

**TOWN OF THESSALON
COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
6:30 P.M.
May 3, 2021
W. J. BARRETT CHAMBERS, 187 MAIN STREET
VIA. ZOOM**

Regular Meeting

- i) Opening of the Regular Meeting
- ii) Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof
- iii) Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meetings
- iv) Delegation: None
- v) Business Arising from Minutes of Previous Meeting
- vi) Letters and Communications for Action
- vii) Letters and Communications for Information
- viii) Committee and Staff Reports
 - 1) Jordan Bird – 2021 Budget
- ix) General Business
- x) Closed Session
- xi) Passing of Confirmatory By-law
 - 1) By-law 2427
- xii) Adjournment

Please Remember To Mute Your Cell Phone and Refrain From Texting

**TOWN OF THESSALON
COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA – PAGE 2
6:30 P.M.
May 3, 2020
W. J. BARRETT CHAMBERS, 187 MAIN STREET
VIA ZOOM**

Town of Thessalon is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: May 3, 2021 Special Council Meeting

Time: May 3, 2021 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84659526993?pwd=TjJhMEtxRmtFbnJMSEtIRWU0bzFGQT09>

Meeting ID: 846 5952 6993

Passcode: 701034

DELEGATION

**LETTERS AND COMMUNICATIONS
FOR ACTION**

**LETTERS AND COMMUNICATIONS
FOR INFORMATION**

COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

April 27, 2021

Mayor and Council:

The 2021 preliminary budget submitted showed total dollars required of \$2,230,600, representing an increase of 52.95% over last year's budget.

Included in the preliminary budget is an allocation of \$120,000 from reserves, \$160,000 being withdrawn from the OCIF Formula Based Fund reserve (\$123,064 will be received in OCIF Formula Based funding in 2021), as well as the withdrawal of \$120,000 from the Gas Tax fund. Please note that, in 2021, the Town is receiving \$159,988 in Gas Tax funding, being made up of \$78,417 in a top-up allocation in addition to our regular allotment of \$81,571.

The Finance Committee reviewed the budget and is recommending the attached changes to bring the total dollars required down by \$778,900 to \$1,451,700, resulting in a decrease in the residential rate of 0.025%, a decrease in the commercial rate of 3.165% and a decrease in the industrial rate of 0.021%.

The nearly \$780,000 reduction, combined with additional costs through further revenue and expenditure adjustments as outlined on the summary of attached changes, will, for the most part, come from the removal of a new fire truck estimated to cost \$475,000 and a further allocation from reserves of \$400,000.

Kindly find attached a 'Department Comparison' pie chart and a 'Revenue Sources To Cover Expenditures' pie chart for your review. The full budget will be provided at the meeting via ZOOM by shared screen.

Further to the attached report provided by the Fire Chief, the Finance Committee is recommending to increase the fire fighters' honorarium from \$40 to \$50 for each meeting attended. The draft 2021 budget includes a new roof and repairs to the Fire Hall, as well as Fire Safety Grant funding in the amount of \$4,900 for training announced earlier this year. Please note, the Fire Truck reserve has a balance of \$84,464.36.

Thank you for giving the above your consideration.

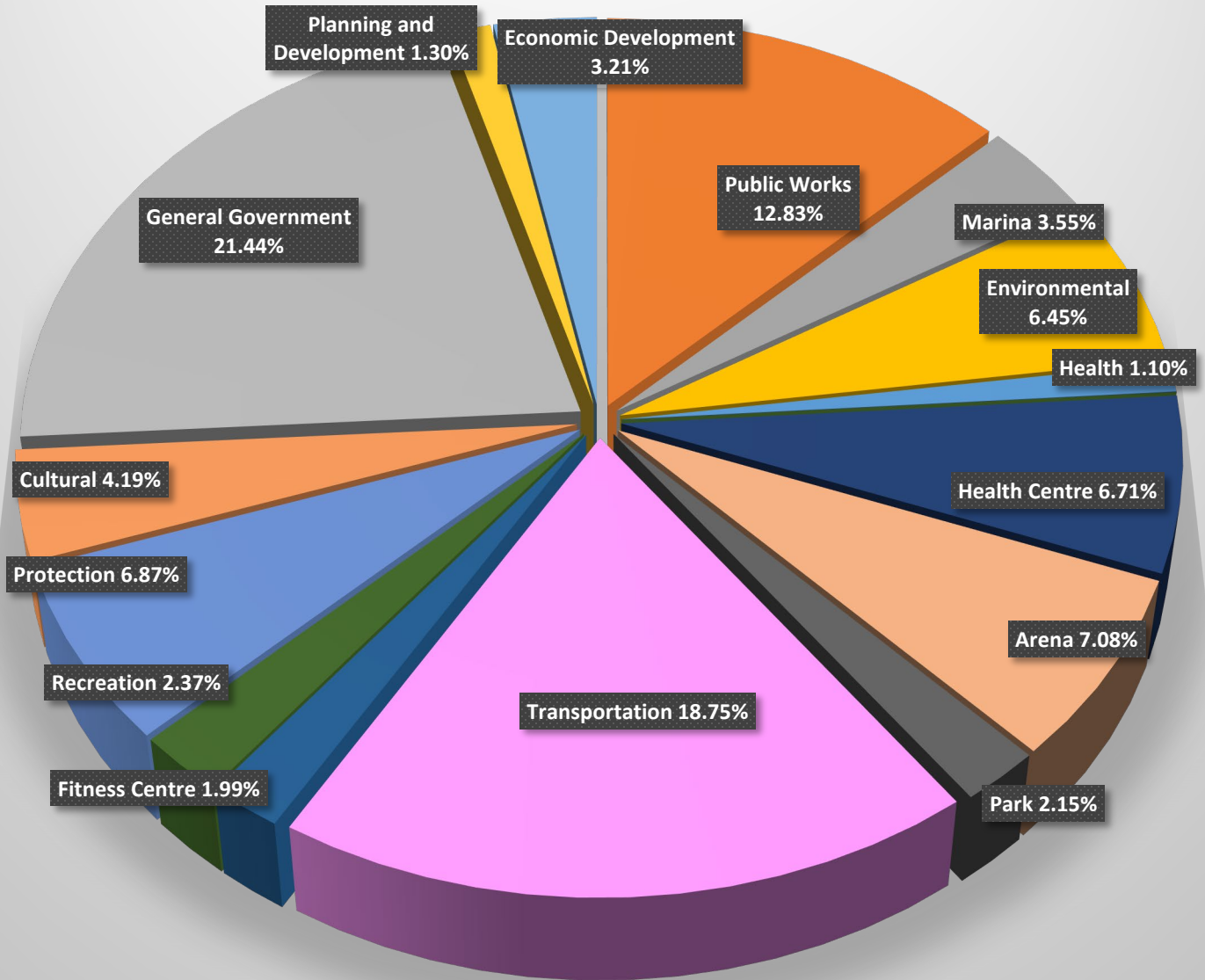


Jordan Bird
Finance Chair

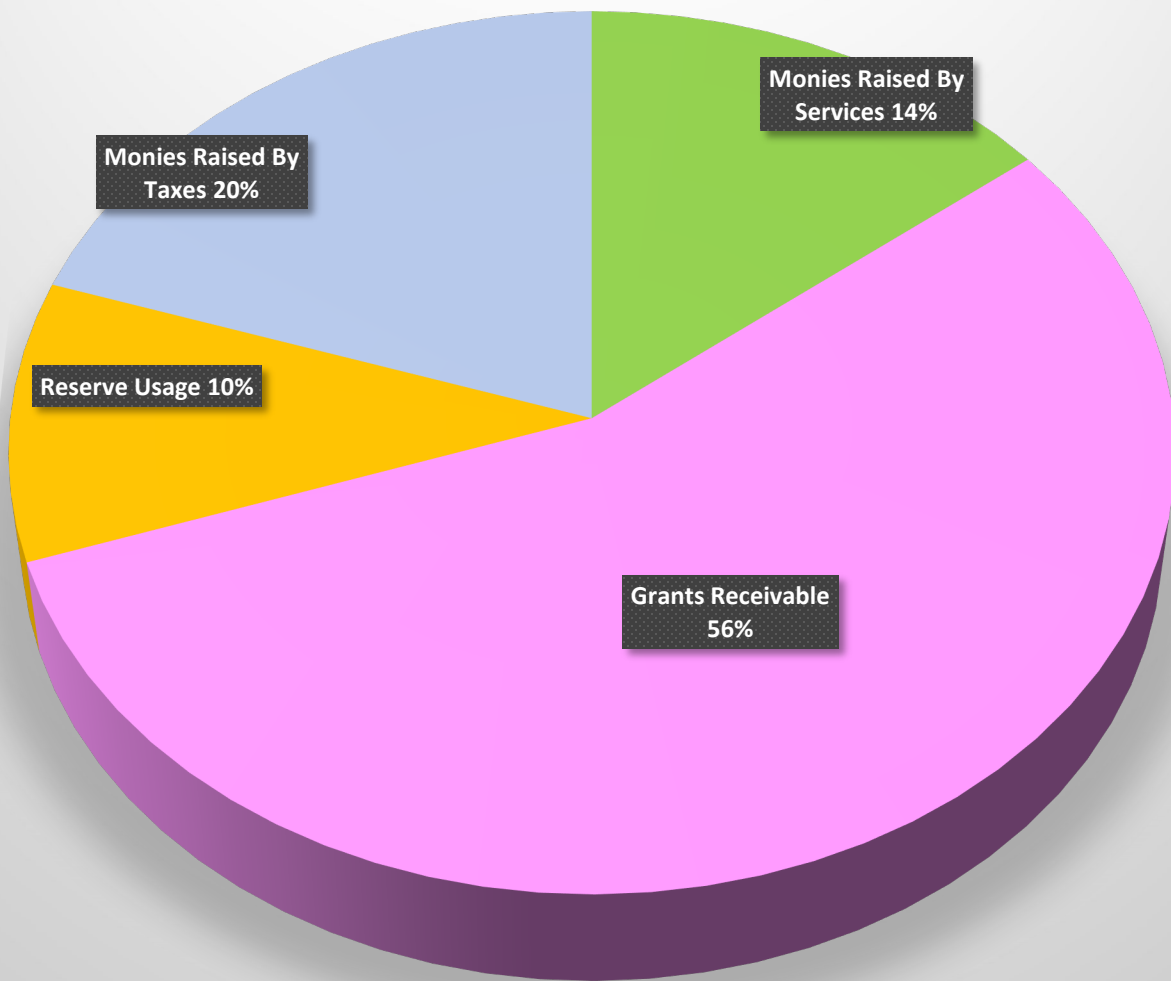
<u>2021 Budget Changes</u>	-	-	-		-
<u>Description</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>From Reserve or Grants</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Total Change to Current Funds</u>
Current Funds Amount					2,230,600
General Gov - Adjust for Conventions	10,000	8,000		(2,000)	2,228,600
General Gov - Adjust for Increase of Banking Fees	1,500	1,700		200	2,228,800
General Gov - Adjust for Vested Properties	88,000	15,000	(15,000)	0	2,228,800
2021 Insurance Adjustment				200	2,229,000
Roads-Adjust Snowplowing	65,000	60,000		(5,000)	2,224,000
Arena-Wages	62,000	55,000		(7,000)	2,217,000
Arena-Ice Rental Revenue	(40,000)	(20,000)		20,000	2,237,000
Park-Adjust Staff Wages	60,000	63,000		3,000	2,240,000
Park-Adjust Student Wages	15,000	14,000		(1,000)	2,239,000
Park-Riverside Park	1,500	500		(1,000)	2,238,000
Recreation-Community Days	31,500	2,000		(29,500)	2,209,500
Revenue Supplements	(6,000)	(10,050)		(4,050)	2,205,450
Revenue A. Manor One Time Payment Continued for 2021	0	(108,500)		(108,500)	2,096,950
Revenue Tax Certificates	(950)	(600)		350	2,097,300
Revenue Commissioning Fees	(800)	(600)		200	2,097,500
Capital-Dog Stations	0	1,000		1,000	2,098,500
Capital-Scott Carbon SCBA Tank			(10,300)	(10,300)	2,088,200
Capital-Gear Cleaning NOT using Reserve			2,500	2,500	2,090,700
Capital-Carhartt Season Jackets 18@245	4,400	2,000		(2,400)	2,088,300
Capital-NEW Fire Truck	475,000	0		(475,000)	1,613,300
Capital-Mill Lane Rock Along River Bank-Infrastructure Reserve			(25,000)	(25,000)	1,588,300
Capital-Various Road Works-Infrastructure Reserve			(40,000)	(40,000)	1,548,300
Capital-Lakeside Drive Project-Town's Portion of Non-refundable HST-W. Funds Reserve			(42,800)	(42,800)	1,505,500
Capital-Small Tools			(400)	(400)	1,504,100
Capital-V Plow for Trackless-Equipment Reserve			(7,500)	(7,500)	1,496,600

Capital-Man door for PW Garage-Equipment Reserve			(1,000)	(1,000)	1,495,600
Capital-Blades/Shoes Plow Truck-Equipment Reserve			(2,500)	(2,500)	1,493,100
Capital-FCM Funding-Our portion Working Funds			(12,500)	(12,500)	1,480,600
Capital-Update Fitness Program-Fitness Reserve	0	2,100	(2,100)	0	1,480,600
Capital-Fitness Room Parking Lot Paving-Infrastructure Reserve			(15,000)	(15,000)	1,465,600
Capital-Senior Housing Feasibility Study-Modernization Reserve	0	30,000	(30,000)	0	1,465,600
2 Washroom/Change Room 1 at Beach and 1 at Peace Park-Working Funds Reserve	0	60,000	(60,000)	0	1,465,600
Senior Outdoor Equip at Peace Park-Park and Infrastructure Reserve	0	74,500	(74,500)	0	1,465,600
Capital-topsoil/Crusher Fines Ballfields-Park Reserve			(5,000)	(5,000)	1,460,600
Capital-Recycling Bins/Garbage Cans-Clean Park Initiatives Reserve	0	15,000	(15,000)	0	1,460,600
Capital-STEP Recycling Bins	3,000	8,000		5,000	1,465,600
Capital-STEP Composting/Rain Barrels-STEP Reserve	1,500	3,000	(2,000)	(500)	1,465,100
Capital-STEP Seabin Project	10,000	0		(10,000)	1,455,100
Capital-Highway 17 Development-Modernization Reserve			(25,000)	(25,000)	1,430,100
Capital-Computer/Laptop-Screens-Working Funds Reserve			(5,500)	(5,500)	1,424,600
Capital-TV Installation-Gen Gov Reserve			(600)	(600)	1,424,000
Post Closure Rose Lake Annual Levy Reserve increase	2,500	25,500		23,000	1,447,000
Library Request for Capital and Cleaning	0	4,200		4,200	1,451,200
Trefry Memorial Centre Donation	0	500		500	1,451,700
				(778,900)	

Department Comparison



Revenue Sources to Cover Expenditures



2021 Fire Department Budget

Capital Expenditures

(In Prioritized Order)

1. 6 Sets - Turnout Gear (Coats& Pants)_____	\$2,400 ea. = \$14,400.
2. 4 Pair - Fire Boots	\$300 ea. = \$1,200.
3. 6 - Scott Carbon Fibre SCBA Tank	\$1,900 ea. = \$11,400.
4. 20 - Nomex Balaclavas	\$55 ea. = \$1,100.
5. 20 Pair - Safety Glasses	\$3 ea. = \$60.-
6. 18 - Carhartt 3 Season Jacket	\$245 ea. = \$4,410.
7. 3 - Halligan Tool	\$365 ea.= \$1,095.
8. 20 -SCBA Mask Protective Bag	\$52 ea. = \$1,040.

Total : \$34,705.

- New Pumper Truck(+/- \$475,000}
- Gear Cleaning (From last years budget \$2500}
- Hydrants... No ditches, etc (we rent hydrants, this should not be from fire budget).

2021 Thessalon Fire Budget

Prepared by Scott Lawrence (Fire Chief)

Capital Expenditures

1. 6 - Sets of firefighter turnout gear (Bunker Gear). We have been fortunate to gain some new members this past year, and firefighting apparel must fit properly, and be in good condition. It has been a few years since we replaced some of our Turnout gear. We have 5 old red sets left, and getting one as an extra, and we propose replacing them.
2. 4 - Pair of firefighter boots. We have some new members who need boots to fit, and we do not have any to spare.
3. 6 - Scott Carbon Fibre SCBA Tanks were budgeted for last year, and not purchased. That money was put over for purchase this year.
4. 20 - Nomex Balaclava's. These are required to be worn with SCBA gear. It has been a long time since we replaced these. They have also been washed many times, and are worn out.
5. 20 - Pair of safety glasses. Safety glasses are required to be worn. Ours are a few years old, and are in rough shape.
6. 18 - Carhartt 3 season jackets. It has been quite a few years since the firefighters got new jackets, and we have a number of new firefighters without anything. These jackets are an advantage to be recognized when in the public, on inspections, tours, and events. They are considered part of our uniform. Please note, that other neighboring departments budget for full dress uniforms for all their firefighters.
7. 3 - Halligan Tool. These are a very versatile tool for fireground operations. We propose having one on each truck.
8. 20 - SCBA Mask Protective bag. Our masks require proper protection. We need new bags for our masks.

Fire Protection Expenditure Priority Increase Requests

The following was included in my fire budget review last year. These items are all still undecided and/or outstanding, and we would like serious consideration to be given to these items this year.

- We always put \$10,000 into Reserve for a new truck. I am not currently sure where it is at (still a year later, and nobody seems to be able to tell me), but we have a 31 year-old fire truck that needs replacement. I suggest the municipality strongly look at what it will require to replace this fire truck in the very near future. There may also be grants available. There will soon be a time we will not be able to repair it, and ordering a new truck can take well over a year. Proper fire protection of our municipality, and being part of "Mutual Aid", can not happen with one fire truck. New Pumpers run about \$475K +/-.
- Our fire hall building is in really rough shape. Repair to this building can not happen by our firefighters doing building maintenance here. Our roof had leaked last year (not the first time), some temporary drywall repair was done, but this low-slope roof continues to be a problem, damage from the leaking inside was not cleaned up or properly repaired. Mold is also a concern where the soaked areas were patched over. The big door is in very poorly insulated and a new way of possibly spray foam or something needs to be investigated.
- Currently our Firefighters are paid an honorarium of \$40 / meeting that they attend. It has been this way for many years. I would request an increase to this. These firemen dedicate themselves 24/7/365 to emergencies that they can be called away from their families, work, meetings, and middle of the night sleep before they have to get up for work the next day. They get nothing for time at fire scenes. They also volunteer countless hours to running and attending other events, and making a really good representation of the town.
- Currently our Fire Chief is paid a small amount over other firefighters, for the duties he performs. This has not been increased for many years. Our Deputy Chief, who performs many tasks, and our three Captains, Training Officers, and Public Relations Officer, get nothing more than the regular firefighter honorarium. I would ask for the Fire Chief pay to be increased, and something offered to the Deputy Chief and Captains. It is very hard to fill these positions as basically it is just a title, that comes with a huge amount of responsibility and liability, that has not been properly recognized by this municipality. We know we are volunteers, but the municipality must understand and investigate what is required by these positions now.

The Town of Thessalon is far behind our other neighboring municipalities. Our meetings that we have twice a month, are meant to be "Training" meetings. Most of the time spent at these meetings turns out to be spent checking and maintaining equipment and apparatuses. As well as hall

maintenance. These jobs need to be done by us, because we have no one else qualified to do it, as none of the volunteers can spend extra time, and they should not be required to spend extra time to do this. Training is starting to become more strict, and is going to get worse, and we are barely meeting the basic requirements. This municipality needs to investigate options in the very near future as most of the other municipalities of the North Shore area has, in that they are combining services, and/or hiring

full-time people to look after multiple duties like Fire Chief, By-Law Officer, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Animal Control Officer, etc...

Much more time must also be taken to prepare training meetings and have events and exercises organized and ready. Inventory and logging of maintenance, and follow-up of repairs is not being done, as volunteers just do not have the extra time. If something unfortunate happens on a fire scene, and during litigation, they want to see maintenance records, repair files, and training records, we will likely not be able to produce this.

I request that Council make the investigation and consideration of these requests a priority, as liability if some of these duties is lacking, and is a very huge concern, as well as health and safety of firefighters and the general public we serve.

The Thessalon Fire Budget is one of the lowest in Northern Ontario. This can be looked at in two different ways... One, that it's an advantage in that it is a low cost to the municipal tax payers, but second in that if we are not meeting the basic requirements, and we are not covered for equipment, training, and emergency preparedness, it can become extremely expensive with just one accident, near miss, or litigation.

Thanks very much for your attention to this. Scott

Lawrence

Fire Chief
705-254-8537
sckslawrence@bellnet.ca

GENERAL BUSINESS

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF THESSALON

BY-LAW NUMBER 2427

BEING A BY-LAW to confirm the proceedings of the special meeting of Council held on May 3, 2021.

WHEREAS Section 5, Subsection 3 of the Municipal Act, R.S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended, requires a municipal council to exercise its power by by-law except where otherwise provided;

AND WHEREAS in many cases, action which is taken or authorized to be taken by a Council or Committee of Council does not lend itself to an individual by-law;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Thessalon hereby **ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:**

1. The actions of Council at its special meeting on May 3, 2021 in respect to each motion, resolution and other action passed and taken by the Council at its said special meeting, is, except where prior approval of the Ontario Municipal Board is required, hereby adopted, ratified and confirmed.
2. The Mayor and the proper officers of the Town are hereby authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to the said action or to obtain approvals where required, and to execute all documents as may be necessary and directed to affix the Corporate Seal to all such documents as required.
3. This by-law shall come into force and take effect immediately upon the final passing thereof.

PASSED in Open Council this 3rd day of May, 2021.

Mayor

Seal

Clerk Treasurer