

## **City of North Bay Report to Council**

Report No: CORP-2025-032

Date: March 21, 2025

Originator: Laura Boissonneault

Business Unit: Corporate Services      Department: Financial Services Department

Subject: 2025 Operating Budget - Ontario Regulation 284/09 Disclosure

Closed Session: yes ☐ no ☒

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### **Recommendation**

1. That City Council acknowledges the 2025 General Operating, Water & Wastewater Operating, and Capital Budgets were prepared on a cash basis format and excluded the following expenses:
  - Amortization of tangible capital assets
  - Employee future benefit costs
  - Solid waste landfill closure and post closure expenses
2. That Council authorizes the continued preparation of the City's annual General Operating, Water & Wastewater Operating, and Capital Budgets using the cash basis format as set out in Report to Council CORP 2025-032 dated March 21, 2025 from Laura Boissonneault.

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### **Background**

Section 294.1 of the Municipal Act requires municipalities to prepare annual financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for local governments as recommended by the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB). In 2009, PSAB standards and reporting requirements changed dramatically with the most significant change being the introduction of tangible capital asset accounting. Under these accounting standards, municipalities are required to report tangible capital assets on the balance sheet and amortize assets over their useful lives. Other accounting changes were introduced such that municipalities must prepare audited financial statements under the accrual basis format, similar to the Private Sector.

In addition to the provisions in the Act related to financial reporting, Section 290 of the Municipal Act requires municipalities to have a balanced budget that includes sufficient funds to cover all of the operating costs and debt repayment obligations arising throughout the year. Accordingly, municipalities in Ontario, including the City of North Bay, have continued to develop budgets on a cash basis. These budgets do not include the PSAB requirements of accrual accounting and accounting for non-financial assets such as tangible capital assets.

The Province of Ontario enacted a regulation, Ontario Regulation 284/09, allowing for certain items to be excluded from municipal budgets provided that the municipality prepares a report regarding the excluded expenses.

The allowable excluded expenses are:

- Amortization of tangible capital assets
- Employee future benefit costs
- Solid waste landfill closure and post closure expenses

The Ontario Regulation additionally states that the report must outline:

1. The change in accumulated surplus of the municipality from the exclusion of any of the expenses listed above; and
2. The impact on future tangible capital asset funding requirements of the municipality.

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## **Financial/Legal Implications**

There are no direct financial implications associated with continuing to budget on a cash basis. All appropriate accruals will be reported in the annual audited financial statements in accordance with PSAB standards.

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## **Corporate Strategic Plan**

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|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Natural North and Near                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Prosperity     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affordable Balanced Growth                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Spirited Safe Community |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Responsible and Responsive Government |  |

## **Specific Objectives**

- Ensure that Council and staff have a shared perception and goals

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## **Options Analysis**

The City's 2025 General Operating, Water & Wastewater Operating, and Capital Budgets were prepared on the cash basis format and excluded the following estimates:

- Amortization of tangible capital assets for 2025 is estimated to be \$27,430,597 based on preliminary calculations. 2024 amortization will be finalized in conjunction with the annual financial statements after Council approves the year-end December 2024 Capital Status report.
- A full actuary review (employee future benefit costs) is completed every three years. A full actuary review for 2024 is currently underway and will be finalized in April 2025. Based on the 2023 actuary review, the estimated annual employee future benefit costs are approximately \$690,400.
- The changes in projected solid waste landfill closure and post closure expenses are estimated to be \$32,416.

In addition to these excluded expenses, the cash-based budgets prepared by the City include certain types of transactions that need to be excluded for PSAB reporting purposes. These items are not covered in Ontario Regulation 284/09; however, for transparency purposes and consistency, the accumulated surplus contained in this report will be included as adjusted budget figures in the 2024 audited financial statements. As such, the following items which are included in the cash-based budgets will be excluded from the accumulated surplus on a PSAB basis:

- Cash inflows from debenture proceeds
- Debenture principal repayments
- Transfer to/from reserve funds
- Tangible Capital Asset costs

- Asset Retirement Obligation (ARO) costs
- Amortization of ARO Assets

The following table is an estimated conversion of approved 2025 cash-based budgets to full accrual accounting for PSAB financial statement reporting purposes:

**Revenues (Gross):**

Operating Budget	\$167,181,853
Water & Sewer Operating Budget	\$29,389,477
Capital Budgets	<u>\$98,403,144</u>
	\$294,974,474

**Expenses (Gross):**

Operating Budget	(\$167,181,853)
Water & Sewer Operating Budget	(\$29,389,477)
Capital Budgets	<u>(\$98,403,144)</u>
	<u>(\$294,974,474)</u>

**Budgeted Surplus (Deficit)** (\$0)

Estimated Adjustments for Full Accrual Accounting:

Less Amortization (Preliminary 2025 est.)	(\$27,430,597)
Less ARO Amortization (Preliminary 2025 est.)	(\$122,409)
Less Employee Future Benefit Costs (2023 actuarial est.)	(\$690,400)
Plus Contaminated Sites Liability (2024 costs)	\$63,161
Less Debenture Proceeds (2025 budget)	(\$23,833,945)
Add Debenture Repayments (2025 budget)	\$9,040,504
Add Annual Capital Expenditures (2025 budget)	\$83,515,685
Less Transfer <i>to/(from)</i> Reserves–Cap. (2025 budget)	(\$10,845,454)
Less Net Transfers <i>to/(from)</i> Reserves–Op. (2025 budget)	<u>(\$1,516,685)</u>

**Total Estimated Change in Accumulated Surplus** \$28,179,860

The 2025 planned capital program provides for the sustainability and replacement of City assets as well as growth related projects. The planned net annual capital expenditures noted above is higher than the estimated annual amortization.

It should be noted that there are risks of using amortization as an indicator of appropriate capital funding and include the following:

- Assets that are fully depreciated would be excluded
- Amortization is based on historical costs and not the future replacement values of the assets, which may differ due to inflation, changing standards, or operational needs (i.e. accessibility, legislation, health & safety, etc.)
- Not all capital requirements are capitalized and would be omitted
- In-year current amortization does not provide for estimating future capital requirements, i.e. growth-related infrastructure

If estimated employee future benefit costs and solid waste landfill closure and post closure expenses were to be budgeted, the annual estimated accrued costs could be set aside in reserves to pay for future expenditures.

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## **Recommended Option**

1. That City Council acknowledges the 2025 General Operating, Water & Wastewater Operating, and Capital Budgets were prepared on the cash basis format and excluded the following expenses:
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Respectfully submitted,

Name: Laura Boissonneault, CPA, CGA

Title: Director, Financial Services / Deputy Treasurer

## **I concur with this report and recommendation**

Name Margaret Karpenko, CPA, CMA

Title: Chief Financial Officer /Treasurer

Name John Severino, P.Eng., MBA

Title: Chief Administrative Officer

Personnel designated for continuance:

Margaret Karpenko, CPA, CMA

Chief Financial Officer /Treasurer