

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
2007 Budget Review
HELD TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2007**

Committee Present: Mayor Lowe in the Chair; and Councillors Chandler, Coleman, Holland, Hughes, Madoff, Thornton-Joe, and Young.

Absent: Councillor Fortin.

Staff Present: M. McCliggott – Director of Finance; and L. O’Keeffe – Financial Analyst, Budget; P. Ballantyne – City Manager; D. Day – Director, Planning & Development; J. Jenkyns – Acting General Manager, Conference Centre; R. Woodland – Corporate Administrator; P. O’Reilly – Director, Engineering; D. Angrove – Fire Chief; D. Atkinson – Director, Parks, Recreation & Community Development; M. Leskiw – Manager, Parks; P. Sparanese – Deputy Director, Engineering; C. Havelka – Recording Secretary.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

2. FINAL REVIEW – 2007 OPERATING BUDGET

The focus of the budget meeting was a final review of the operating budget, the supplementary requests and grant requests.

The Director of Finance reviewed the supplementary and grant requests and the following concerns and questions were discussed:

- The Victoria Heritage Foundation is requesting a grant for approximately \$12,000.
- Grant requests are reviewed every year.
- Funding for the Parks, Recreation & Community Development Deputy Director will be taken out of the budget from future retirements, continuing in subsequent years.
- The addition of two firefighters will be deferred until 2008.
- Increase in the Police Department’s budget is due to over-time, and Committee discussed the reasons behind this.
- Police Department’s budget anticipated increase of \$450,000 needs to be reduced, this request will be proposed to the Police Board.
- Jubilee Hospital renovations and sewer treatment will greatly impact the capital budget in the coming years.
- The community survey showed that tax payers don’t object to tax increase if they understand the reasons behind it. Communication is important.
- However, tax increase of 4.52% still too high and above inflation rate.

- The capital budget is linked to the strategic plan and next year the Director of Finance hopes to get business plans from the departments.
- Options for increasing revenue were discussed, such as:
 - increasing monthly parking rates
 - development cost charges
 - development bonuses,
 - partnership funding
 - staff allocated to pursuing other sources of funding

Committee discussed the possibility of staff assessing their operating and capital budgets once more to determine if they can reduce further.

Action: Councillor Chandler moved that staff direct the Police Chief to review the Police budget with the plan to reduce their increase by \$450,000 in line with their original forecast in the 2005-2010 capital budget.

CARRIED 07/062

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

Action: Councillor Thornton-Joe moved that the Special Committee of the Whole meeting of January 23, 2007 be adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

Mayor Lowe, Chair