

Municipality of Chatham-Kent
AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, October 20, 2020 @ 12:00 pm
MINUTES

Committee Members:

- Mayor Darrin Canniff
- Councillor Melissa Harrigan
- Councillor Karen Kirkwood-Whyte
- Councillor Brock McGregor
- Councillor Doug Sulman, Chair

Administration:

- Don Shropshire, CAO
- Gord Quinton, Chief Financial Officer
- Matt Torrance, Director, Financial Services
- Brock Priddle, Manager, Corporate Accounting
- Joanne Trombley, Administrative Assistant
- Joey Vandermeer, Project Manager
- Amy McLellan, Manager of Revenue

1. Call Meeting to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:05pm.

2. Tax Rate Modernization – Area Charges

The Project Manager provided an overview of his report. Administration is proposing the full elimination of area rating for policing, streetlighting and horticulture. This is the first step in streamlining our tax rates, enabling us to begin combining communities into tiered urban and rural tax models.

The Director, Financial Services confirmed that we are recommending that fire servicing remain area rated as there is a distinct level of service difference.

CI McGregor advised that when preparing the report to Council it would be helpful to identify the communities that are urban centres and the difference between fire and police servicing, including cost distribution comparisons. The service zones do not match up with rural urban boundaries and ward boundaries and it would be helpful to find a way to represent this in a more simple manner.

CI Harrigan suggested that for the sake of transparency and to fill an information gap, it would be useful to show the response time difference between the police priority call levels, ie. 0 priority compared to a 3 priority. Consider whether this needs to be relayed in closed session.

The CFO advised that administration is developing a survey in order to obtain community feedback. CI Harrigan provided some suggestions and it was agreed that the Audit Committee will be sent the draft questions to review.

The Director, Financial Services highlighted Appendix A of the report, noting that 39 municipalities were surveyed and only two area rate for policing.

CI McGregor inquired as to the funding model pre-amalgamation for policing outside of urban centres, for which the CFO provided the history.

Motion to receive the Tax Rate Modernization report and recommend its endorsement to Council. Moved by CI McGregor / Seconded by CI Kirkwood-Whyte. Carried

The CFO advised that the report to Council is targeted for the November 23 Council meeting.

3. Next Meeting

Will take place after November 12, date yet to be determined.

4. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn. Moved by CI Kirkwood-Whyte / Seconded by CI McGregor. Carried

The meeting adjourned at 12:37 pm.