



Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

**December 8, 2009
5:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers**

ACTION

PRESENT: Mayor Compton
Councillor W. Cuthbert
Councillor C. Drinkwalter
Councillor D. McCann
Councillor R. McMillan
Councillor J. Parson
Councillor C. Van Walleghem
B. Preisenzanz, CAO
W. Brinkman, Emergency Services Manager
K. Brown, Finance & Administration Manager
C. Neil, Recreation Services Manager
H. Kasprick, Deputy Clerk

**A. Public Information Notices as per By-law Number 144-2007
N/A**

B. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest & the General Nature Thereof
1) On Today's Agenda
2) From a Meeting at which a Member was not in Attendance
There were none declared.

C. Confirmation of Budget Minutes
THAT the Minutes of the following meetings be confirmed as written and
filed:-

**Moved by C. Drinkwalter, Seconded by C. Van Walleghem &
Carried:-**

THAT the Minutes of the Budget Committee Meetings held November 16,
2009 and December 1, 2009 be confirmed as written and filed.

**D. Budget Committee Deputations:-
N/A**

E. Reports/ Presentations: -

Councillor McMillan, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

1. Kenora Public Library (5:00 p.m.)

Marj Poirier and Erin Roussin presented on behalf of the Kenora Public Library. The Board is putting forth a proposal of \$556,052.00 for operating expenses from Council for the 2010 fiscal year. The mission statement was reviewed and reviewed what the Library does in our community. The City of Kenora funding for 2009 totaled \$505,762.00 plus additional funding of \$35,583.00 from the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture and other smaller revenue generating items (memberships, room rentals). Even with this additional revenue, the library needed to depend on funds from its reserve this year. The Library developed a new Strategic Plan and will be in effect for the next 5 years. Feedback from the community was clear in this Strategic Planning. Community voices stressed the areas that were priorities to them were: extended hours, variety of programming, larger book selection and keeping with current with technology. The Keewatin fundraising group has also donated their fundraising efforts but these funds have been earmarked for books, equipment and technology upgrades but does not include daily operational costs.

Discussion: Council questioned as to whether it is a trend in library usage for increase overall across the Province or just in Kenora and if there are studies as to when Libraries will be the thing of the past. The Board stated that everything with technology changes and we have to be prepared to change but this doesn't necessarily mean that libraries will be phased out, however, they may change and evolve similar to everything else today. Council further asked how public libraries and school libraries interact. Erin Roussin responded that Public libraries have more and school library funding has been cut dramatically which results in these libraries with less. Schools order curriculum based materials and public libraries order general. Council further inquired as to the status of the Keewatin Library and the intentions of that operation. Marj Poirier stated that the intent of the Board is to keep things the way they are going now. Citizens in Keewatin have made it very clear they would like to have a branch in their community and have worked hard at fundraising to purchase supplies. Erin Roussin stated that it will all depend on budget. Cost is approximately \$25,000-\$30,000 per year without salaries to operate the Keewatin branch.

2. Lake of the Woods Museum (5:25 p.m.)

Maureen Witherspoon presented on behalf of the Museum. The Museum Board is putting forth a budget request of \$206,691.00 which reflects the exact same amount that was received in 2009. The Museum also developed a 5 year Strategic Plan. The only significant impact that the Board can foresee is the enhanced use of technology. The Museum has made application to the Museums and Technology Fund of the Ontario Ministry of Culture to contribute to a significant project related to the broader accessibility to the museum's photographic collection. They have included the amount in the budget of \$41,228.00. 2009 memberships over 2008 have increased 66% and 2008 memberships had increased over 2007 by 27%. Other areas such as rentals, gift shop sales, and admissions also continue to show improvement each year. Partnerships and volunteers are a major factor to the successes of the Museum and need to be recognized.

The Museum also requested that should Council approve salary grid for non-union staff and or an economic increase for 2010, that the City cover those expenses.

3. Kenora Handi Transit (5:50 p.m.)

Bert Alcock presented on behalf of the Handi Transit Board. The draft budget for 2010 was presented which included a slight wage increase. The Board is requesting an operating budget of \$127,625.00. Funding for Handi Transit comes from this Council and there are some monies that are offset by usage. The Handi Transit Board is concerned about the City's \$10,000 co-insurance policy covering their own busses. They are requesting that Council give assurance to the Board in writing that the Board would not be held responsible for the \$10,000 co-insurance payment.

Discussion: Council asked if there have been any thoughts given to a fare increase? Mr. Alcock stated that the Board does not feel that they can pass an increase to the seniors at this time due to the economic situation. Council asked if we track the usage of the ridership and what the bus is being used for. Council asked if the increase request is approximately \$7,000 more than 2009 and it was agreed those were the figures by Mrs. Green.

4. Kenora and LOTW Community Foundation (6:15 p.m.)

Don Parfitt, Board Chairman and Darlene McGilvrey, Executive Director presented the 2010 draft budget. They project total expenses of \$96,770.00. Several areas such as administration, office expenses and marketing are the major expenses. The Dragon Boat has been taken on by the Foundation and they are hoping to increase that awareness and program in 2010. They now have an on-line option to donate and there has been some donations made in this manner. Copperfin Credit Union donates all of their office space and equipment which reduces the necessary budget dollars needed each year. They have revenue of approximately \$71,770.00 projected with a shortfall of \$25,000.00 which is the request to City Council for 2010.

Discussion: Council asked why the Mike Richards Hockey Camp is not recognized on the presented budget. Mr. Parfitt explained that that is under the Endowment fund and not in the operating budget. Council asked if Sioux Narrows donates \$2,500 each year and Mr. Parfitt explained that yes they do however they have not received confirmation for 2010 yet.

Moved by D. McCann, Seconded by W. Cuthbert & Carried:-
Meeting Adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

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