$156,491**. Of the total Capital **\$156,321** has been allocated to Transportation projects, **\$16,000** has been allocated to Recreation projects, **\$130,000** has been allocated to the Fire Department and EMO, and **\$40,000** has been allocated to a Storm Water Study, and **\$139,819** has been allocated for Infrastructure Replacement Reserve.

In response to the infrastructure deficit, as made apparent through PSAB (Public Sector Accounting Board), Council has again stepped up to the plate in terms of continuing to address this deficit in order to protect the longevity and sustainability of the municipality by setting aside additional funding which equates to just over **4¢** on the rate. This funding will be placed into a reserve for future infrastructure replacement.

At this juncture I would like to point out that since **2011** the Village has lost **\$194,966** in revenues through reductions in Unconditional Grant funding from the Province of New Brunswick. In fact since **2011** the Village has lost **\$219,966** through reductions in the Unconditional Grant, Provincial and Federal Student funding, as well as Fine Sharing Revenue. This represents a significant reduction in the Village's revenue, one that neither staff nor Council have any control over. Each cent of the rate represents **\$34,198** of revenue for the Village. Therefore, the combined reductions since **2011** equates to **6.43¢** on the rate, and if you add in the negative impact of the base reduction for **2016** of **\$20,457** this equates to **7.03¢** on the rate that has been lost, a loss the Village has to contend with. Faced with this challenge, Council and staff worked diligently to reduce where they could without impacting services as best they could. They will continue to review program costs and services throughout **2016** to identify various options available for consideration. In **2016** there will be a comprehensive study on the Village's storm water system, identifying potential flood areas that could benefit from new or upgraded storm water infrastructure and the associated costs with each of those projects. As residents increase the pressure on the Village to deal with these deficiencies, we want to be transparent about the associated costs and where those funds will come from. Each

project will undoubtedly involve substantial borrowing and the additional costs from these borrowing will need to be reflected in future tax rates as we cannot afford to expand or upgrade this infrastructure without doing so.

Additionally, the **2009-2014 Village Strategic Plan** will be reviewed in **2016**. This will review all the current goals and objectives, establish new ones and articulate the direction and activities that Council and staff will engage in for the next five years for the benefit of the community.

Together, staff and Council worked diligently in order to bring forward a budget that not only addresses the sustainability of the Village but also the affordability for our residents.

Therefore, with a total expenditure of **\$4,422,600** less the Non-Tax Revenue of **\$288,052** and less the Unconditional Transfer of **\$6,145** and a Municipal Tax Base of **\$341,981,700** we are left with a Tax Rate for **2016** of **\$1.2072** per \$100 of assessment. This represents no change to the Municipal Tax rate as the rate for **2016** remains the same as it was in **2015**. Combined with an average assessment reduction of **-0.49%** most properties will see a slight reduction in their tax bills for **2016**.

The Village of New Maryland's **2016** Utility Operating and Capital Expenditure Budget will be **\$1,156,283** which represents an increase of **\$31,857**. Water supply and treatment costs will be **\$250,291**, an increase of **\$10,784** over the **2015** amounts. This increase is mainly due to water transmission and distribution costs.

Sewage Collection and Treatment costs will be **\$341,903**, an increase of **\$24,206** over the **2015** amounts. This increase is primarily due to the sewage collection system and sewage treatment and disposal costs.

Fiscal Services costs equal **\$350,328**, a reduction of **\$39,829** over the previous amounts.

The following reserves will be made: **\$50,000** for future maintenance of the Waste Water Treatment Plant, **\$13,280** for the replacement of water meters and **\$20,000** for future maintenance of the Water Tower.

The Utility Capital requirements for **2016** are **\$129,882**, an increase of **\$36,577** over the **2015** amounts.

On the utility revenue side, under the heading Other Revenues from Own Sources results in a total of **\$121,502**. This leaves a balance of **\$1,034,781** to generate from user fees. Water service will be charged at **\$1.34** per cubic meter (an increase of 4¢ per cubic meter), plus a flat fee of **\$36** (an increase of **\$1** per quarter) and a meter fee of **\$5** per quarter. Sewerage service will increase to **\$496** per year an increase of **\$16**. This is the first increase since **2010** to the user fees as part of the Village of New Maryland's 5-Year sustainability program. For the average household with both water and sewer services this amounts to an **annual increase of \$23.00 or \$1.92 per month**.

In conclusion I would like to thank my fellow Council members and staff for their dedication in helping prepare this budget. At this point I would like to introduce the motions to adopt the 2016 Budget.”

*i) Resolution to adopt the 2016 General Operating Fund Budget*

**MOVED BY** Councillor LeBlanc and **seconded by** Deputy Mayor McCaie-Burke the following resolution of Council:

***Be It Resolved That*** the sum of **\$4,422,600** dollars be the total budget of the Village of New Maryland that the sum of **\$4,128,403** dollars be the Warrant of the Municipality for the ensuing year, and that the tax rate for the Municipality be **\$1.2072** dollars. The Council orders and directs the levying by the Minister of Local Government of said amount on real property liable to taxation under the *Assessment Act* within the Municipality of The Village of New Maryland.

Discussion:

Deputy Mayor McCaie-Burke referred to a quote from Theodore Roosevelt that she felt was apropos for this motion. She read “In any moment of decision the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best thing is the wrong thing, and the worst thing you can do is nothing.” Deputy Mayor McCaie-Burke indicated that she will be voting in favour of adopting the resolution since it is the right thing to do at this time. She added that Council along with staff worked diligently together to present the 2016 Budget. Deputy Mayor McCaie-Burke noted that there are times when everyone does not agree, however a consensus was reached in the end in regard to providing essential programs and services for residents and setting aside funds for future infrastructure replacement with no proposed tax increase. She stated that she feels it is critical that the Village continues to take a proactive approach in regard to current spending as Mayor and Council moves forward to address flooding concerns due to severe weather changes, long-term sustainability of aging infrastructure, and residents’ concerns and priorities. Dedicated Village staff members work very hard and they cannot be thanked enough for the work they do. Deputy Mayor McCaie-Burke acknowledged that funding sources will be limited to pay for additional projects. She challenged staff and Council to continue to review all current programs with an open eye in order to do business more efficiently, and perhaps differently, and minimize any future tax burden on residents. She concluded that she felt that this budget addresses sustainability of the Village while remaining affordable for residents.

*(Mayor Wilson-Shee, Deputy Mayor McCaie-Burke, Councillor LeBlanc and Councillor Pope voted in favour of the motion. Councillor Wiggins voted against the motion.)*

**MOTION CARRIED.**

*ii) Resolution to adopt the 2016 Utility Operating Fund Budget*

**MOVED BY** Councillor LeBlanc and **seconded by** Deputy Mayor McCaie-Burke the following resolution of Council:

***Be It Resolved That*** pursuant to paragraph 189(4) of the *Municipalities Act*, the total budget for the water and sewer utility for the ensuing year would consist of total revenues of **\$1,156,283** dollars and of total expenditures of **\$1,156,283** dollars.  
**MOTION CARRIED.**

4. **Adjournment**

**MOVED BY** Deputy Mayor McCaie-Burke and **seconded by** Councillor LeBlanc to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Karen Taylor  
Assistant Clerk

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Judy Wilson-Shee  
Mayor