



Committee of the Whole – 2026 Proposed Operating Budget Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 28, 2026, 5:03 p.m.

S.H. Blake Memorial Auditorium

Present:

- Mayor Ken Boshcoff
- Councillor Rajni Agarwal
- Councillor Albert Aiello
- Councillor Mark Bentz
- Councillor Shelby Ch'ng
- Councillor Kasey Etreni
- Councillor Andrew Foulds
- Councillor Trevor Giertuga
- Councillor Brian Hamilton
- Councillor Greg Johnsen
- Councillor Kristen Oliver
- Councillor Dominic Pasqualino
- Councillor Michael Zussino

Officials:

- Jeff Walters, Manager – Legislative Services & Deputy City Clerk
- John Collin, City Manager
- Patty Robinet, City Solicitor
- Kayla Dixon, Commissioner - Infrastructure & Operations
- Keri Greaves, Commissioner - Corporate Services & City Treasurer
- Kerri Marshall, Commissioner - Growth
- Kelly Robertson, Commissioner - Community Services
- Cynthia Olsen, Director - Strategy & Engagement
- Kerri Bernardi, Acting Director - Human Resources
- Andrea Morrison, Director – Finance
- Matthew Miedema, Director – Engineering
- Dave Paxton, Fire Chief
- Tafadzwa Mukubvu, Manager – Budgets & Financial Planning

Cory Halvorsen, Manager – Parks & Open Spaces
Jason Sherband, Manager – Solid Waste & Recycling Services
Ian Spoljarich, Manager – Roads
Kelvin Jankowski, Manager – Capital Facilities Construction
Aaron Ward, Manager - Engineering
Vanessa DeGiacomo-Zwawesh, Energy Analyst
Katie Piché, Council & Committee Clerk

1. Open Session in the S.H. Blake Memorial Auditorium

Chair: Councillor Mark Bentz

2. Land Acknowledgement

Councillor Kristen Oliver provided a land acknowledgement.

3. Disclosures of Interest

4. Confirmation of Agenda

MOVED BY: Councillor Greg Johnsen

SECONDED BY: Councillor Kristen Oliver

WITH RESPECT to the January 28, 2026 Special Committee of the Whole - 2026 Proposed Operating Budget meeting, we recommend that the agenda as printed, including any additional information and new business, be confirmed.

CARRIED

5. Unfinished Business

Unfinished business from the January 26, 2026 Committee of the Whole - 2026 Proposed Operating Budget meeting.

6. Reports of Municipal Officers

6.1 2026 Proposed Operating Budget

Report 001-2026-Corporate Services-Finance relative to the Proposed 2026 Operating Budget was printed in the January 26, 2026 Special Committee of the Whole-Budget agenda.

Downtown Community Safety Ambassador Pilot Program

Memorandum from Director - Strategy & Engagement Cynthia Olsen, dated January 28, 2026, containing follow up information and letters of support relative to the Ambassador Pilot Program, for information.

7. Budget Summaries

7.1 Infrastructure & Operations

7.2 Outside Boards:

Community Economic Development Commission

CEO- Community Economic Development Commission Jamie Taylor appeared before Committee and responded to questions.

Thunder Bay Public Library

CEO- Thunder Bay Public Library Richard Togman appeared before Committee via MS Teams and responded to questions.

Victoria Avenue BIA

Victoria Avenue BIA Board Member Aldo Ruberto and BIA Coordinator Raechel Reed responded to questions.

Recess

MOVED BY: Councillor Andrew Foulds
SECONDED BY: Councillor Greg Johnsen

THAT the Committee of the Whole meeting recess until called to order by the Chair.

CARRIED

Committee of the Whole reconvened at 7:01 p.m.

Waterfront District BIA

Executive Director Kara Pratt and Waterfront BIA Board Chair John Murray appeared before Committee and responded to questions.

The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board

Lakehead Region Conservation Authority

CAO-Lakehead Region Conservation Authority Tammy Cook and Lakehead Region Conservation Authority Finance Manager Mark Ambrose appeared before Committee and responded to questions.

Thunder Bay District Health Unit

Medical Officer of Health Dr. Janet DeMille appeared before Committee and responded to questions.

Thunder Bay Police Service Board and Thunder Bay Police Service

Chief Darcy Fleury appeared before Committee, provided a PowerPoint presentation and responded to questions.

Director- Finance & Facilities-Thunder Bay Police Service Tom Kane appeared before Committee and responded to questions.

Chair-Thunder Bay Police Service Board Karen Machado appeared before Committee and responded to questions.

Amendment - Request for Reduction - Thunder Bay Police Service Budget

MOVED BY: Councillor Trevor Giertuga

SECONDED BY: Mayor Ken Boshcoff

WITH RESPECT to Report 001-2026-Corporate Services-Finance, the proposed 2026 Operating Budget for tax and rate-supported operations, we recommend that a request for further reductions be directed to the Thunder Bay Police Services Board for their consideration;

AND THAT the Chief of Police be requested to provide further information and/or potential reductions, cost savings and/or adjustments to the Thunder Bay Police Service's 2026 Operating submission to the Commissioner of Corporate Services/City Treasurer by Monday, February, 9, 2026;

AND THAT a Special Committee of the Whole – Budget meeting be established to precede the City Council meeting on Tuesday, February 10, 2026 to consider this information and approve potential changes;

AND THAT ratification of the proposed 2026 Operating Budget for tax and rate-supported operations be deferred to Tuesday, February 17, 2026;

AND THAT any necessary by-laws be presented to City Council for ratification.

LOST

A revote was requested on the above noted resolution.

Amendment – Request for Reduction – Thunder Bay Police Service Budget

MOVED BY: Councillor Trevor Giertuga

SECONDED BY: Mayor Ken Boshcoff

WITH RESPECT to Report 001-2026-Corporate Services-Finance, the proposed 2026 Operating Budget for tax and rate-supported operations, we recommend that a request for further reductions be directed to the Thunder Bay Police Services Board for their consideration;

AND THAT the Chief of Police be requested to provide further information and/or potential reductions, cost savings and/or adjustments to the Thunder Bay Police Service's 2026 Operating submission to the Commissioner of Corporate Services/City Treasurer by Monday, February, 2026;

AND THAT a Special Committee of the Whole – Budget meeting be established to precede the City Council meeting on Tuesday, February 10, 2026 to consider this information and approve potential changes;

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AND THAT any necessary by-laws be presented to City Council for ratification.

LOST

8. 2026 Proposed Operating Budget - Original Resolution

MOVED BY: Councillor Andrew Foulds

SECONDED BY: Councillor Greg Johnsen

WITH RESPECT to Report 001-2026-Corporate Services-Finance, we recommend that the proposed 2026 Operating Budget for tax and rate-supported operations be approved as outlined in this Report;

AND THAT the 2026 Tax-Supported Operating Budget of \$412,198,500 be approved as outlined in this Report;

AND THAT the 2026 Municipal Taxes raised to support the Tax-Supported Operating Budget, including Assessment Growth, be approved at \$228,484,400 as outlined in this Report;

AND THAT when combined, the total 2026 Municipal Taxes to be raised to support the Tax-Supported Operating and Capital Budget, including Assessment Growth, be approved at \$251,527,800 as outlined in this Report;

AND THAT with respect to the Tax-Supported Operating Budget, contributions to reserves and reserve funds from operations totalling up to \$13,491,200 and transfers from reserves and reserve funds totalling up to \$3,002,600 be approved

as outlined in this Report;

AND THAT the Victoria Avenue Business Improvement Area levy of \$71,700 be approved;

AND THAT the Waterfront District Business Improvement Area levy of \$120,400 be approved;

AND THAT the 2026 Solid Waste (Landfill) Operating Budget be approved at \$4,417,900 gross expenditure and \$2,570,400 net income, with a contribution to the Solid Waste – Landfill Reserve Fund to result in \$0 net income;

AND THAT the 2026 Waterworks Operating Budget be approved at \$27,545,300 gross expenditure and \$10,797,300 net income, with a contribution to the Waterworks Reserve Fund to result in \$0 net income;

AND THAT the 2026 Wastewater (Sewer) Operating Budget be approved at \$22,655,300 gross expenditure and \$7,300,100 net income, with a contribution to the Wastewater Reserve Fund to result in \$0 net income;

AND THAT the 2026 Prince Arthur's Landing – Boater Services Operating Budget be approved at \$483,700 gross expenditure and \$221,900 net income, with a contribution to the Boater Services Capital Reserve Fund to result in \$0 net income;

AND THAT the 2026 Parking Operating Budget be approved at \$2,799,600 gross expenditure and \$0 net income;

AND THAT the User Fees as outlined in Appendix 4 of the Proposed 2026 Operating Budget be approved effective April 1, 2026;

AND THAT reconciliation adjustments for the Budget presentation in accordance with Ontario Regulation 284/09 and Public Sector Accounting Board Standards be approved as outlined in this Report;

AND THAT any necessary by-laws be presented to City Council for ratification.

CARRIED

Councillor Trevor Giertuga requested to be recorded as opposed to the resolution relative to the above noted.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:36 p.m.