



## The Corporation of the Town of Grand Valley

### Special Council Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2026, 6:00 p.m.  
Council Chambers, 5 Main Street North, Grand Valley

Council Present: Mayor Steve Soloman  
Deputy Mayor Philip Rentsch  
Councillor Lorne Dart  
Councillor James Jonker  
Councillor Paul Latam

Staff Present: Meghan Townsend, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk  
Matthew Bos, Director Public Works  
Steven Freitas, Director of Finance/Treasurer  
Mark Kluge, Manager of Planning  
James Allen, Recreation Facilities Manager  
Donna Tremblay, Deputy Clerk/Communications Coordinator

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#### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Soloman called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

#### 2. Adoption of Agenda

**Resolution: 2026-03-17**

**Moved by:** J. Jonker

**Seconded by:** P. Latam

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council adopts the Special Council Meeting- 2026 Budget agenda dated March 10, 2026 as circulated.

CARRIED

#### 3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

No pecuniary interest was declared.

#### 4. Deputations/Presentations

There were no deputations or presentations.

#### 5. Staff Reports

5.1 Final DRAFT 2026 Operating and Capital Budget, 2026-055

Steven Freitas, Director of Finance/Treasurer provided opening remarks. He provided a summary of the staff report and outlined the draft budget changes.

Council reviewed and discussed the final draft 2026 Operating and Capital Budget. Discussions included:

- OPER 87, CAP 23 and 24- Community Centre - Expansion Project loan repayment
- CAP 118 - Construction Capital Expenditures. Staff to report back with recommendation from the Public Works Director on 2026 road project with an amount to be include in 2026 budget.
- Increase in budgeted amount
- OPER 217 - Police - Surplus from Automated Speed Enforcement
- CAP 162 - Roads - transfer from Capital Reserve - to off-set snow plow capital expenditure
- OPER 250 - Parks and Recreation Wages - reduction - removal of one temporary summer student position
- OPER 121 - Library Levy payment - Council requested 2026 Budget include a 2% increase/\$300,000 budget amount
- OPER 244 to 248 - By-Law Operating - considerations for 2027 to increase revenues
- CAP 8 - Capital Levy Reserve - removal of \$75,500 - See Resolution 2026-03-18
- OPER 109 - Fire Department - request for staff to review levy amount and report back to Council.
- CAP 41 and 43 - Hill Town Subdivision New Road
- OPER 521 - Roads Department Wages - Staff provided clarification of 2025 department staff levels and costs.
- OPER 2 - Council benefits - staff provided clarification on Council employer paid benefits.

Further discussions included:

- an update on the Deputy Treasurer position
- Town's tax sale cancellations; and
- conducting a review of Public Works operations and service levels for 2027 Budget discussions.

**Resolution: 2026-03-18**

**Moved by:** P. Latam

**Seconded by:** L. Dart

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** CAP 8 reduced by \$75,500.

CARRIED

**Resolution: 2026-03-19**

**Moved by:** P. Rentsch

**Seconded by:** J. Jonker

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** CAP 118 increased by \$175,000 to include one of the removed capital projects, at the discretion of the Director of Public Works.

DEFEATED

**Resolution: 2026-03-20**

**Moved by:** L. Dart

**Seconded by:** P. Rentsch

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** OPER109 be referred back to staff to confirm the levy amount as presented;

**AND FURTHER THAT** once that amount is confirmed, an amount for CAP 118 be considered.

CARRIED

**Resolution: 2026-03-21**

**Moved by:** P. Latam

**Seconded by:** J. Jonker

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** staff prepare an audit on public works service levels, looking for efficiencies in operations, looking for budget savings, plus consider job sharing with parks and recreation on weekends for watering/splash pad inspections, levels of service for plowing, scheduling changes or covering Town events and any other staff suggestion;

**AND FURTHER THAT** this be considered for 2027 Budget discussions.

CARRIED

**Resolution: 2026-03-22**

**Moved by:** P. Latam  
**Seconded by:** J. Jonker

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council receives the Report – Final DRAFT 2026 Operating and Capital Budget;

**AND FURTHER THAT** the final changes discussed in the meeting be made and presented as the Final 2026 Operating and Capital Budget along with the necessary by-laws for adoption at the March 24, 2026, regular Council meeting.

CARRIED

**6. Confirm Proceedings**

**Resolution: 2026-03-23**

**Moved by:** L. Dart  
**Seconded by:** P. Rentsch

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** leave be given to introduce a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the Special Council Meeting - 2026 Budget held on March 10, 2026 and that it be given the necessary readings and be passed and numbered as By-Law 2026-19.

CARRIED

6.1 2026-XX Being a By-Law to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Town of Grand Valley at the Special Council - 2026 Budget Meeting held on March 10, 2026

**7. Adjournment**

**Resolution: 2026-03-24**

**Moved by:** J. Jonker  
**Seconded by:** L. Dart

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** we do now adjourn this Special Council Meeting - 2026 Budget at 8:19 p.m.

CARRIED

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Steve Soloman Mayor

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Meghan Townsend/CAOClerk

