



**SECOND MEETING OF THE
2014 BUDGET SUB-COMMITTEE
CANADA ROOM, MARKHAM CIVIC CENTRE
October 11, 2013**

MINUTES

Attendance:

Members Present:

Deputy Mayor Heath (ex-officio)
Regional Councillor Gord Landon, Chair
Councillor Logan Kanapathi, Vice-Chair
Regional Councillor Joe Li
Councillor Colin Campbell
Councillor Don Hamilton
Councillor Alan Ho
Councillor Howard Shore

Guests:

Councillor Alex Chiu
Councillor Valerie Burke
Councillor Carolina Moretti

Regrets:

Regional Councillor Jim Jones

Staff Present:

Andy Taylor, CAO
Jim Baird, Commissioner of Development Services
Trinela Cane, Commissioner of Corporate Services
Brenda Librecz, Commissioner of Community &
Fire Services
Bill Snowball, Fire Chief
Ronji Borooah, City Architect
Catherine Conrad, City Solicitor
Mary Creighton, Director of Recreation Services
Linda Irvine, Manager of Parks and Open Space
Development
Nasir Kenea, Chief Information Officer
Joel Lustig, Treasurer
Rino Mostacci, Director of Planning and Urban
Design
Tim Moore, Director of Building Standards
Judy Rigby, Senior Manager, Financial Planning &
Reporting
Andrea Tang, Manager of Financial Planning
Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator

The Budget-Sub-Committee convened at 9:05 a.m. with Regional Councillor Gord Landon presiding as Chair.

1. 2013 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Ms. Andrea Tang, Manager of Financial Planning, completed the “2014 Budget Presentation” from Budget Sub-Committee No. 1. The remainder of the presentation focused on the Capital Budget and the Life Cycle Reserve Fund.

The Committee discussed the fiscal pressures currently impacting the Life Cycle Reserve Fund. Staff explained the current pressures affecting both the inflows and outflows to the Life Cycle Reserve Fund and the current position of the fund. The Committee requested that a Budget Sub-Committee meeting be held to review the different options Council may consider to address the current shortfall to the Life Cycle Reserve Fund.

It was discussed whether the tax rate increase should be presented as a dollar amount or as both the percentage increase and the dollar amount in the budget public meeting presentation.

The Committee was concerned with the significant increase to the streetlight electricity rate. The Mayor will address this concern with Powerstream. Staff provided a brief explanation why energy costs are increasing.

It was questioned if there are any benefits to Markham by collecting taxes on behalf of the School Board and York Region. Staff advised that the City gets to keep any interest earned on the money prior to it being distributed to these government bodies.

The Committee questioned where York Region is in its budget process and what its projected tax rate increase is for 2014. It was advised that York Region is just starting its budget process and that last year it projected a 2014 tax rate increase of approximately 1.75%.

2. REVIEW OF THE CAPITAL BUDGET

The Committee began its review of the 2014 Capital Budget. The following Capital Budget Items were reviewed:

Department	Discussion
Building	Moved by Councillor Alex Chiu Seconded by Councillor Logan Kanapathi That the Budget Sub-Committee approve the Building Services Capital Budget Items. <div>CARRIED</div>

Department	Discussion
Planning	<p>Heritage Facade Improvements/Sign Replacement – 14000, \$32,000 A Member questioned why the new park signs do not include the “City of Markham” logo on them. Staff advised that these are temporary signs and that the improved new signs have yet to be installed.</p> <p>Consolidated Zoning By-Law Program – Phase 2 of 4 – 14005, \$530,000 A Member questioned what this project entails. Staff advised that the City is required by legislation to consolidate its zoning by-laws once the new official plan is in place. A consultant will develop a framework for the by-laws and internal staff will create the by-laws. These funds are to hire a consultant to develop the framework and for internal secondments to help with this project.</p> <p>Moved by Councillor Logan Kanapathi Seconded by Councillor Alan Ho</p> <p>That the Budget Sub-Committee approve the Planning Capital Budget Items. CARRIED</p>
Design	<p>Greensborough Williamson/ A. Paterson N. Park Design -14024, \$88,600 A Member questioned where this park will be located. Staff advised that this park will be located in a new area of the Greensborough Community.</p> <p>South Unionville Community Park West -14023 – \$1,550,600 A Member questioned if this park was being created in response to a request for more parks in South Unionville. Staff advised that this park is to be built to meet park requirements for South Unionville.</p> <p>Armada Community Park- Outdoor Fitness Equipment – 14021, \$60,500 A Committee Member inquired about the type of outdoor exercise equipment that will be installed at the Armada Community Centre. Staff advised that the outdoor equipment is designed for adults and youth and it looks similar to the type of exercise equipment you would find indoors.</p> <p>A Member inquired if this type of outdoor exercise equipment will be installed at other parks in Markham. Staff advised that there are plans to install this type of equipment at Grandview and Leitchcroft Parks in Thornhill. Consideration is also being given to having outdoor equipment when designing new parks and when revitalizing existing parks.</p> <p>Members emphasized the importance of revitalizing existing parks in Markham that cannot be funded through development charges. Staff advised that the Parks Renaissance will address revitalizing parks in areas that do not have new development. This plan will be brought back to the General Committee.</p>

Department	Discussion
	<p>A Member inquired about the utilization of interest earned from funds collected from developers. Staff advised that interest is allocated based on amounts collected from the developers. Funds collected from the developers and the corresponding interest are set aside in reserve which in turn are used to fund growth related capital projects.</p> <p>A Member questioned where the outdoor equipment will be located at Armadale Community Centre. Staff advised that the equipment will be placed on the south side of the Community Centre.</p> <p>Thornhill Parks Improvements – Section 37 – 14402 - \$2,000,000 A Member suggested that this program may exceed the \$2 M budgeted. Staff advised that based on the direction of the Thornhill Sub-Committee a report will be brought back to the General Committee on this matter. The report will address any shortage in funding for this project.</p> <p>Moved by Councillor Alan Ho Second by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath</p> <p>That the Budget Sub-Committee approve the Design Capital Budget Items. CARRIED</p>
Sustainability Office	<p>Moved by Councillor Howard Shore Seconded by Councillor Colin Campbell</p> <p>That The Budget Sub-Committee approve the Sustainability Office Capital Budget Items. CARRIED</p>
CAO's Office-Legal	<p>Strata Land Conveyances Policy Review – 14066, \$100,000 There was a discussion on how the City will benefit from this project. Staff advised that this project is to hire consultants to develop a policy governing strata land conveyances, including risk management, best practices and draft procedure documents.</p> <p>Moved by Councillor Logan Kanapathi Seconded by Councillor Howard Shore</p> <p>That the Budget Sub-Committee approve the CAO's Office Capital Budget items. CARRIED</p>

Department	Discussion
ITS	<p>Staff advised that that all of the ITS Items were reviewed by the Communication, Information and Technology Sub-Committee.</p> <p>It was noted that the ITS Library Items that were referred to the Library Board at the Communication, Information and Technology Sub-Committee meeting are included under the Library Services Capital Budget Items. These items were reviewed and approved by the Library Board. Catherine Biss will be in attendance when the Library Services items are being reviewed to answer any questions regarding these items.</p> <p>The Chair of the Communication, Information and Technology Sub-Committee questioned why the request for \$10K to host a smart city conference in Markham is not listed under the 2014 budget. Staff advised that the conference will be held in November 2013; hence it is not requested as part of the 2014 Capital Budget.</p> <p>Moved by Councillor Howard Shore Seconded by Councillor Colin Campbell</p> <p>That the Budget Sub-Committee approve the ITS Capital Budget Items. CARRIED</p>
Finance	<p>Moved by Councillor Logan Kanapathi Seconded by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath</p> <p>That Budget Sub-Committee approve the Finance Capital Budget Items. CARRIED</p>
Corporate Communications	<p>Employee Communication Program – 14097, \$16,300</p> <p>A Member questioned what this program will entail. Staff advised that this program will include the purchase of new electronic information boards to be placed around the Civic Centre in staff areas for internal communications. It was suggested that these boards should be powered so that they can be used in an emergency as a communication tool. Staff will investigate this possibility.</p> <p>It was questioned if electronic boards will also be placed at 8100 Warden. Staff advised that this budget request is for electronic boards to be installed at Civic Centre. It was noted that there are electronic boards at 8100 Warden in every breakout room of the EOC and in the Main Entrance of the building.</p> <p>A Member questioned if there is a standard process for uploading information to the electronic boards across the corporation. Staff advised that this process is standardized across the corporation.</p>

Department	Discussion
	<p>Hardware for Press Conferences & Media Relations -14098, \$20,400 Staff advised that these are short term fixes to meet immediate needs. The Civic Centre is space challenged.</p> <p>Moved by Councillor Logan Kanapathi Seconded by Councillor Alan Ho</p> <p>That the Budget Sub-Committee approve the Corporate Communications Capital Budget Items.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
Culture	<p>Moved by Councillor Howard Shore Seconded by Deputy Mayor Heath</p> <p>That the Budget Sub-Committee approve the Culture Capital Budget Items.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
Museum	<p>Mount Joy School Restoration - 14105, \$510,600 A Member questioned what type of work was being done at the Mount Joy School House, as it was recently renovated. The project is to conduct structural repairs to the building. The building envelope needs to be refurbished.</p> <p>Moved by Councillor Logan Kanapathi Seconded by Councillor Howard Shore</p> <p>That the Budget Sub-Committee approve the Museum Capital Budget Items.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
Theatre	<p>Theatre Facility Improvements -14115, \$51,600 A Member requested that railing be installed on the stairway going up to the stage at the Flato Markham Theatre due to safety concerns. Staff advised that the stairway is not a permanent fixture of the stage and that it is only used for certain performances. Staff will address the concern.</p> <p>Moved by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath Seconded by Councillor Alan Ho</p> <p>That the Budget Sub-Committee approve the Theatre Capital Budget Items.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
Fire and Emergency	<p>Breathing Air Cylinders – 14121 - \$109,400 A Committee Member questioned why this equipment was being updated.</p>

Department	Discussion
	<p>Staff advised that this equipment was being updated based on its lifecycle.</p> <p>Self Contained Breathing Apparatus – 14124, \$596,200 A Committee Member questioned why this equipment was being updated. Staff advised that the self contained breathing apparatus is being updated to meet new provincial standards for this equipment.</p> <p>It was questioned whether every fireperson has their own breathing apparatus. Staff advised that every fireperson has their own mask and that the breathing apparatus is shared.</p> <p>It was questioned if fire personnel are trained to clean up hazardous spills. Staff advised that Markham contracts out the cleanup of any hazardous spills. Staff explained the process undertaken in the event of a hazardous spill.</p> <p>Moved by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath Seconded by Councillor Colin Campbell</p> <p>That the Budget Sub-Committee approve the Fire & Emergency Services Capital Budget Items.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
Recreation	<p>Centennial Dehumidifier Replacement 14133, \$132,300 A Member questioned why the dehumidifier needs to be replaced at Centennial Community Centre when the building was only recently renovated. Staff advised that the dehumidifier being replaced was not part of the renovated portion of the building.</p> <p>Mount Joy Rubber Flooring Replacement 14147, \$76,600 A Committee Member questioned what this capital budget request is for. Staff advised that this budget item is for the rubber floors that are installed around the arena and in the dressing rooms. This type of flooring is standard at most arenas.</p> <p>Angus Glen Marquee Replacement 14126, \$20,500 A Committee Member asked what this project entails. Staff advised that this capital budget item is for the replacement of the electronic sign outside of the Angus Glen Community Centre. The sign is used to advertise the Community Centre's activities.</p> <p>A Committee Member questioned if it can be programmed in an emergency. Staff advised that the sign could be programmed for emergency purposes. Currently, the sign is programmed from the community centre. Staff agreed to investigate whether the new sign could also be programmed offsite in an</p>

Department	Discussion
	<p>emergency.</p> <p>Recreation and Tables and Chairs Replacement 14152, \$49,600 A Committee Member questioned why Satellite Community Centre Boards now have to pay for the replacement of their own tables and chairs. Staff were not aware of this practice, but would investigate the inquiry.</p> <p>A Member wanted to ensure that any retrofitting of Community Centres would include accessibility improvements. Staff advised that accessibility retrofitting is considered when City Community Centre retrofits are undertaken.</p> <p>Angus Glen Tennis Centre (future capital budget item suggestion) A Committee Member requested that staff investigate the possibility of adding insulation to the ceiling at the Angus Glen Tennis Centre, as this would help keep the facility warm in the winter and cooler in the summer. Staff will investigate this idea as a possible future capital budget item.</p> <p>Crosby Arena Fire Sprinkler System, 14138, \$126,200 A Committee Member asked if this project could be put on hold until the vision for Main Street Unionville is complete in case the vision has an impact on the arena. Replacement of the fire sprinkler system is necessary to ensure the system complies with safety code. The existing sprinkler system was installed in 1985.</p> <p>Sauna at Angus Glen Community Centre It was questioned when will the 2013 capital budget request to replace the wood inside the sauna at the Angus Glen Community Centre be completed. Staff advised that this work will be completed this fall.</p> <p>Rouge River Markham Green Golf Course Irrigation System, 14155, \$125,400 A Member questioned why the City is responsible for updating the irrigation system at the Rouge River Golf Course when it is privately run. Staff advised that it is the City's asset and the City is responsible for ensuring that the irrigation system is working properly. The tenant is responsible for the day to day operations of the golf course.</p> <p>A Member questioned if the German Mill Community Centre Board accessibility enhancements were included in the 2014 Capital Budget. Staff advised that all Satellite Community Centre improvements are included under the Asset Management section of the Capital Budget, which will be discussed at the next Budget Sub-Committee meeting.</p>

Department	Discussion
	<p>Moved by Councillor Logan Kanapathi Seconded by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath</p> <p>That the Budget Sub-Committee approve the recreation Capital Budget Items. CARRIED</p>

3. ADJOURNMENT

The Budget Sub-Committee adjourned at 12:02 p.m.