



## Special Committee of the Whole Budget Meeting Minutes

7 March 2011  
9:00 a.m.  
City Council Chambers

ACTION

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**PRESENT:** Mayor D. Canfield  
Councillor C. Drinkwater  
Councillor R. Lunny  
Councillor R. McKay  
Councillor R. McMillan  
Councillor L. Roussin  
Councillor S. Smith  
K. Brown, CAO  
R. Perchuk, Operations Manager  
W. Brinkman, Emergency Services Manager  
C. Neil, Recreation Services Manager  
S. McDowall, HR Manager  
P. Derouard, Budget/Auditor General  
J. McMillin, City 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**  
N/A

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

**E. Reports:-**

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**Finance Chair Councillor Lunny, chaired the budget meeting:**

### **1. Capital Budget Review:**

Paul Derouard reviewed the following areas with Committee:

#### **Index #3 2011 Capital Budget Summary**

It was noted the total capital expenditures = \$13,025,602 with the net tax levy being \$1,460,503.

It was asked if aside from provincial dollars if there is any federal funding that goes towards the Kenora Handi Transit vehicle replacement. It was further asked what the amount of our Gas Tax is that we receive and it was mentioned Charlotte Edie would be asked to provide this information for Committee.

**CEdie**

In response to a question about Reserves, it was explained there is no minimum dollar amount maintained in Reserves rather the amount is based on a formula than a set dollar figure.

### **General Government**

A discussion ensued on the rotation requirement for replacing and recycling photocopiers, particularly the copier on the second floor at City Hall used for the bulk of printing from the Clerk's Office, for Council and for budget preparation. The current copier on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor is scheduled to be transferred to the Recreation Centre for their use.

### **Protection**

It was questioned why Kenora requires such a large and expensive fire pumper truck. A discussion ensued on the aerial ladder fire truck and it was noted this item will be included on next week's Committee of the Whole Agenda. The negotiated price of the used truck from Oakville is \$50,000 however a budget of \$80,000 has been established to cover various items such as new tires.

Chief Brinkman advised Kenora has a total 13 fire trucks (Kenora only) before anything is sold (3 are to be sold) and it was explained there will likely not be sufficient funds from the sale of the three to cover the cost of the ladder truck. On the advice of the City's mechanic, the ladder truck will be floated to Kenora rather than driven across the province. Committee asked Administration to investigate whether or not a local trucking company could be used to transfer the ladder truck to Kenora.

**WBrinkman/  
RPerchuk**

### **Roads/Bridges/Transit**

Downloading of bridges and funds from the government were questioned and whether or not there was a caveat on those dollars for repairs and maintenance for these items. It was explained there was a five year capital requirement provided by the province for this purpose in 1997 however those funds have already been used. It was asked if those funds may have been used for something other than what they were in reserve for and it was explained some of that money was utilized for Main Street which is/was part of the downloaded connecting link.

Rick Perchuk noted the funds received covered a very short period of time and were not truly representative of the amount of work required to maintain everything that was downloaded by the province and we no longer receive any dollars from the province for this purpose. It was noted that while the City has been putting funds into reserves to cover the downloaded roads this is not being done for bridges. Mayor Canfield explained that he spoke with Ministers at the OGRA Conference regarding the matter of funding to municipalities and that Kenora was the largest hit with 18 bridges and we cannot afford the maintenance and capital repairs;

the City will continue to advocate for funding at the AMO Conference when meeting with the various Ministers later this year.

Reference was made to the mandated infrastructure services under the Municipal Act such as roads, bridges, sewer/water, health care and so on. A comment was made that we are not putting enough funds into our mandated services but seem to have enough funds for projects outside those services and the City should be ensuring there is sufficient funds for the mandated services. It was noted all municipalities across the province have been faced with these issues over the last several years but we have not had much choice and are doing the best we can to avoid having to impose large tax increases to maintain the downloaded services. Aside from the mandated services, it was mentioned we still need to have some of those enhanced services in our community to bring in tourism and to provide things to our taxpayers over and above the infrastructure items.

It was noted that both the Winnipeg River West Branch (near Husky) and the Keewatin Channel bridges are priority for repairs. By delaying projects only puts the City financially behind and doesn't make the bridges last any longer; there are safety issues to consider and while the City could consider imposing weight restrictions and even closures this will not address the ongoing maintenance work that is required. Rick Perchuk indicated that tendering would have to take place soon for the bridges as there is a short construction season if these works are going to take place this year. He noted we still have to pay the Consultants for the works planned even if the construction does not take place.

Government funding possibilities was discussed and that we should be aggressively pursuing funding for the bridges otherwise these works will not be done. Rick explained the priority bridge would be the Winnipeg River West Branch, and he noted the province downloaded many bridges on the municipality that were old and large and they are approaching a time where they require major maintenance.

Mayor Canfield indicated that like some other municipalities we may be faced with going to court as an option to try and get funds to cover these costs. He noted Kenora has been put in a situation that we cannot afford and cannot look to the taxpayer for the repair dollars. Kenora has been unfairly treated compared to other municipalities. Mayor Canfield indicated this would be a good test case for the AMO Task Force and mentioned he would get in touch with Pat Vanini, Executive Director of AMO for this purpose.

### **Handi Transit**

It was noted there is not much set aside in Reserve for a new vehicle and there is a net tax levy amount for this project in the amount of \$41,600 which will have a small impact on taxes. It was noted the bus has been ordered and is to replace the older bus (as approved last year).

**Mayor  
Canfield**

## **Transportation**

Reference was made to the wharves that were downloaded and that the municipality received monies from the federal government at that time for maintenance. It was noted that various lease agreements for the wharves are reflected in the operating budget, and it was commented that these docks should all be leased at a fair market value rate.

## **Storm Sewer**

While there is no capital projects identified at this time for storm sewers, there will be a presentation of the separate Sewer and Water (capital and operating) budgets coming forward separately for review.

In terms of storm sewers it was noted that regular maintenance is required; new storm sewers are included say for example when changing ditches into sidewalk areas. Flushing is also done annually due for the most part to the winter sand; and Rick explained these items fall under the operating component of the municipal budget.

## **Cemetery**

\$66,000 identified for a new Columbaria. Barb Manson was commended for being able to negotiate a good price on this for the City.

## **Recreation & Cultural**

Twinning the arena was referred to and that matter of compressors and other components regarding same; it was noted that the twinning has always been considered regarding the compressors and other compatibilities for arena upgrades and replacements.

## **Planning & Development**

Furnishing the Harbourfront was explained and that it means enhancements to the area such as benches. Wayfinding signage was also discussed in the amount of \$100,000 for the downtown area and Rick explained the Amphitheatre cover tenders closed last week and came in under budget and this report will be coming forward to next week's Committee of the Whole Meeting.

## **Index #8 Long Term Debt (LTD) Projects**

Karen pointed out this part of the budget is not an approved projects list; it is just so Council is aware of the list and if any items are to proceed, they would require long term financing and the individual project would be submitted separately for approval.

Councillor McMillan indicated he supports the projection of the Convention/Performing Arts Centre being included in the budget for 2012.

The Beaches, Parks & Trails section was referred to and it was mentioned there is a large allocation for this area of the budget. Councillor Smith expressed we need to have these types of things for our residents and visitors to use. She indicated we have to illustrate we are a green, clean, and a well looked after community, one that respects its heritage and one

**RPerchuk**

that attracts people and families to locate here and also to appeal to those who may want to retire in our community. Councillor Smith believes it is not a lot of money to spend if a little bit could be done every year say over the next 5 or 6 years as we continue to move the project forward.

Councillor Smith asked for staff input on what would be their wish list items. It was explained the various projects have been included on the LTD list due for the most part, to Strategic Planning.

Reference was made to the rest stop item and it was confirmed there was never any intent to give up on the By-Pass for a rest stop area, however there was a back-up cited for a rest stop at Jack Robinson Park.

### **Index #9 Non-Capital Special Projects/Unusual Spending**

It was noted that items in this section are scheduled to proceed for 2011 in the amount of \$282,262 and covers smaller ticket items such as the City Hall boiler replacement.

A discussion ensued on the Keewatin Library roof and Councillor Smith stated that roof should have about 10 more years before it needs replacing and is not an imminent repair at this time.

Repairs to the Dog Pound were questioned and Rick explained it is in the Capital Plan. While there was an issue last week with the pens having to be closed for a few days Rick had staff carry out some minor repairs for the interim. Councillor Smith indicated these repairs are definitely a necessity and Rick advised that once the capital works is approved those repairs will proceed.

Department #811 – DTR façade improvement (signage); it was explained that this includes such items as overhead windows; outside finishes to buildings, etc. to downtown buildings.

### **Index #10 Deleted Projects**

Discussion ensued on such projects as City Hall roof/Chambers HVAC system, pumper replacements and the KRC facility events stage under this section.

### **Five Year Capital Plan Summary**

No capital sidewalk program planned, only what is being proposed for accessibility purposes, Rick noted the sidewalk program is linked to the paving program.

Updated street lighting was referred to however the technology costs are very high but it was noted these will eventually come down in price, and it was discussed that LED lighting is more practical; lights do not have to be replaced for approx. 8 years so this type of lighting is more cost-effective.

## 2. Council Direction

Paul advised he will complete an analysis on major impacts for Council to be reviewed at the upcoming budget meetings.

Committee thanked Paul for his work on going through his first budget process.

**PDerouard**

## 3. Draft Budget Schedule

It was noted the next budget meeting will be scheduled with outside organizations and Committee agreed on the following date: **Thursday, March 17 at 9:00 a.m. in Chambers.**

**PDerouard/  
JMcMillin/  
HKasprick**

Committee also agreed to review the Sewer & Water and Solid Waste Budgets on: **Tuesday, March 22 at 9:00 a.m. in Chambers.**

**PDerouard/  
JMcMillin**

It was noted the meeting scheduled for this Thursday, March 10 is no longer required as it was to be a continuation of the Capital Budget if necessary.

Karen referred to the Public Consultation Policy and Paul will circulate the Policy to Council for their information and it will be discussed at the next meeting.

**PDerouard**

## 4. Close Meeting

**Moved by R. McMillan, Seconded by C. Drinkwalter, and Carried:-**

That this meeting be now declared closed at 11:31 a.m.