

North Bay Taxpayers' Association

Annual General Meeting

Meeting Minutes – November 17, 2015

The Annual General Meeting began promptly at 7:00 PM and was moderated by James Brien, one of the executive members of the Association.

Outgoing President, Mark King, welcomed guests and spoke on the formation of the North Bay Taxpayers Association in 2012 and the awareness that has been created about how tax dollars are spent in the city. Mark also thanked the volunteer executive.

Executive member, Maurice Switzer, provided an overview of the NBTA, its purpose, vision and values. The main goal of solid fiscal management at the City of North Bay has not changed. NBTA believes that lower taxes will benefit the community.

Former Vice President, Miles Peters, offered an overview of the NBTA accomplishments including an elevated public awareness, higher levels of interest in how tax dollars are spent and preparing the public for the economic realities of today. Serious issues and concerns have been identified and citizens have been empowered to stand up for these concerns.

Former Treasurer Don Rennick identified future goals including an ever increasing focus on transparency, a desire to have municipal budgeting start with a zero base. There is no change to the assumption that city costs do not need to be increased and NBTA will continue to push for better efficiencies within municipal government.

The treasurer's report was provided including all donations, all expenses and current balance. It was noted that 80% of donations received were from the directors themselves.

James Brien outlined the process taken to receive nominations for directors of the association for a two year term. Nine executive positions were filled by acclamation and these directors will, among themselves, elect the executive positions. The directors were introduced with a short bio. The new directors are as follows: James Brien, Elizabeth Fournier, Gary Gardiner, Catharine Hunter, Mark King, Miles Peters, Donald Rennick, Maurice Switzer and Cheryl Whitesell.

The floor was opened for comments from the public.

- Concerns were expressed about the City's level of debt at \$63 million (2014).
- Concerns identified about the lack of new assessment growth impacting City revenues
- Suggestion that it is time for the City to consider outsourcing solutions
- Suggestion that youth concerns are important and should be part of NBTA focus
- Concern expressed that city expenses continue to escalate and growth is stagnant
- Concern expressed that housing development has collapsed and is not expected to change
- Expenses must be reduced but that will require creativity and political will
- Water Meters were a concern relating to cost, frozen lines, maintenance, etc.
- Concern expressed that the City has the smallest ED department anywhere. Need to sell the city.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.