



**THIRD MEETING OF THE
2014 BUDGET SUB-COMMITTEE
COUNCIL CHAMBER, MARKHAM CIVIC CENTRE
October 15, 2013**

MINUTES

Attendance:

Members Present:

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

Guests:

Councillor Alex Chiu
Councillor Valerie Burke
Councillor Carolina Moretti

Regrets:

Regional Councillor Joe Li

Staff Present:

Andy Taylor, CAO
Trinela Cane, Commissioner of Corporate Services
Brenda Librecz, Commissioner of Community & Fire Services
Catherine Biss, Chief Executive Officer, Markham Public Libraries
Paul Ingham, Director of Operations
Dennis Flaherty, Director Corporate Communications & Community Relations
Phoebe Fu, Director of Asset Management
Peter Loukes, Director of Environmental Services
Joel Lustig, Treasurer
Judy Rigby, Senior Manager, Financial Planning & Reporting
Andrea Tang, Manager of Financial Planning
Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator

The Budget-Sub-Committee convened at 1:05 p.m. with Regional Councillor Gord Landon presiding as Chair.

Department	Discussion
Engineering	Sidewalk Program – 14030, \$643,800 It was questioned when the sidewalks would be installed on Hwy 7 near Markham Civic Centre. Staff advised that the widening of Hwy 7 and the installation of sidewalks on Hwy 7 will be completed in 2015. The Region will be providing an update on this project at next week's Development Services Committee Meeting.

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	<p>A Member questioned if the locations of the municipal sidewalks to be installed have been determined. Staff advised that the location of the sidewalks being installed was still being determined.</p> <p>Verclaire Crossing at Rouge River -14031, \$508,000 A Member questioned whether Markham District Energy will be able to service the area on the other side of the bridge. Staff will confirm this with Markham District Energy and report back.</p> <p>HWY 404 Midblock Crossing – Buttonville Airport – EA – 14037,\$203,100 A Member questioned if the midblock crossing at the Butonville Airport will be completed this year. Staff advised that this capital budget request is for the Environmental Assessment and that approval of the environmental assessment is required prior to the City proceeding with construction.</p> <p>HWY 404-Midblock Crossing North of Hwy 7 – Construction – 14038, \$4,065,100 A Member questioned the location for this Hwy 404 midblock crossing. Staff advised that this crossing will be located behind Seneca College.</p> <p>The funding of the HWY 404 midblock crossings was discussed.</p> <p>Centurian Drive Reconstruction –Allstate Pwy to Woodbine – 14039, \$,705,300 A Member questioned what this project entails. Staff advised that this project was for the widening of Centurian Drive to add one additional lane so that bike lanes can be added to the road.</p> <p>A Member questioned whether there would be an entrance to Hwy 404 from Centurian Drive in the future. Staff advised that an entrance to Hwy 404 from Centurian Drive is not anticipated in the future.</p> <p>Church Street – Ninth Line to Bur Oak Avenue -14041, \$2,052,900 A Member noted that the work on Church Street from Ninth Line to Bur Oak Avenue should not start until the temporary traffic lights are installed.</p> <p>Intersection Improvements Requests, 14043, \$830,700 Committee Members questioned what intersections will be improved. Staff advised that a list will be compiled and that staff will bring forward recommend locations. It was clarified that only Markham intersections will be improved under this capital budget request.</p> <p>Staff are working with both York Region and City of Toronto to improve intersections under their respective jurisdictions that are impacting Markham residents.</p> <p>Birchmount Road/Rouge River Bridge – MNR Works - 14044, \$203,100 Staff advised that work on Birchmount Road and Rouge River is on Schedule to allow Markham District Energy to install heating & cooling infrastructure next month.</p>

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	<p>It was questioned if the bridge will include public art. Staff advised that there will be decorative special designed railings on the bridge. It was anticipated that the bridge and road will be completed by the summer of 2014.</p> <p>Water and Wastewater Master Servicing Model – 14048, \$284,400 It was questioned why this project was funded by the development charges and not by the water rate. It was advised that this project is being funded by development charges, as it is required due to intensification/development.</p> <p>Sanitary Monitoring – Area 4 – 14051, \$227,500 This project will look at the sanitary sewer system to ensure it is able to handle more intensification. This project will be funded by development charges as it is growth related.</p> <p>It was questioned if this project can be funded by the water rate rather than by development charges. Staff advised that development charges are used to fund growth related projects.</p> <p>Smart Commute Markham-Richmond Hill– 14053, \$87,600 It was advised that Markham may be required to share the operating budget for Smart Commute in 2015.</p> <p>Main Street Markham, Hwy 407 to Hwy 7 (construction) - 14055, \$14,873,800</p> <p>Staff provided a brief status update on the Main Street Markham project.</p> <p>It was questioned if the funding for this project is for two years. Staff confirmed that the funding is for two years.</p> <p>The Committee requested that this project be planned to minimize disruption to the public and that any work that is being done in the area by York Region be coordinated with the construction schedule. The Committee also questioned how this project would be done (e.g. would one lane be closed at a time). Staff advised that they were still exploring options with respect to how the construction to the bridge will be undertaken.</p> <p>A Member questioned if continuation of the pathway under the bridge is included as part of this project. Staff advised that the pathway will be requested as part of phase two of the project.</p> <p>A Member questioned whether the approvals from the Ministry of the Natural Resources for the bridge have been obtained. Staff advised that they are still waiting for a response from the Ministry. There was some concern that the Ministry was taking too long to provide its approvals, as it impacts the projects tight timelines.</p> <p>It was questioned if this capital budget item includes the cost of a temporary bridge. Staff advised that this capital budget item does not include the cost of a temporary bridge.</p> <p>A Member suggested that Markham Road should be widened from Steeles to Hwy 407 to relieve</p>

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	<p>some of the traffic congestion on Markham Road. Staff advised that they will bring to the Region the traffic issues in this area.</p> <p>Rodick Extension – Phase 2 of 3- Miller to 14th - 14056 - \$7,228,500 A Member questioned where the stormwater pond will be located in this area. Staff advised that the pond will be located east of Rodick and south of the 407.</p> <p>The Committee requested information on how the gas tax will be used. Staff advised that a five gas tax plan will be brought forward to Committee.</p> <p>Cycling and Trails – Toogood Pond to Bob Hunter Park - 14403, \$2,540,700 A Member questioned if this project will complete the trail system in this area. Staff advised that this is phase two of three of this project. In this phase of the project the pathway will be completed from the east end of Milne to halfway of Bob Hunter.</p> <p>Cycling Trails Thornhill and Milliken – 14405, \$152,200 A Member questioned the timeframe for (1) the environmental assessment; and (2) the completion of the work plan to link the pathway system to the Thornhill area. Staff advised that the environmental assessment will take about two to three years and that the project would take four to five years to complete, as this project will require extensive public consultation and TRCA Approval. Staff advised that most of the valley system in Thornhill is under private ownership.</p> <p>It was questioned if one of the main streets in Thornhill could be linked to the pathway system in the short-term, as it will take some time to fully link the pathway system to the Thornhill area. Staff advised that there is currently no budget for this project.</p> <p>Moved by Councillor Alex Chiu Seconded by Councillor Alan Ho</p> <p>That the Engineering Capital Budget items be approved.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
Markham Public Libraries	<p>Library Service Improvements (Tablets) -14076, \$20,400 A Member questioned why the Library requires tablets when it already has a number of fixed kiosk located around the library. Staff advised that the tablets are being requested so that the library staff can carry around the library catalogue and provide quick responses to customer inquiries, as the fixed kiosk and information stations are frequently in use. Having the tablets will help the Library maintain its low staffing ratios.</p> <p>A Member questioned if the tablet would also be used for public outreach. Staff confirmed that the tablets would also be used for public outreach purposes.</p> <p>Library Service Improvements (Software) – 14077, \$28,000 A Member questioned why the Library needs a new counter. Staff advised that the current technology is not very stable and needs to be replaced every one to two years. This capital</p>

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	<p>budget request is a better technology that is mounted on the ceiling that will last for approximately 8 years. It has more functions, such as identifying if the person entering the library is a child or an adult.</p> <p>The accuracy of the door counters was questioned. Staff advised that the people leaving the Library are subtracted from the number provided by the counter to ensure greater accuracy. The counter is required by provincial legislation and the data collected from the counter helps with the scheduling of library staff.</p> <p>Moved by Councillor Howard Shore Seconded by Councillor Colin Campbell</p> <p>That the Library Services Capital Budget Items be approved.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
Operations- Roads	<p>Parking Lots -14192, \$279,800</p> <p>A Member asked for an update on the test site for the permeable parking lot at Huntington. Staff advised that they explored installing a permeable parking lot, but that it was too costly to install and maintain. Instead an alternative was used to address the runoff. Staff will continue to look at options for avoiding runoff when creating new parking lots.</p> <p>A Member questioned why some of the curbs needed to be ripped out to re-pave Carlton Road. Staff advised that the City will fix any curbs that require fixing when re-paving a road. Enbridge was doing work on Carlton Road at the same time it was being repaved, which required some of the curbs and ends of driveways to be taken out. The replacement of these curbs and driveways were paid for by Enbridge. Coordinating the work with Enbridge saved the City money minimized the disruption to the area.</p> <p>Moved by Councillor Alex Chiu Seconded by Councillor Don Hamilton</p> <p>That the Roads/Operations Capital Budget Items be approved.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
Operations - Parks	<p>Emerald Ash Borer – Year 2 of 5 – 14208, \$2,591,000</p> <p>The Committee asked if there is a breakdown of the areas where the trees have been affected by Emerald Ash Borer and whether there is a list of the streets that are being tackled. Staff indicated that the contracted work for cutting down the infected trees will be awarded by area. The work will be done this fall. An annual update on the Emerald Ash Borer Program will be outlined in the report that will be brought forward to General Committee in January 2014.</p> <p>A Member questioned if the City needs to be more aggressively in taking down infected ash trees. Staff reported that currently only dead or the severely damaged ash trees will be removed. The City may need to adjust its removal targets if there is an increase in the number severely damaged or dead ash trees. It was noted that there is no relation between the tree</p>

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	<p>removal and the tree planting, as these are done under two separate contracts.</p> <p>It was questioned why severely damaged or dead trees were not removed from the major streetscapes during the summer months. Staff advised that trees should only be removed when the emerald ash is inactive to avoid spreading of the infestation. The appropriate time for the tree removal is October. The trees should then be replanted in the spring when they have a higher survival rate.</p> <p>A Committee Member questioned whether the City would compensate residents for their trees that get infected by Emerald Ash Borer. Staff advised that considerable resources have been invested in educating the public on the infestation and that residents will not receive compensation for their infected tree as all ash trees are susceptible to being infected by the Emerald Ash Borer.</p> <p>Court Resurfacing/Reconstruction – 14205, \$692,000</p> <p>The Committee questioned the type of tennis courts being resurfaced. The City is responsible for all fence replacements regardless if they are public courts or courts run by clubs. The capital budget request form lists the courts being resurfaced and identifies whether the court is publically run or run by a tennis club.</p> <p>It was questioned if the repaving should be postponed until after the new policy for tennis clubs is passed. Staff advised that they are recommending the same cost sharing agreement in the new policy therefore, the new policy would not impact the resurfacing of these tennis courts.</p> <p>Paul Ingham will meet with Councillor Logan Kanapathi to discuss the repaving of the Box Grove Tennis Club. Staff will also be meeting with the Box Grove Tennis Club to review some of the changes being proposed in the new policy for the tennis clubs.</p> <p>Paving Pathways/Facilities & Stairways Repairs -14215, \$155,000</p> <p>It was requested that the repair of pathways be discussed at a future General Committee, as Members want to ensure that repairs are being made to meet today's needs.</p> <p>Moved by Councillor Logan Kanapathi Seconded by Councillor Don Hamilton</p> <p>That the Operations – Parks Capital Budget items be approved.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
Operations - Traffic	<p>Consultant Services for Traffic Signal Coordination -14225, \$101,800</p> <p>The Committee requested that any traffic signal system used on Markham roads should be coordinated with York Region. Staff advised that they will be looking at options where traffic signals can be synchronized with the Region. It was suggested that the study should consider implementing light sensors to assist traffic signal coordination.</p>

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	<p>Moved Deputy Mayor Jack Heath Seconded by Regional Councillor Jim Jones</p> <p>That the Operations –Traffic Capital Budget Items be approved.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
Operations – Fleet	<p>Moved by Councillor Colin Campbell Seconded by Councillor Logan Kanapathi</p> <p>That the Operations –Fleet Capital Budget Items be approved.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
Asset Management – Facilities	<p>Moved by Councillor Don Hamilton Seconded by Councillor Howard Shore</p> <p>That the Asset Management –Facilities Capital Budget Items be approved.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
Asset Management – Environmental Assets	<p>Moved by Councillor Howard Shore Seconded by Councillor Don Hamilton</p> <p>That the Asset Management – Environmental Assets be approved.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
Asset Management – Right of Way	<p>Culverts Rehabilitation (9 Structures) -14277, \$1,611, 400 A Member questioned how many culverts will be rehabilitated this year and how many culverts the City has. Staff advised that nine culverts will be rehabilitated in 2014 and that the City has over 200 culverts.</p> <p>Streetlights Underground Cable – Replacement/Repair –14286, \$2,242,000 A Member questioned why there is a request to repair to the underground cables if this program has just started. Staff advised that inspections were completed on 34km of underground cables and wire, 53% require replacement. The cables are more than 40 years old. The areas where the cables are the oldest are being inspected first.</p> <p>Streetlight Poles – Condition Inspection – 14283 – \$130,500 A Member advised that the streetlight poles on Bridle Trail in Unionville need to be painted. Staff will inspect these streetlight poles. Staff advised that a repainting of the poles will be funded from the operating budget.</p> <p>Streetlight Poles – Replacement Program – 14284, \$155,600 A Committee Member questioned how many streetlight poles are replaced per year. Staff advised that 50 poles are replaced per year.</p> <p>Staff were requested to prepare a feasibility study on using decorative LED streetlight fixtures now that the they are more readily available. Staff advised that a feasibility study on decorative</p>

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	<p>LED streetlight fixtures is currently underway. Results of the feasibility study will be brought forward to the LED Taskforce.</p> <p>Moved by Councillor Logan Kanapathi Seconded by Councillor Alan Ho</p> <p>That the Asset Management – Right of Way Capital Budget items be approved.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
<p>Waste & Environmental Management</p>	<p>Multi-Residential Organics Program-14292 - \$40,400 It was questioned if this program is now complete. Staff advised that more multi-residential units will be added on a priority basis.</p> <p>Moved by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath Seconded by Councillor Logan Kanapathi</p> <p>That the Waste and Environmental Management Capital Budget Items be approved.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
<p>Waterworks</p>	<p>Annual Leak Detection Program – Phase 2 of 5 – 14301, \$162,800 A Member asked staff to explain this program. Staff advised that this program identifies leaks in the system to reduce City’s non revenue water.</p> <p>A Committee Member questioned how many watermain broke in 2013 to date. Staff advised there have been 22 watermain breaks to date in 2013. There were 30 to 35 watermain leaks in 2012.</p> <p>Sanitary System Down spout Disconnection Program –14313 – Phase 2 of 8, \$894,200 It was requested that staff bring a report back to the General Committee on the costs and status of the Sanitary System Down spout Disconnection Program.</p> <p>Moved by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath Seconded by Councillor Logan Kanapathi</p> <p>That the Waterworks Capital Budget be approved.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>

ADJOURNMENT

The Budget Sub-Committee adjourned at 4:03 p.m.