



## Finance & Administration Committee *MINUTES*

Held Tuesday, April 4, 2006  
City Council Chambers  
3:30 p.m.

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**PRESENT:** Chair, Councillor R. McMillan  
Member, Councillor Szajewski  
Mayor D. Canfield  
Councillor L. Compton  
Councillor I. Parkes  
Councillor C. Wasacase  
B. Preisenzanz, CAO  
J. McMillin, City Clerk  
K. Brown, Finance & Administration  
Manager

**REGRETS:** Councillor Poirier, Vice-Chair

### A. PUBLIC INFORMATION NOTICES AS PER BY-LAW NUMBER 14-2003

Take Notice that Council intends to approve the following at its  
April 10 Meeting:

1. The 2006 Municipal Five Year Capital Plan
2. The 2006 Capital Plan for the Kenora Municipal Telephone System (KMTS)

### B. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There was none declared.

### C. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved by T. Szajewski, Seconded by R. McMillan & Carried:-

THAT the Minutes from the last meeting held March 21, 2006 be confirmed as written.

### D. REPORTS:-

#### *Councillor R. McMillan - Chair*

#### **1. Municipal Five Year Capital Plan**

##### **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the City of Kenora 2006 Municipal Five Year Capital Plan as reviewed and amended by the Budget Committee be approved; and further

THAT in accordance with Notice By-law #14-2003, public notice is hereby given of Council's intention to adopt the 2006 Municipal Five Year Capital

Plan.

**Recommendation approved (resolution only at this time).**

**2. 2006 KMTS Capital Budget**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the 2006 Capital Budget of the Kenora Municipal Telephone System be approved; and further

THAT in accordance with Notice By-law #14-2003, public notice is hereby given of Council's intention to adopt the 2006 KMTS Capital Budget.

**Recommendation approved.**

Bill Preisentanz suggested to Committee that Dennis McCaffrey be invited to attend prior to Council's meeting on Monday, April 13 at 4:00 p.m. to review this matter with Members of Council.

**3. New Construction & New to Class Properties**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT Council approve the implementation of the minimum tax level of 80% for new construction/new to class properties for 2006; and further

THAT Council give three readings to a by-law for this purpose.

**Recommendation approved (resolution and by-law).**

**4. 2006 Capping Options**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT Council approve the implementation of the following tools for the 2006 taxation year:

- Annualized Tax Limit of 10% for each of the commercial, industrial and multi-residential property classes.
- Prior Year's CVA Tax Limit of 5% for each of the commercial, industrial and multi-residential property classes.
- CVA Tax Threshold for Protected Properties related to increases in the amount of \$250 for each of the commercial, industrial and multi-residential property classes.
- CVA Tax Threshold for Clawed Back Properties related to decreases in the amount of \$250 for each of the multi-residential and industrial property classes and \$245 for the commercial property class; and further

THAT Council give three readings to a by-law for this purpose.

**Recommendation approved (resolution and by-law).**

**5. Operations Centre Long Term Debt Issuance**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT Council give three readings to a by-law approving the issuance of long term debt financing in the amount of \$9,045,062.35 effective 31

JMcMillin

JMcMillin

BPreisentanz  
DMcCaffrey

JMcMillin/  
PGrouda

JMcMillin/  
PGrouda

December 2005 to finance the net municipal costs related to the Operations

Centre, budgeted to be financed through the issuance of long term debt.

**Recommendation approved (resolution and by-law).**

JMcMillin/  
PGrouda

**6. Kenora Recreation Centre Expansion Debt Issuance**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT Council give three readings to a by-law approving the issuance of long term debt financing in the amount of \$2,100,000.00 effective 31 December 2005 to finance the net municipal costs related to the Kenora Recreation Centre Development, budgeted to be financed through the issuance of long term debt.

**Recommendation approved (resolution and by-law).**

JMcMillin/  
PGrouda

Councillors Parkes, Compton and Bill Preisentanz attended the meeting at this time.

**7. By-laws – Various Municipal Election Matters**

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

i) THAT Council give three readings to a by-law to authorize the use of Vote by Mail for the November 13, 2006 Municipal Election;

ii) THAT Council give three readings to a by-law to authorize the use of Optical Scanning Vote Tabulators at Municipal Elections;

iii) THAT Council give three readings to a by-law to authorize the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with DataFix for Municipal VoterView (MVV) Services in conjunction with the November 13, 2006 Municipal Election.

**Recommendations approved (resolution and by-laws).**

JMcMillin

Mayor Canfield and Councillor Wasacase then attended the meeting.

**8. Transfer of funds – KPS Vehicle Reserves to Capital**

Karen Brown advised this item had been previously dealt with through the Capital Budget and can be removed.

File

**9. KMTS Summer Students**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT Council approve the hiring of two (2) KMTS Summer Students beginning May 1, 2006 for a period not to exceed 16 weeks; and further

THAT this approval be conditional upon approval of the 2006 Operating Budget.

**Recommendation approved.**

JMcMillin

## **10. Section 357 Tax Adjustments**

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the Section 357 tax adjustments totalling \$2,978.00, (including applicable penalty), with resulting refunds of \$2,485.18, be hereby approved.

**Recommendation approved.**

## **11. Review of current Governance Model**

Councillor McMillan suggested that a one page questionnaire be forwarded to Managers for feedback purposes with respect to this matter so Members of Council may analyze how the new Committee structure is working.

Mayor Canfield suggested we finish off the year under the current system as there is only about 6 months left in the current term of Council. This would provide more time to review the structure and possibly make a recommendation for the new Council. He indicated that while there had been some minor adjustments in getting used to the new system, it seems to be working well.

Councillor Szajewski is not sure if this particular model is the answer, but that he would be prepared to continue for the remainder of the term, and to have a look at it under the new Council and let them decide.

Councillor Parkes questioned how the structure is working for staff, however her preference would be that all Committees meet at staggered times on the same day so they flow one after the other, such as today with the Property & Planning meeting ahead of Finance & Administration.

Councillor Compton also indicated his concern for staff versus how the model is working for Council. He believes all Members should be participating in all meetings anyway and feels the CAO should determine from staff how the system is working for them.

Bill Preisenz explained it has been a real plus by cutting out one set of meetings, and that either the Standing Committee structure or Committee of the Whole would work fine as long as we stay with one set of meetings.

Bill Preisenz was asked to bring this matter forward to the next Manager's Meeting for input and feedback for Committee to review at its next meeting on April 18.

Councillor Wasacase feels the trial timeline has not been long enough to assess how the system is really working and that we should let it flow to the end of our term. Councillor Wasacase believes all Committee meetings should be held on one day which would be more productive.

The general consensus was to keep this system to end of the term, pending information from staff.

JMcMillin

BPreisenz

This item is to remain on HOLD.

**HOLD**

## **12. Proclamations – New Requests**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

THAT the Mayor be and is hereby authorized to proclaim the following in and for the City of Kenora: -

- May, 2006 as "Better Speech, Language and Hearing Month"
- May 14 to 20 as "Census Week"
- May 14 to 20 as "Paramedic Week"

**Recommendations approved.**

**JMcMillin**

### **ITEMS ON HOLD:**

- **Purchase of Property – Mount Evergreen**    **HOLD**-April closing
- **Kenora Thistles Centennial Celebration**    **HOLD**-Council Support
- **Staff Parking**    **HOLD**-policy
- **Members–Urban Native Affairs Comm.**    **HOLD**-names

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Policy – Council Travel**

Councillor Parkes broached the matter of amending the current Travel Policy for Council by allocating a certain dollar amount in a separate budget for each Member for travel purposes at the beginning of the year. She explained Members would then decide as to what conferences and training they wish to attend based on their individual budget, and perhaps their portfolio. She explained this puts the onus on each Member to "sell themselves" when it comes to the final decision as to who will attend in the case where two representatives have been approved but three Members want to attend the same conference.

Councillor Parkes also indicated this would assist the new Council, and she would like the current Travel/Per Diem Policy to be amended to reflect this suggestion for 2006.

Councillor Szajewski suggested that ultimately travel attendance is a Council decision, and he referred to how in the past Councillors of the former Town of Keewatin even paid their own way to functions that they really wanted to attend.

Mayor Canfield agreed; however he noted our travel budget is very small in comparison, but as individual Councillors we should be able to attend what we want in accordance with budget approval. He mentioned there will certainly be situations that arise where numbers have to be limited on attendance at the same function, and specifically for purposes of accountability.

Councillor Wasacase noted that approval is done by Council even if we have separate budgets, with final approval resting with Council; likely for liability reasons, but agrees we attend what will be most useful for us.

Councillor Compton explained that we should be doing things in a business-like and responsible manner, and he referred to the private sector. He explained that perhaps only one or two should attend the same conference and not all members, and those who attend bring the information back to share with all others.

Committee asked that Administration prepare a draft policy to amend the current Travel/Per Diem Policy and to bring it back to Committee for the April 18 meeting for review, with possible approval on April 24.

HOLD

### **Memberships – Chamber of Commerce**

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT authorization be hereby given for payment of the 2006 Membership Fee for Kenora District Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$160.50; and further

THAT Mayor Canfield's name be forwarded as the City's voting representative.

**Recommendation approved.**

### **Manitoba Border Issue**

Councillor McMillan suggested to Committee that Council pass a resolution to the effect that the City of Kenora is not in support of changing borders, given the number of articles and information that has been in the media lately. Councillor McMillan doesn't want us to give a negative message to the rest of the province, or against Manitoba, but feels the City should state its position.

Mayor Canfield explained the media has run with the story and he explained the various policy options and alternatives regarding our relationship with Queen's Park. He referred to the populations in the area as well as the many jobless. It was explained that the Manitoba issue came out as a result of the frustration of some elected officials in the region about joining Manitoba. Mayor Canfield explained this to the Premier, together with the history surrounding the earlier provincial border dispute. He explained that we do want to be a part of Ontario and we have economic concerns that must be addressed.

Mayor Canfield is not in favour of passing a resolution on something that isn't going to happen.

Councillor McMillan expressed concern that the whole issue feels like an oxymoron by using this suggestion against the Ministers in Toronto.

**BPreisanz**

**HOLD**

**JMcMillin**

Councillor Compton explained we can't have it both ways; we can't be friendly with the Ministers at the same time we are talking out about joining Manitoba.

Councillor Parkes indicated her agreement and support to Councillor McMillan and feels we should incorporate this into a resolution to set the record straight for the sake of both sides.

Councillor Wasacase referred to NOMA and that they made a decision as an exploratory resolution but that he has not read that particular resolution. He explained the decision has already been made by a body that represents us, and he feels we should just keep going.

Mayor Canfield explained the one thing this has done is it has got the attention of Queen's Park and we need to get their attention. He explained this was directed at the system because the system is failing us; and that we not lose site with the issue we have in N.W.Ontario.

Councillor McMillan indicated that based on what has been discussed around the table; he is not prepared to bring a motion forward to Monday's meeting.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

- Tuesday, April 18, 2006.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.