DISTRICT OF SAANICH MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING FINANCIAL PLAN

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS SAANICH MUNICIPAL HALL, 770 VERNON AVENUE TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2012 AT 7:30 PM.

Present: Chair: Mayor Leonard

Council: Councillors Brice. Brownoff, Derman, Gerrard, Murdock, Sanders,

Wergeland, and Wade

Staff: Tim Wood, Administrator; Paul Murray, Director of Finance; and

Maura Jones, Senior Committee Clerk

Public Presentations

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Ms. M. Jackson, 1741 Llandaff Place, stated:

- She wishes to have clarification on the motion passed by Council at the Financial Plan meeting on February 21, 2012.
- Prior to the municipal election, all members of Council said they would consult with the public.
- Answers to all of the questions from the 3 public meetings should be provided at another public meeting. Emails and phone calls are not sufficient.
- She finds it interesting that the closure of the restaurant was announced 2 months after the municipal election.
- It took 14 to 16 months for Council to make a decision regarding urban chickens, while the decision regarding the restaurant at the Cedar Hill Golf Course was made after only 2 In Camera meetings.

Mr. M. Brown, 956 Cloverdale Avenue, stated:

- He is again asking the Mayor how and when answers will be provided to the questions raised by the public at the Financial Plan meetings on February 7, 2012 and February 21, 2012 in regards to the Cedar Hill Golf Course.
- He understood that a response would be provided to these questions at the end of the February 21 meeting, but that response has not been forthcoming.

In response to Mr. Brown, Mayor Leonard stated that this portion of the meeting is for public input only. Mr. Brown is welcome to provide further public input within the set time limit.

Ms. M. Bachmann, 3720 Ascot Drive, stated:

- Process matters to her, as does community input and public participation.
- The Official Community Plan establishes directions for accomplishing the collective vision of the community; it is her expectation that these directions would be followed by Council.
- The residents in the neighbourhood around the Cedar Hill park know how much can be accomplished through hard work and determination; the owners voluntarily rezoned their properties surrounding the Cedar Hill park and the residents worked with staff to address an invasive species issue in Kings Pond.

Mr. J. Bates, 995 Ridgeway, stated:

- He takes exception with the Mayor's response, as it seems he will not answer questions from Mr. Brown and others.
- Public participation should include an exchange of ideas and opinions between the public and Saanich's representatives; this has not been occurring.

Mr. D. McKenzie, 4163 Clinton Place, stated:

- It is his understanding that the Mayor has the option to revisit a motion within 30 days.
- He would ask that the Mayor exercise this option with regards to the Cedar Hill Golf Course.

Mr. T. Cormier, no address given, stated:

- Saanich has clear objectives for the future; these objectives should be reflected in our decisions and investments.
- Residents want attractive and functional entrances to both Cadboro Bay and the University of Victoria (UVIC) for pedestrians, cyclists, motorists and public transit users.
- The planned roundabout at McKenzie Avenue and Finnerty Road will be the first in Saanich.
- There is very little public awareness of this roundabout.
- Roundabouts are good for motorists, but less so for pedestrians especially those with handicaps or other mobility challenges.
- The concept for the roundabout dates from 2002 and reflects the priorities of that time, not those of the current day.
- UVIC does not prioritize cycling on campus and the following issues need to be addressed: there are only 94 secure lockers and an extensive waitlist; there is limited covered parking; there are no cycling paths; and there is no strategy to increase cycling.
- The existing road is in good condition and the upgrades will not increase capacity; they are also very expensive.
- It is preferable to provide separate cycling paths, rather than incorporating cycling lanes into the road way. Separated cycling paths are safer, less expensive and more attractive.
- He would ask that Council defer approval of the McKenzie Avenue Upgrades Project as the final plans are not yet available, there is a public information meeting scheduled for April, and the outcome of UVIC's application is still pending.
- The roadway after McKenzie Avenue becomes Sinclair Road is a more dangerous section and is where money should be invested.

Mr. B. Furber, 2751 Arbutus Road, stated:

- Engineering staff members met with him, Mr. T. Cormier and Mr. D. Langley, to discuss concerns with regards to the McKenzie Avenue Upgrades.
- It has not been explained why these upgrades are needed. UVIC is not yet ready for the upgrades and the case has not been made that there are safety issues along McKenzie Avenue that need to be addressed.

Page 2 of 5

- An opportunity should be given to evaluate accident information on McKenzie Avenue before this budget item is approved.
- Though there was supposedly broad support for the upgrades at 2 open houses, no residents he spoke with were aware of the project or were supportive once the project was described.
- Information has not been made available on how many residents attended these open houses or on the nature of the feedback received.
- In reference to the project, Mr. Langley, a retired traffic engineer, questioned why cycling lanes were being included on the roadway and enhancing the existing cycling paths was not considered.
- He is pleased that the Director of Engineering has agreed to host a public information meeting on the project in the near future, but the issue of public input has not been addressed.
- The larger scale engineering plans for the project are now available and should be presented and explained at the public information meeting.
- Consideration should be given to laying out the footprint of the project on the road, so that the impact is clear.
- Council should not approve the budget for this project, as the public have not been adequately informed and the project is not urgent.

Mr. D. Poje, 4180 Bracken Avenue, stated:

- He has applied to Council to waive the garbage collection fee for his home at 4180 Bracken Avenue.
- In 2002, the annual cost at the Hartland Landfill for his household was \$2.00 for garbage disposal and \$12.00 for recycling. It would have been cheaper to dispose of the recyclable material as garbage.
- Using the figures in Saanich's 2010 Annual Report, he calculates an average monthly disposal of 71.6 lbs of garbage per household in Saanich; his household disposes of a maximum of 2 lbs of garbage per month.
- A significant percentage of the garbage being disposed of by Saanich residents could have been diverted to recycling programs.
- From 2008 to 2011, the cost for garbage collection and disposal in the Saanich Parks Division budget had risen from \$4.5 million to \$5.5 million; the overall budget for the entire division only increased from \$5.5 to \$5.7 million.
- It appears that in 2012, Saanich's budget for garbage collection and disposal will exceed the budget for the Parks Division.
- In 2010, his household donated the waived garbage collection fee to the Kinsol Trestle Restoration Project.
- In 2011, his household donated both the waived garbage collection fee and an equivalent amount of funds to the same project.
- In 2012, the equivalent amount from household funds was donated to the Pender Island Conservation Association towards the expansion of the Brooks Point Regional Park; these funds were matched by a Pender Island resident. The amount of the waived garbage collection fee was donated to the Couvelier Pavilion Project at the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific.

Page 3 of 5

6820-04 Garbage Collection Fee Waiver

4180 BRACKEN AVENUE GARBAGE COLLECTION FEE – REQUEST FOR CONTINUED WAIVER

Report of the Director of Finance dated February 22, 2012 recommending Council waive the 2012 garbage collection fee for 4180 Bracken Avenue on the basis that the Solid Waste Strategy has not been completed and no garbage collection service is required or will be provided to that address.

MOVED by Councillor Brownoff and Seconded by Councillor Derman: "That it be recommended that Council waive the 2012 garbage collection fee for 4180 Bracken Avenue on the basis that the Solid Waste Strategy has not been completed and no garbage collection service is required or will be provided to that address."

Councillor Derman stated that he hopes that Saanich can do more to encourage other residents to take a similar approach to waste reduction.

Councillor Brownoff stated that the Capital Regional District has seen a significant increase in recycling; consideration is also being given to increasing diversion from the landfill through a new product stewardship program and the collection of kitchen scraps.

Councillor Sanders stated that composting kitchen scraps could significantly reduce the amount of garbage being sent to the landfill; she too hopes that other residents can be encouraged to take a similar approach to waste reduction.

The Motion was then Put and CARRIED

5280-20 2012 Budget

2012 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS – PLANNING AND INSPECTIONS

The Director of Planning presented the 2012 budget for Planning and Inspections in the amount of \$1,867,500 which represents a 8.64% decrease over 2011. The key accomplishments of 2011 and the challenges and priority initiatives for 2012, as shown in the 2012-2016 Draft Financial Plan, were highlighted.

5280-20 2012 Budget

2012 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS – WATER UTILITY OPERATIONS AND CAPITAL

The Director of Engineering presented the 2012 budget for Water Utility Operations in the amount of \$27,176,200 which represents a 10.93% increase over 2011. The key accomplishments of 2011 and the challenges and priority initiatives for 2012, as shown in the 2012-2016 Draft Financial Plan, were highlighted.

5280-20 2012 Budget

2012 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS – SEWER UTILITY OPERATIONS AND CAPITAL

The Director of Engineering presented the 2012 budget for Sewer Utility Operations in the amount of \$18,579,800 which represents a 14.71% increase over 2011.

Page 4 of 5

The key accomplishments of 2011 and the challenges and priority initiatives for 2012, as shown in the 2012-2016 Draft Financial Plan, were highlighted.

5280-20 2012 Budget

2012 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS - ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS OPERATIONS

The Director of Engineering presented the 2012 budget for Engineering and Public Works Operations in the amount of \$11,461,300 which represents a 1.51% decrease over 2011. The key accomplishments of 2011 and the challenges and priority initiatives for 2012, as shown in the 2012-2016 Draft Financial Plan, were highlighted.

5280-20 2012 Budget

2012 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS – FLEET CAPITAL

The Director of Engineering presented the 2012 budget for Fleet Capital in the amount of \$1,021,800.

5280-20 2012 Budget

2012 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS – ENGINEERING TRANSPORTATION CAPITAL

The Director of Engineering presented the 2012 budget for Transportation Capital in the amount of \$24,649,600. As shown in the 2012-2016 Draft Financial Plan, 2011 projects in progress and 2012 core capital project were highlighted.

In response to a roundtable discussion by Council on the McKenzie Avenue Upgrades Project, the Director of Engineering agreed to endeavor to provide Council with an update on the responses from the public meeting for consideration prior to adoption of the 2012-2016 Draft Financial Plan.

5280-20 2012 Budget

2012 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS - STORM DRAINAGE CAPITAL

The Director of Engineering presented the 2012 budget for Storm Drainage Capital in the amount of \$5,623,000.

As shown in the 2012-2016 Draft Financial Plan, 2011 projects in progress and 2012 core capital project were highlighted.

Adjournment

On a motion from Councillor Brownoff, the meeting adjourned at 10:28 pm.

CHAIR
I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate
MUNICIPAL CLERK