



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE “SPECIAL” MINUTES

Tuesday, October 28th, 2025

5:30 p.m.

Tay Valley Municipal Office – 217 Harper Road, Perth, Ontario
Council Chambers

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present: Chair, Reeve Rob Rainer
Deputy Reeve Fred Dobbie
Councillor Wayne Baker
Councillor Greg Hallam
Councillor Korrine Jordan
Councillor Keith Kerr
Councillor Angela Pierman
Councillor Marilyn Thomas

Staff Present: Amanda Mabo, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk
Aaron Watt, Deputy Clerk
Ashley Liznick, Treasurer
Sean Ervin, Public Works Manager
Noelle Reeve, Planner

Regrets: None

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.
A quorum was present.

A moment of silence was held for former Councillor Jennifer Dickson who passed away on October 21st, 2025. Former Councillor Dickson served as a Tay Valley Township Councillor from 2015-2018.

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND/OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

Reeve Rainer declared a pecuniary interest and/or conflict of interest on item 3 ii) Requests from Outside Agencies – Community Groups, because he is employed by the Table Community Food Centre which has applied for a community grant.

Councillor Thomas declared a pecuniary interest and/or conflict of interest on item 3 ii) Requests from Outside Agencies – Perth & Smiths Falls District Hospital, because she is employed with the Hospital Foundation.

Councillor Hallam declared a pecuniary interest and/or conflict of interest on item 3 ii) Requests from Outside Agencies – Perth & Smiths Falls District Hospital, as his spouse is with the Perth & Smiths Falls District Hospital Foundation.

3. DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

i) 2026 Preliminary Budget Summary Presentation.

The Treasurer presented the PowerPoint presentation as attached to the Agenda.

The Treasurer explained that the proposed draft budget includes a 7.24% increase in the levy due to higher expenses in 2025, with a 6.71% tax rate increase. The budget takes into account providing the same services in 2026 as provided in 2025, and at the same levels of service. The increase is a result of rising costs and a significant increase in policing expenses.

The Treasurer notes that staff continue to work diligently to lessen additional impacts on the levy.

ii) 2026 Operating Budget Presentation and Discussion.

The Treasurer presented the PowerPoint presentation as attached to the Agenda.

The 7.24% increase is the result of a 4.15% increase in the Ontario Provincial Police contract costs.

This increase in provincial policing costs represents over half of the total increase to the levy. Relief was provided by the province in 2024 but no information has been received to indicate relief this year.

The Treasurer explained that the 7.24% increase, when applied to a residential property with an assessed value of \$300,000 represents a \$122 annual increase in property taxes.

- **Budget Impacts on Levy**

The Treasurer summarized that 4.15% of the proposed levy increase is a result of the increase in OPP policing costs. Members discussed the increased cost of policing, and Tay Valley Township's share of the Lanark County Police Services Board expenditures of \$19,423.

The Treasurer explained that the Lanark County Police Services Board is legally mandated, was launched in 2024, and by operating at a County level it eliminates the need for each municipality to have its own Police Services Board.

The Treasurer summarized that:

- a 10% increase in insurance costs is estimated over the 2025 actuals
- there is an increase in contracted services due to election costs, but that is covered through the Elections Reserve
- supplies and materials has been impacted by a 25% increase in postage costs since 2024
- saw an increase of \$5,000 in the Seniors Active Living Centre grant to \$55,000

- **Department Impacts on Levy**

The Treasurer summarized that:

- staff have worked to maintain budget targets
- newspaper advertising costs are rising; staff are utilizing as many electronic options as possible to keep costs down
- hydro costs have increased in some municipal buildings as a result of the increased use for recreation programs and activities
- the budget is based on what is needed to continue providing current service levels

Reeve Rainer stepped down as Chair and left the room for the next item on the Agenda, 3 ii) Requests from Outside Agencies – Community Groups, as he had declared a conflict of interest on this item.

Deputy Reeve Dobbie assumed the Chair.

- **Requests from Outside Agencies**

Members discussed each request and directed the following:

- The Table Community Food Centre to receive \$3,500
- Big Brothers Big Sisters to receive \$3,500
- Youth Activity Kommittee (YAK) to receive \$3,500
- Lanark County Community Justice Program to receive \$3,500
- The Perth & District Sports Hall of Fame to receive \$350
- Althorpe Bolingbroke Community (ABC) Association to receive \$1,500
- Maberly Agricultural Society to receive \$1,500

Deputy Reeve Dobbie stepped down as Chair.
Reeve Rainer resumed as Chair.

Councillors Greg Hallam and Marilyn Thomas left the Council table for item 3 ii) Requests from Outside Agencies – Perth & Smiths Falls District Hospital, as they had declared a conflict of interest on this item.

- Perth & Smiths Falls District Hospital annual request of \$70,000 was supported after discussion of the different options available through directing the donation to either the Perth & Smiths Falls District Hospital Core Capital Fund or the Hospital Foundation.

Councillors Hallam and Thomas returned to the Council table.

- **New Initiatives for Council Consideration**

Members discussed the request for adding two (2) additional staff positions. The Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk and Treasurer explained that due to the ongoing download of responsibilities from the provincial government, and the resulting increase in administration, tracking, processing, and maintaining of new responsibilities, current workload has exceeded staff capacity.

Members discussed the possibility of adding one (1) additional staff position but deferred this matter until the information is available from the outstanding areas – OMPF, OPP, conservation authorities, Lanark County Police Services Board, insurance, etc.

iii) **2026 Fee Review.**

Members discussed the proposed fee adjustments and had no concerns with the proposed changes.

iv) **Public Comments and Questions.**

Cathy Anderson

- questioned part of the discussion of adding staff where it was explained that hiring and placement of staff is the responsibility of the Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk rather than that of Council
- expressed that Council should feel that it should have input into staff hiring and placement
- asked if staff get paid overtime
- asked if staff report on the amount of paid overtime
- suggested that reporting overtime would help justify requests for additional staff

- indicated that, as a taxpayer, can only reason that the increase in staff salaries in the past number of years must have been partially justified by the increase in workload and expectation
- indicated that increases in complexity is part of the role
- can appreciate that workload has increased
- shared experience that as time as a teacher, also worked overtime, over the summer, and spent time away from family
- does not deny the increase in workload and responsibility but points out that there are many who work beyond the expectations of their positions
- understands that staff are working overtime, and at some point Council is going to have to deal with that, but it is at the cost of the taxpayers
- that the need for new staff needs to be justified through the eyes and experience of the taxpayers
- encouraged Council to take a measured approach, to approach the request with caution and discernment

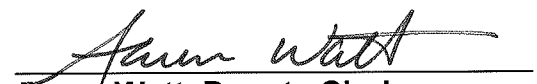
The Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk explained that:

- allocation of staff is the responsibility of the Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk, the Reeve provides input as a requirement of Strong Mayor Powers legislation
- union staff are paid overtime, non-union staff earn time in lieu
- payment of overtime is not published because it is confidential information and not separated out from salary reports and tracking at this time

4. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 7:34 p.m.


Rob Rainer, Reeve


Aaron Watt, Deputy Clerk