



Staff Report to Municipal Council The Corporation of the Township of McGarry

Meeting Date: April 29, 2025	Report Date: April 25, 2025
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Decision Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Input required <input type="checkbox"/> Information Only	Type of Meeting: Special Council Meeting

Report Title: BUDGET REPORT

Background:

The Finance Committee met on March 24, 2025, to deliberate on the initial draft budget. At that time, we were confronted with a deficit exceeding \$375,000.00.

The first open public meeting was conducted on April 2, 2025. The Finance Committee Chair provided a detailed analysis of the circumstances we were confronted with. Department Heads and Committee Chairs, as well as representatives from the Fire Department and Library, were present at the meeting to offer their perspectives.

Council requested that all departments re-evaluate their budget, implement cost-cutting measures, and resubmit their expenditures to the Clerk by April 10, 2025, at the conclusion of the April 2, 2025 meeting. Furthermore, the Council scheduled a meeting for 5:30 p.m. on April 16, 2025.

After all the departments resubmitted their revenue and expenses, the deficit was just over \$106,000.00.

At the April 16, 2025 meeting, the Chair of the Finance Committee provided an explanation of the 2025 budget and the deficit that was currently in effect. The Council engaged in a discussion regarding the budget and offered the audience the chance to share their ideas and input. The Council voted and directed the Clerk to implement the subsequent measures upon the conclusion of all discussions:

- Inform the Library Board that there will be no annual grant this year.
- Exclude the summer students from the budget unless the Day Camp Program receives 100% funding from the Summer Experience Opportunity.
- A 5% increase in taxes for the entire year of 2025.
- A 5% increase in water, wastewater, and debenture rates to be implemented on July 1, 2025.
- Tipping fees that will commence at the landfill site on July 1, 2025.
- Discontinue the free snow removal and sanding services for businesses.
- Implement user fees for the activities conducted at the Community Centre.

A discussion was held regarding the feasibility of relocating the Township Office to the Tourist Centre Building if funding is obtained from Fed Nor to renovate the building. Furthermore, the Public Works and Fire Department could possibly relocate to the Arena's ice pad; however, Staff were not provided with any direction on this subject.

Decisions made by Council at the April 16, 2025 meeting:

TAX RATE INCREASE

5 % Increase	\$48,308.00
--------------	-------------

WATER, SEWER AND DEBENTURE RATES INCREASE

Beginning July 1, 2025	<u>Water</u>	<u>Sewer</u>	<u>Debenture</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Increasing by 5%	\$4,675.00	\$4,875.00	\$3,100.00	\$12,650.00

SUMMER STUDENTS

Council instructed the Clerk to exclude the Summer Students from the budget unless we were granted full funding.

The Clerk's report for the April 16, 2025 meeting informed Council that we had been allocated 50% funding for three Tourist Centre students, three Day Camp students, and two Municipal Labourer students through the Canada Summer Jobs Program. It was confirmed to us by our representative that the Council has the capacity to approve only specific departments and return the remaining portion. Furthermore, they are permitted to enroll only two students in Day Camp and return one student.

On April 17, 2025 the Clerk was informed that the Township had been granted two completely funded Tourists Centre workers and one fully funded Day Camp worker with the Summer Experience Opportunities Program.

It appears that the Tourist Centre could operate without incurring any expenditure for the wages of Summer Students during the 2025 season, given this new information. Operational expenses would persist for the building.

Should the Council decide to conduct the Day Camp with three students, the wages for one student would be fully subsidized. The wages for the two remaining students would total around \$5,372.00.

Based on this new information, the cost for employing two Tourist Centre Students, three Day Camp Students, and two Municipal Labourer's for the 2025 season would be just over \$11,000.00.

We have also been informed by CSJ and SEO that the Council will not be penalized next year if we choose not to accept the funding we have been awarded; however, a response is required by the end of next week.

Furthermore, we will not be required to allocate money in contracted services for grass mowing if Council elects to employ two summer students as Municipal Labourer's.

SUMMER STUDENTS 2025 – 50% FUNDED

	<u>Revenue – Grants</u>	<u>Revenue – Other</u>	<u>Expense – Wages</u>	<u>Expenses – Other</u>	<u>Total</u>
Public Works - 2 Students	\$4,128.00	\$ 0	\$9,670.00	\$100.00	\$ 5,642.00
Day Camp – 2 Students	\$4,128.00	\$1,000.00	\$9,670.00	\$900.00	\$ 5,442.00
TOTAL COST					\$ 11,084.00 Total


LIBRARY

The Clerk was instructed by the Council to inform the Library Board that no annual grant would be awarded this year.

TIPPING FEES AT THE LANDFILL

The Council directed the Staff to initiate the implementation of tipping fees at the landfill starting July 1, 2025. The staff has modified the suggested fees. Kindly review the updated fees listed below.

Landfill Site Tipping Fees Example Only

 Tipping fees, or gate fees, are important because they help offset the costs of operating and maintaining landfills, encouraging waste reduction and efficient disposal practices by reflecting the full cost of waste management.

Description	Applicable Fee Per Cubic Yard	
	Resident	Non-Resident
Per bag	\$4.00 or 3 bags for \$10.00	\$6.00 or 3 for \$15.00
Flat Rate	\$5.00	\$7.00
Sorted Residential/Commercial Waste, Sorted Construction/Demolition Waste Non-Hazardous Materials	\$15.00	\$20.00
Unsorted Residential/Commercial Waste, Unsorted Construction Demolition Waste and Inorganic Earth like Material	\$30.00	\$40.00
Yard Waste - Including clean wood, brush, yard and plant materials	\$5.00	\$10.00
Contaminated Waste	\$40.00	\$60.00
Ozone Depleting or Freon Containing	\$40.00	\$60.00
Tires with rim for commercial vehicles	\$40.00	\$60.00
Tires with rim for industrial vehicles	\$75.00	\$100.00
Tires with rim passenger vehicle	\$15.00/each	\$25.00/each
Tires no rim	Free	Free

Contractors

1/2 Ton Trailer	\$100.00 / per load
Tandem	\$200.00 / per load
Tri-Axle	\$300.00 / per load

Residential property owners will be permitted to obtain 2 vouchers per calendar year, per property. Proof of property ownership must be presented to municipal staff to obtain your voucher, i.e., a recent tax bill with your name and address will be accepted.

Multi-residential property owners can provide authorization to someone else, such as a tenant to pick up the voucher. Authorization letters must be submitted to the Department of Development Services; confirmation between staff and the owner will be completed prior to issuance of a voucher.

SNOW REMOVAL FOR BUSINESSES

The Council instructed the Staff to terminate the complimentary snow removal and sanding service for businesses in the forthcoming winter season.

Conclusion / Recommendation / Motion:

After all the modifications have been implemented, we currently have a surplus of just over \$25,277.00.

The Clerk will also need instructions on how the Council intends to resolve the surplus in order to present the necessary by-laws that reflect the Council's decisions. The by-laws cannot be finalized until this information is received.

The Council must instruct the Staff on whether they wish to exclude the summer students from the 2025 Budget in light of the new information received regarding financing for summer students.

Respectfully submitted,

**Karine Pelletier
Clerk-Treasurer**