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, FEBRUARY 2, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M.

Present: Chair: Mayor Atwell

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

Sanders and Wergeland

Staff: Paul Thorkelsson, Chief Administrative Officer; Valla Tinney, Director

of Finance; L. Ciarniello, Director of Corporate Services; C. MacPhee, Director of Legislative Services; S. Hvozdanski, Director of Planning; M. Burgess, Fire Chief; P. Arslan, Senior Manager, Financial Services; M. Boysen, Sustainability Coordinator; and A. Park, Acting

Senior Committee Clerk.

5280-20 2016 Budget

PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. A. Beck, James Heights, on behalf of Quadra Cedar Hill Community Association:

- The current budget process does not allow citizens sufficient time to review the complex budget documents.
- It appears that the cumulative tax increase to taxpayers since 2011 is 19.6% while the Consumer Price index has increased just 6.7%.
- A sustainable financial environment should be considered.
- Surpluses have increased over the years; cash in reserves could be used to reduce budgeted costs.

Mr. J. Schmuck, Rock Street:

- It is unfortunate that very few residents attend the financial planning meetings, where a significant budget is under discussion.
- Education of the public is important in this regard and a "Budget 101 Workshop" for residents, to explain the Saanich budget process would be useful.

Mr. H. Charania, Genevieve Road:

- Consider showing not just costs but the value of programs and services in the budget document.
- The 2016 budget is significant at a quarter billion dollars and works out to \$2200 per capita or \$5000-\$7000 per family.
- It is noteworthy that sewer, water and garbage costs are now considered separately from the property tax budget.
- Reserve funds need additional explanation.
- The timing of the budget process which starts in February of the budget year, is late for citizens to effectively participate.

1410-04 Finance

2016 - 2020 DRAFT FINANCIAL PLAN

5280-20 Xref: 2016 Budget Report from the Director of Finance dated January 28, 2016 providing an overview of the proposed five year financial plan and the highlights of the 2016 budget proposal.

The Director of Finance presented an overview of the 2016-2020 Draft Financial Plan stating that the 2016 budget is based on a municipal property tax increase of 3.25% for capital and operational expenditures. An average homeowner is projected to pay about \$116 more in 2016 for property taxes, water, sewer and refuse collection.

This reflects Council's policy of maintaining services at 2015 levels while increasing tax funded capital programs to sustainable levels. She provided budget highlights and outlined various financial planning issues, as contained in the report submitted.

The Sustainability Coordinator, outlined the current status of municipal initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions which have resulted in a 14% reduction in emissions to date. Future initiatives to reduce energy consumption and gas emissions such as boiler replacements and LED lighting upgrades were highlighted. Mr. Boysen responded to questions from the Committee and asserted that Saanich's conservative and consistent approach, which considers economic viability as well as environmental sustainability, will enable the municipality to reach its target of a 50% reduction in emissions by 2020.

5280-20 2016 Budget

2016 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS - COUNCIL, ADMINISTRATION AND GRANTS

The Director of Finance presented the 2016 budget for Council, Administration and Grants in the amount of \$1,727,700 which represents a 2.04% increase over 2015.

5280-20 2016 Budget

2016 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS - CORPORATE SERVICES

The Director of Corporate Services presented the 2016 operating budget for the Corporate Services Department in the amount of \$5,161,200 which represents a 5.00% increase over 2015. The key accomplishments of 2015 and the key priorities for 2016, as shown in the 2016-2020 Draft Financial Plan, were highlighted.

5280-20 2016 Budget

2016 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS - FINANCE

The Director of Finance presented the 2016 operating budget for the Finance Department in the amount of \$3,218,500 which represents a 16.94% increase over 2015. The key accomplishments of 2015 and the key priorities for 2016, as shown in the 2016-2020 Draft Financial Plan, were highlighted.

5280-20 2016 Budget

2016 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS - FISCAL SERVICES

The Director of Finance presented the 2016 budget for Fiscal Services in the amount of \$7,030,200 which represents a 3.69% increase over 2015. Outstanding debt will increase to \$28.8 million by December 2016, which is significantly lower than the limit established under provincial legislation.

5280-20 2016 Budget

2016 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS - LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The Director of Legislative Services presented the 2016 operating budget for the Legislative Services Department in the amount of \$2,638,300 which represents a 3.99% increase over 2015. The key accomplishments of 2015 and the challenges and key priorities of 2016, as shown in the 2016-2020 Draft Financial Plan, were highlighted.

5280-20 2016 Budget

2016 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS - PLANNING AND INSPECTIONS

The Director of Planning presented the 2016 operational budget for the Planning Department in the amount \$2,492,000 which represents a 1.48% decrease over 2015. The key accomplishments of 2015 and the challenges and key priorities of 2016, as shown in the 2016-2020 Draft Financial Plan, were highlighted.

In response to questions from the Committee, the Director of Planning stated that a report is being prepared for Council consideration on administrative efficiencies within the department.

5280-20 2016 Budget

2016 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS – FIRE SERVICES

The Fire Chief presented the 2016 budget for the Fire Department in the amount of \$17,103,900 which represents a 5.15% increase over 2015. The key accomplishments of 2015 and the challenges and key priorities for 2016, as shown in the 2016-2020 Draft Financial Plan, were highlighted.

5280-20 2016 Budget

2016 DEPARTMENTAL SERVICES – EMERGENCY PROGRAM

The Fire Chief presented the 2016 operational budget for the Emergency Program in the amount of \$415,800 which represents a 2.41% increase over 2015. The key accomplishments of 2015 and the key priorities for 2016, as shown in the 2016-2020 Draft Financial Plan, were highlighted.

5280-20 2016 Budget

2016 - 2020 DRAFT FINANCIAL PLAN

In response to questions from the Committee, the Chief Administrative Officer advised that the question of the timing of the budget reporting process could be considered as part of the ongoing discussion of public participation in the financial planning process at the Finance, Audit & Personnel Standing Committee.

Adjournment In Camera Motion MOVED by Councillor Haynes and Seconded by Councillor Brice: "That the Special Committee of the Whole Financial Plan meeting be adjourned and that Council reconvene the In Camera Council Meeting for the purpose of discussing items that are in accordance with the Community Charter, Sections 90 (1) (a), (c), and (i) as follows:

- (a) Personal information about an identifiable individual who holds or is being considered for position as an officer, employee or other agent of the municipality;
- (c) labour relations or other employee relations; and
- (i) the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege."

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.	
	CHAIR
I he	ereby certify these Minutes are accurate.
	MUNICIPAL CLERK