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 <u>TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2013 AT 7:30 P.M.</u>

Present:

Chair: Mayor Leonard

Council: Councillors Brice, Brownoff, Derman, Gerrard, Murdock and Sanders Staff: P. Murray, Administrator; V. Tinney, Director of Finance; P. Arslan, Senior Manager, Financial Services; and A. Park, Senior Committee Clerk.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. E. Skoberne, 763 Gladiola Avenue, stated:

- There is a trend to continuously raising taxes every year when it would be preferable to consider how to cut taxes.
- Labour costs could be looked at; wages appear to get an automatic raise every year.
- Saanich Police statistics show crime is down 35%; perhaps it would be possible to reduce the number of staff.
- We are not economically isolated from the United States where cities are going bankrupt; it's time to reduce costs.

Ms. V. Mieras, President, Cedar Hill Golf Club, stated:

- The fees and charges for the Cedar Hill Golf Course were set for three years in 2012 and are to be assessed annually; we are in the first full year of operation under the new terms and it would be appropriate to review the status of the revised program this year to prepare for any needed revisions.
- Rounds played may be up but passes sold are probably down; golf club members remain disappointed with the decision made by Council with respect to passholders.

OVERVIEW OF 2013 FINANCIAL PLAN

The report of the Director of Finance dated January 30, 2013 submitting the Draft Financial Plan for 2013 – 2017 was before the Committee.

The Director of Finance presented an overview of the 2013-2017 Financial Plan stating that the 2013 budget is based on a municipal property tax increase of 1.91% (\$39.61) for operations, 0.75% (\$15.55) for additional infrastructure replacement and 0.59% (\$12.24) for new infrastructure operating costs. This increase of 3.25% (\$67.40), combined with utility rates approved in December 2012 and the refuse collection fee of \$156 per household, allows for \$240,283,500 in revenues and transfers to balance the \$240,283,500 in expenditures proposed in 2013. She provided budget highlights by Strategic Plan Theme and outlined the economic challenges facing the municipality.

Mr. M. Boysen, Sustainability Coordinator, appeared and outlined the status of municipal initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. He advised that the reduction in our carbon footprint is expected to accelerate enabling Saanich to meet its target of a 50% reduction by 2020.

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5280-20 2013 Budget

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<u>5280-20</u> 2013 Budget	2013 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS – COUNCIL, ADMINISTRATION AND GRANTS The Administrator presented the 2013 budget for Council, Administration and Grants in the amount of \$1,538,900 which represents a 0.07% increase over 2012.
<u>5280-20</u> 2013 Budget	2013 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS – CORPORATE SERVICES On behalf of the Director of Corporate Services, the Administrator presented the 2013 budget for Corporate Services in the amount of \$1,313,600 which represents a 0.70% increase over 2012.
5280-20 2013 Budget	2013 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS – FINANCE The Director of Finance presented the 2013 budget for the Finance Department in the amount of \$13,313,500 which represents a 10.77% increase over 2012, noting however, that excluding contingencies, the 2013 budget increase would have been 1.14%.
<u>5280-20</u> 2013 Budget	2013 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS – LEGISLATIVE SERVICES The Director of Legislative Services presented the 2013 budget for the Legislative Services Department in the amount of \$2,111,800 which represents a 0.42% increase over 2012.
<u>5280-20</u> 2013 Budget	2013 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS – DEBT MANAGEMENT Council recognized that the District of Saanich does not borrow to the limit allowed by the Province of BC but follows its own prudent guideline for controlling debt which is significantly lower than the provincial guideline.
<u>5280-20</u> 2013 Budget	2013 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS – PARKS AND RECREATION The Director of Parks & Recreation presented the 2013 budget for the Parks and Recreation Department in the amount of \$12,735,600 which represents a reduction of 0.76% from 2012.
5500-20 Recreation and Parks – Fees and Charges	PARKS AND RECREATION FEES AND CHARGES Report of the Director of Parks and Recreation dated January 25, 2013 recommending the parks and recreation fees and charges for 2013 /2014 be approved as outlined.
	MOVED by Councillor Derman and Seconded by Councillor Gerrard: "That it be recommended that Council approve the proposed parks and recreation fees and charges for the period April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014 as recommended by the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee and contained in the report of the Director of Parks and Recreation dated January 25, 2013."

CARRIED

Adjournment On a motion from Councillor Derman, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

CHAIR

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

MUNICIPAL CLERK