DISTRICT OF SAANICH MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING FINANCIAL PLAN MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS SAANICH MUNICIPAL HALL, 770 VERNON AVENUE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2015 AT 7:30 PM

Present: Chair: Mayor Atwell

Council: Councillors Brice, Brownoff, Derman, Haynes, Murdock, Plant and Wergeland

Staff: Andy Laidlaw, Chief Administrative Officer; Carrie MacPhee, Director of

Legislative Service; Sharon Hvozdanski, Director of Planning; Valla Tinney, Director of Finance; Paul Arslan, Senior Manager, Financial Services; and

Lynn Merry, Senior Committee Clerk

FINANCIAL PLAN

5280-20 2015 Budget

PUBLIC INPUT:

- H. Charania, on behalf of the North Quadra Land Use Protection Association, stated:
- The sidewalk addition planned for Lucas Avenue and Belvedere Road is not a priority; the priority for sidewalk improvements in that neighbourhood is Lucas Avenue and Ambassador Avenue on the west side of Morris Drive.
- He looks forward to hearing more information on the planned bikeway for Borden Street between McKenzie Avenue to Cedar Hill Cross Road.

B. Furber, Arbutus Road, stated:

- He is concerned that property taxes will be increased over three times faster than the annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) rate; he questions the amounts of money budgeted for the governance review and webcasting and how Saanich sets priorities for sidewalk improvements.

1240-02 Citizen and Business Survey Results

CITIZEN AND BUSINESS SURVEY RESULTS

Presentation by Forum Research Inc.

Leo Hussey and Chris Bandak, Forum Research Inc. presented the Saanich Citizen and Business Surveys 2015 results and answered questions from Council.

5280-20 2015 Budget

INTRODUCTION OF DRAFT 2015-2019 FINANCIAL PLAN

Report of the Director of Finance dated February 11, 2015 introducing the Draft 2015-2019 Financial Plan.

The Director of Finance presented an overview of the 2015-2019 Draft Financial Plan stating that the 2015 budget is based on:

- A municipal property tax increase of 2.25% (\$49.78) for operations, 1.57% (\$34.73) for total capital replacement (includes the 0.75% (\$16.59) increase as per policy for additional infrastructure replacement), 0.13% (\$2.88) for new infrastructure maintenance and additional operating costs and 0.53% (\$11.73) for resource requests to maintain current service levels. This totals 4.48% or \$99.12 to the average single family homeowner;

- No service reductions from 2014 levels;
- Utility rates approved in December 2014; and
- An average homeowner is projected to pay about \$153 more in 2015 through property taxes, water, sewer and refuse collection.

She provided budget highlights and outlined economic challenges facing the municipality.

Mr. M. Boysen, Sustainability Coordinator, presented and outlined the status of municipal initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. He advised that although the municipality had challenges in 2014, he expects Saanich will meet its target of 50% reduction by 2020.

PRESENTATION OF OPERATING BUDGETS

5820-20 2015 Budget

2015 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS - COUNCIL, ADMINISTRATION AND GRANTS

The Director of Finance presented the 2015 budget for Council, Administration and Grants in the amount of \$1,660,500 which represents a 0.24% increase over 2014.

5820-20 2015 Budget

2015 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS - CORPORATE SERVICES

The Director of Corporate Services presented the 2015 budget for the Corporate Services Department in the amount of \$4,860,400 which represents a 7.41% increase over 2014. The key accomplishments of 2014 and the challenges and key priorities for 2015, as shown in the 2015-2019 Draft Financial Plan, were highlighted.

5820-20 2015 Budget

2015 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS – FINANCE

The Director of Finance presented the 2015 budget for the Finance Department in the amount of \$4,858,000 which represents a 15.52% increase over 2014. The key accomplishments of 2014 and the challenges and key priorities for 2015, as shown in the 2015-2019 Draft Financial Plan, were highlighted.

5820-20 2015 Budget

2015 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS - FISCAL SERVICES

The Director of Finance presented the 2015 budget for Fiscal Services in the amount of \$6,780,200 which represents a 2.53% increase over 2014. Council recognized that the District of Saanich does not borrow to the limit allowed by the Province of BC but follows its own prudent guidelines for controlling debt which is significantly lower than the limit established under provincial legislation.

5820-20 2015 Budget

2015 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS – LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The Director of Legislative Services presented the 2015 budget for the Legislative Services Department in the amount of \$2,481,300 which represents a 9.20% decrease over 2014. The key accomplishments of 2014 and the challenges and key priorities of 2015, as shown in the 2015-2019 Draft Financial Plan, were highlighted.

	The Director of Legislative Services left the meeting at 10:02 pm.
<u>5820-20</u> 2015 Budget	2015 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS – PLANNING AND INSPECTIONS The Director of Planning presented the 2015 budget for the Planning Department in the amount \$2,503,000 which represents a 4.24% increase over 2014. The key accomplishments of 2014 and the challenges and key priorities of 2015, as shown in the 2015-2019 Draft Financial Plan, were highlighted.
5820-20 2015 Budget	2015 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS – PARKS AND RECREATION The Director of Parks and Recreation presented the 2015 budget for the Parks and Recreation Department in the amount of \$14,175,500 which represents a 2.62% increase over 2014. The key accomplishments of 2014 and the challenges and key priorities of 2015, as shown in the 2015-2019 Draft Financial Plan, were highlighted.
	MOVED by Councillor Brownoff and Seconded by Councillor Haynes: "That the meeting be extended past 11:00 pm if necessary." CARRIED
5500-20 Recreation and Parks – Fees and Charges	PARKS AND RECREATION – PROPOSED FEES AND CHARGES SCHEDULE FOR 2015/2016 Report of the Director of Parks and Recreation dated January 27, 2015 recommending Council approve the recommended parks, recreation and golf fees and charges for the period of April 1, 2015 – March 31, 2016 as presented in the parks and recreation fees and charges schedule.
	MOVED by Councillor Plant and Seconded by Councillor Brice: "That it be recommended that Council approve the proposed parks, recreation and golf fees and charges for the period April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016, as outlined in the report of the Director of Parks and Recreation dated January 27, 2015."
	CARRIED
Adjournment	On a motion from Councillor Plant, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 pm.
	CHAIR
	I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate
	MUNICIPAL CLERK