



Finance & Administration Committee
MINUTES

Held Tuesday, January 23, 2007
City Council Chambers
3:30 p.m.

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PRESENT: Councillor R. McMillan, Chair
Councillor D. McCann, Vice-Chair
Councillor W. Cuthbert, Member
Councillor C. Drinkwalter
Councillor A. Poirier
Councillor C. Van Wallegghem
B. Preisentanz, CAO
J. McMillin, City Clerk
K. Brown, Finance & Administration Manager

REGRETS: Mayor Compton

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

- To authorize an appropriation from the City's contingency reserves to fund the costs relating to the 2006 Kenora Police Association settlement.

B. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There was none declared.

C. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved by C. Drinkwalter, Seconded by C. Van Wallegghem & Carried:
THAT the Minutes of the last meeting held January 9, 2007
be confirmed as written.

D. DEPUTATIONS

Reps. from Mt. Evergreen Ski Club – Improvements

Bruce Robertson, on behalf of several Board Members, Directors and Managers of the Club attended the meeting to address Committee on the matter of the \$100,000 capital commitment through NOHFC for improvements to the Mt. Evergreen Ski Club. Mr. Robertson referred to the various improvements and repairs that have been undertaken by the Club over the last couple of years. The Club would like to know if the funding could be re-allocated as they'd like to purchase a groomer and at this time the price has been reduced. He further noted that the Club has also been able to garner about \$45,000 since last week from various sources. The Club requires the City to advance funds so they can purchase the groomer; a value of about \$90,000. It was explained the groomer they are considering purchasing is the same as what the Sunset Trail Riders use,

noting the Club had tried to partner with them in the past but given the need for use of the groomer during similar weather conditions, STR could not commit to this type of partnership. It was asked if there is anything to prevent the City from forwarding the funding to the Club, and Bill Preisentanz advised the City's funding is in reserve and Council ultimately has the authority to approve this request. The Group was thanked for attending and they left the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

E. REPORTS:-

1. Governance Structure

Discussion:

Councillor McMillan opened discussion on this item by explaining we could remain with the status-quo or go to a full Committee of the Whole structure, with all Committees except Property & Planning that would remain as a stand alone Committee. Councillors Cuthbert and Van Walleghem advised that as new Councillors they would like to continue with the status-quo as this is their first experience with the meeting system.

Councillor Poirier advised that he prefers Committee of the Whole and believes it better serves the public to have all information at one meeting and also for the ability for the public to attend as Committee of the Whole was held a bit later at 4:00 p.m. vs. the present meetings that now start at 3:30 p.m. Prior to this schedule, Standing Committee meetings were held first thing in the morning. He also mentioned the timing of the meetings have an affect on staff as they are taken away from their offices to attend, and it also affects those Members of Council that work during the day with having to juggle their schedules with their employers.

Councillor McMillan questioned if the only change we would make then would be a timing change to the status-quo? Councillor Drinkwalter advised that she has been able to co-ordinate her schedule for this particular structure around her work hours, and did agree we have to engage the ratepayers more effectively. Councillor McCann asked how well are we serving democracy and that he would be agreeable to carrying on for the next little while with the status-quo and then perhaps look at a different structure to see how it works in a few months. It was mentioned this item should be further reviewed towards the end of March and this would also give an opportunity for Mayor Compton to participate in the discussions to review a different Committee structure, possibly with date and time changes as well.

Diarize for the March 20 Committee meeting.

JMcMillin

2. Non-Union Salary Structure

Discussion:

A brief history of how the Grid was first implemented was reviewed and Councillor McMillan explained that if required, this item can be further reviewed during 2007 budget discussions. Bill Preisentanz gave an overview on the basis for the Grid.

Councillor McCann mentioned that in his experience there have been problems with a Grid system and the way in which certain increases are budgeted for and applied.

In response to Councillor Van Walleghem's question, Committee was advised the Grid came into effect in the year 2000 after Amalgamation.

3. Vehicle Operation Policy – HR Policy #-2-19

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council of the City of Kenora hereby approves the amended Human resources Vehicle Operation Policy Number HR-2-19; and

THAT this policy be incorporated into the City's Policy Manual; and further

THAT Resolution Number 14 dated January 16, 2006 approving said Policy be and is hereby rescinded.

Recommendation approved.

JMcMillin

4. OMPF Funding Impacts to City of Kenora

RECOMMENDATION:

WHEREAS the City of Kenora is currently facing anticipated losses of \$1.7 million in provincial funding annually by 2011 based on the provincial formulas for the new Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF), representing an anticipated impact on property taxes of 11.3% based on 2006 budget information; and

WHEREAS the City of Kenora is currently in receipt of \$.9 million in provincial stabilization funding annually under the OMPF grant program for which the Province has advised there is no guarantee for continued receipt past 2011, representing a further significant impact on property taxes; and

WHEREAS the City of Kenora is being significantly penalized in its OMPF entitlement through the application of the Rural and Small Communities Measure (RSCM) in comparison with its sister municipalities in Northwestern Ontario; and

WHEREAS the City of Kenora is currently facing an economic crisis through the current closure of one of its major employers and taxpayers, the full impacts of which remain undetermined, for the City directly, its taxpayers and the community;

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED That the City petition the Minister of Finance directly to amend the City's RSCM to be equal to that of other, similarly sized Northwestern Ontario municipalities, representing an RSCM of 100, retroactive to the 2005 OMPF entitlement.

Recommendation approved.

JMcMillin

5. Enhancing the Economy of Northwestern Ontario

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT having reviewed the Report "Enhancing the Economy of Northwestern

Ontario" authored by the NOMA led Regional Recovery Program Committee;

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Report be endorsed by the Council of the Municipality of the City of Kenora, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the concept of the creation of the Northwestern Ontario Regional Development Authority (NWORDA) be endorsed by the Council of the Municipality of the City of Kenora, and

THAT NOMA be advised of the decision of this Council.

Recommendation approved.

6. IBEW Telephone Unit Local 559 – Memorandum of Agreement And Collective Agreement

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council of the City of Kenora hereby approve the Memorandum Agreement by resolution between the Corporation of the City of Kenora and IBEW Local 559 Telephone Unit for the term January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006; and further

THAT Council of the City of Kenora give three readings to a by-law, authorizing an agreement between the Corporation of the City of Kenora and IBEW Local 559 Telephone Unit the term January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006.

Recommendation approved (resolution and by-law).

7. Appointment to Weyerhaeuser Committee

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the following be appointed to the Kenora Public Advisory Group for Weyerhaeuser with a term to expire November 30, 2010:-

**Councillor Van Walleghem
Mayor Compton, Alternate; and further**

THAT these representatives be authorized to attend the Annual Meeting of the Kenora Public Advisory Group at the Trus Joist Mill in Kenora on Tuesday, February 20, 2007.

Recommendation approved.

8. Endorsation of Resolution Lakehead U – Tuition Fee Hikes

RECOMMENDATION:

WHEREAS affordable public post-secondary education benefits all Canadians; and

WHEREAS increasing tuition fees is an unnecessary financial barrier to public post- secondary education; and

WHEREAS student debt has skyrocketed by over 350% over the past fifteen years; and

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WHEREAS the Government of Canada has failed to restore the public post-secondary education funding cuts of the 1990s; and

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has cancelled the tuition fee freeze after only two years and approved fee increases of up to 36% over the next four years; and

WHEREAS hinterland communities experience a different social and economic circumstance than other regions of Canada making public post-secondary education inaccessible for many; and

WHEREAS Northern Ontario communities are under extreme challenges regarding employment growth and the attraction of young people for the future; and

WHEREAS public post-secondary education is a cornerstone of positive, long-term development of Northwestern Ontario; and

WHEREAS the majority of Ontarians oppose tuition fee increases and support greater public funding for post-secondary education; and

WHEREAS solidarity with all community partners is important for this campaign's success;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT that the Council of the Corporation of the City of Kenora hereby endorses Lakehead University Student's Union and the Canadian Federation of Students' campaign for affordable, accessible and increased funding for public post-secondary education; and further

BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario increase funding for public post-secondary education to promote access and quality in terms of student financial aid and grants; and

FURTHER that public post-secondary education be kept on the agenda with regard to the contributions that public post-secondary institutions and graduates make to the world, Canada, Ontario and most importantly, our local communities to become successful.

Recommendation approved.

JMcMillin

9. Kenora Police Association – Contract Settlement & Costs

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council recognize the negotiated contract between the Kenora Police Services Board and the Kenora Police Association, and

THAT Council authorize an additional allocation in the 2006 budget in the amount of \$122,879.39, representing funding for incremental wage and benefits costs resulting from the negotiated contract between the Kenora Police Services Board and the Kenora Police Association; and further

THAT notice is hereby given that Council intends to give three readings to a by-law to authorize a corresponding appropriation from the City's contingency reserves to fund the costs relating to this settlement.

*Karen Brown advised the above amount should read **\$122,879.39** rather than **\$127,879.39**.*

It was discussed that Council does not have to approve this request, however the Police may appeal this decision to the Ontario Civilian Commission on Police Services (OCCOPS) and they would conduct an independent review to determine if the increase is justified.

Karen advised that every effort was made to attempt to keep zero percent increases across the Board during 2006 negotiations.

Councillor McCann referred to the policing issue and if there is going to be a decision made with respect to a comprehensive review of the policing structure in the City. Councillor McMillan indicated this item is due to be discussed by this Council at some point during the term.

Recommendation approved (resolution and by-law).

10. Proposal for S.T.R. – Warm Up Shelter

RECOMMENDATION:

WHEREAS Council approved to accept a charitable donation for the purposes of constructing a Warm-up Shelter on the trail system, subject to the Sunset Trail Riders submitting a suitable proposal for this Warm-up Shelter, including the construction of the facility, the determination of an appropriate strategic location that would best promote winter snow machine related tourism to the Kenora area and the long-term responsibility for this shelter; and

WHEREAS approval of the submitted proposal is dependent upon Council review and consideration to determine suitability of that proposal; and

WHEREAS the Sunset Trail Riders has, in Council's opinion, submitted a suitable proposal for the Warm-up Shelter;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That Council approves the proposal as received from the Sunset Trail Riders for the construction of a Warm-up Shelter on the trail system, including appropriate placement of said structure; and

THAT following construction of the shelter, Council authorizes payment to the Sunset Trail Riders representing payment for the construction of the Warm-up Shelter, up to a maximum of the donation amount received for these works; and further

THAT the ongoing responsibility for the Warm-up Shelter, including upkeep, maintenance and related expenditures be fully the responsibility of the

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Sunset Trail Riders, with no liability back to the City of Kenora.

Councillor McMillan advised there will be no cost to the City of Kenora with respect to this approval.

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Recommendation approved.

11. Thistles 100th Anniversary – Financial Support (\$3,500)

Councillor McMillan addressed this item and referred to the Thistles Celebration and the history connected to this request. In 2006 the City loaned \$15,000 to the Organizing Committee with the understanding the money would be repaid. The Committee is requesting repayment of \$11,500 and for the City to forgive \$3,500. It was explained there was a great deal of national attention on the City through advertising and promotion over the last few weeks. The Committee is requesting approval in this regard which would be the only real cost to the City of Kenora as everything else was covered through special events, promotional items, etc. Bill Preisentanz suggested that once finalized, a copy of their Financial Statement be forwarded to the City for review in order to consider the request further. Barry indicated that a draft could be forwarded as early as tomorrow.

JMcMillin

HOLD

12. Backgrounder–Infrastructure Ontario (OSIFA) (Information)

Councillor McMillan circulated this information via email pertaining to the Ontario Strategic Infrastructure Financing Authority, noting the door is apparently wide open for the City to apply at any time under this funding program.

13. Mayor’s Committee – Prevention of Substance Abuse

- Dryden – 2nd Annual Summit – February 2 & 3, 2007.

As this meeting conflicts with the KDMA Convention being held Kenora, no-one from Kenora will be able to participate.

FILE

14. Proclamation – Kenora’s Amazing Race for Health

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Mayor be and is hereby authorized to proclaim the week of February 4 to 10, 2007 as “Kenora’s Amazing Race for Health” Week, in and for the City of Kenora.

Recommendation approved.

JMcMillin

Councillor Drinkwalter has challenged Council and Staff to participate in the Race.

ITEMS ON HOLD:

- **Draft Noise By-law**
- **Youth Appointment to Urban Aboriginal Committee**

OTHER BUSINESS

Request of Mt. Evergreen Ski Club - Improvements

Committee agreed to advance the \$90,000 as requested and Bill Preisenz explained this will not jeopardize the grant dollars however this item should be referred to the 2007 budget.

Councillor McMillan requested that a report be circulated to Council this week for consideration at the January 29 Council meeting.

JRasmussen

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council hereby supports advancing funds to the Mt. Evergreen Ski Club for purposes of the purchase of a groomer in the amount of \$90,000; and further

THAT this item be included in the 2007 Capital Budget.

JMcMillin

Recommendation approved.

NEXT MEETING

- **Tuesday, February 6, 2007.**

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.