

CITY OF KENORA

PUBLIC BUDGET MEETING

April 12, 2007 – 7:00 P.M.

Best Western Lakeside Inn

In Attendance:

Mayor Len Compton

Councillor David McCann

Councillor Chris Van Wallegem

Councillor Andrew Poirier

Sharen McDowall

Bill Preisenzanz, Recording Secretary

Jennifer Rasmussen

Councillor Rory McMillan

Councillor Wendy Cuthbert

Councillor Charito Drinkwalter

Karen Brown

Rick Perchuk

Warren Brinkman

Barry Reynard

Councillor Rory McMillan chaired the meeting and called the meeting to order. Council members and staff in attendance were introduced.

Karen Brown presented an overview of the 2007 Operating Budget and 2007 Five Year Capital Plan. A copy of the presentation is attached and shall form part of the minutes.

Rory McMillan clarified the City's position on the Library funding situation and a copy of the statement has been attached.

Deputations:

1. **Lisa Moncrief** – outlined examples within the community of cultural strengths and the recent common Land Common Ground initiative, however, there has been erosion of funding to cultural infrastructure of the community. A one year moratorium on funding reductions to the Museum and Library was requested. Give these Boards a target and a one year deadline to arrive at a solution. Written presentation has been attached.
2. **Sharon Smith** – spoke in opposition to closing the Keewatin Library. Defer any final decision by establishing a community committee to explore options to save the Keewatin Library. Written presentation has been attached.
3. **Bob Fairfield** – spoke on behalf of Kenora's Handi Transit Organization and requested consideration to waiving the suggested cutback.
4. **Reese Van Breda and Holly Shodin** – spoke as students of Keewatin School and users of the Keewatin Library. Do not close the Keewatin Library.
5. **Bruce Findlay** – spoke of the need to keep the community strong and how fundamental the Library and Seniors Centre is to Keewatin's vitality. Keewatin

Library provides internet access for students who do not have access to computers.

Questions and Answers:

6. Property taxes – what progress has been made in attracting businesses to the City? Jennifer Rasmussen made reference to the City’s economic development plan and the focus on attracting small to medium size businesses.
7. Council attendance to LOW Property Owners’ Association – why are so many Council members attending? Mayor Compton pointed out that this was a great opportunity for Council members to meet cottage owners and potential business investors with negligible cost to the taxpayers.
8. Raw Sewage waste going into Lake of the Woods from Lakeside during heavy rains – why is capital funding not being diverted from the proposed Round-about to improving the sewer system? Rick Perchuk explained that the design of the City’s sewer system is affected by the terrain and when heavy rains occur, there is no ability to pond the run-off thereby resulting in sewage being spilled into the Lake.
9. Why was administration costs shifted from the utility funds? How are reserves allocated for uses?
10. Explanation was requested on 2006 capital carry over.
11. KMTS billing savings of \$200,000 – what is this saving?
12. What were the reductions in the Library budget between Keewatin and Kenora?
13. Why is there 5-7 staff for every one supervisor in the City?
14. Why have there been no cuts to the Police and Transportation costs in the 2007 budget?
15. Why does Council not look at reducing other areas of the budget rather than the Library budget?
16. Why did the Recreation Centre budget increase so substantially in 2007?
17. It is not fair to cut the funding to Handi Transit.
18. Police Chief should consider issuing taxi licenses in the future for taxicabs with handicap accessibility.
19. Why are you closing down the Library in Keewatin?

20. Reduce the bag tag fees to \$1.75.
21. Where would the Seniors go if the Keewatin Library is closed?
22. KMTS – do not sell.
23. Annexation of the outlying areas – is Council considering this option?
24. Reducing telephone bills in the United States – why not keep the money in the community?
25. Council needs to recognize the strength of its citizenry.
26. How does contracting out for vehicle maintenance save the City money?
27. Does the Manager of KMTS have shares in MTS?

Meeting closed at 9:25 p.m.