



**SEVENTH MEETING OF THE
2013 BUDGET SUB-COMMITTEE
CANADA ROOM, MARKHAM CIVIC CENTRE
November 13, 2012**

MINUTES

Attendance:

Members Present:

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

Guests:

Councillor Carolina Moretti
Councillor Alex Chiu

Regrets:

Councillor Don Hamilton

Staff Present:

Catherine Biss, Chief Executive Officer, Markham
Public Libraries
Stephen Chait, Director of Economic Development
Trinela Cane, Commissioner of Corporate Services
Catherine Conrad, Town Solicitor
Brenda Librecz, Commissioner of Community &
Fire Services
Joel Lustig, Treasurer
Rino Mostacci, Director of Planning & Urban
Design
Larry Pogue, Director, Library Strategy &
Innovation
Judy Rigby, Senior Manager of Financial Planning
& Reporting
Andrea Tang, Manager of Financial Planning
Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer
Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator

The Budget Sub-Committee convened at 9:35 a.m. with Regional Councillor Gordon Landon presiding as Chair.

1. REVIEW MINUTES FROM BUDGET SUB-COMMITTEE NO. 6

Moved by Councillor Logan Kanapathi
Seconded by Councillor Alan Ho

That the Minutes from the October 26, 2012 Budget Sub-Committee be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

2. RESPONSE TO LIBRARY OPERATING BUDGET REQUEST

The Committee discussed extending the library service hours at the four libraries attached to a Community Centre (Thornhill Library, Cornell Library, Milliken Mills Library and Angus Glen Library). The following was discussed:

- The pros and cons of re-structuring the library hours to accommodate extended hours on Friday evenings;
- The possibility of phasing in the extension of the library hours on Friday evenings;
- The impact on staffing if library hours are to be extended on Friday evenings;
- Whether the library hours should be extended at all Markham libraries or just at the libraries that are attached to a Community Centre;
- The reasons why residents are requesting extended library hours on Friday evenings;
- The cost associated with extending the library hours on Friday evenings.

Staff recommended that the library hours remain the same if additional funds cannot be accommodated in the 2013 budget, as any change to the existing library hours would result in lost library revenue and it would be at the cost of other groups of library attendees (e.g. mothers with their young children).

Moved by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

Seconded by Councillor Howard Shore

That the Library hours be extended at the four major Community Centres (Thornhill Library, Cornell Library, Milliken Mills Library and Angus Glen Library) starting September 6, 2013 at a cost of \$149, 932 in 2013 and thereafter at \$450,000 per annum.

MOTION DEFEATED

3. STATUS OF THE 2013 OPERATING BUDGET

The Committee reviewed the status of the 2013 Operating Budget.

A breakdown of some of the increases to parking fines was provided, as follows:

- Increase in fine for parking in a fire route from \$100 to \$200
- Increase in fine for parking on the street from 2:30 a.m. to 6:30 a.m. from \$40 to \$50 dollars

These parking fees are being increased to be consistent with the parking fines of other municipalities.

Regional Councillor Gordon Landon stepped down from the position of Chair to bring forward a motion. The Vice-Chair Councillor Logan Kanapathi presumed the role of Chair.

It was requested that the tax rate be increased from 1% to 1.5% to include an additional \$590 K in the 2013 operating budget to be allocated towards the emerald ash borer program, as this program is anticipated to cost \$10 M of which \$8 M is currently unfunded.

A Member questioned whether the emerald ash borer program would still be unfunded if forestry was currently included in the lifecycle reserve study. Staff advised that the cost of the emerald ash borer program would be unfunded, as this is an extraordinary item that would not be included in the lifecycle reserve study.

It was questioned if the cost of the emerald ash borer program could be absorbed by the lifecycle reserve study. Staff advised that funds could be taken from the lifecycle reserve study, but it would reduce the number of years where the reserve has sufficient funds to support future replacement of existing capital assets.

It was questioned what is the impact if the City does nothing with respect to the emerald ash borer infestation. Staff advised that the City would still face substantial costs, as trees would still need to be cut down and removed from City lands.

It was suggested that these funds being requested be considered as an infrastructure surcharge to help fund unfunded capital projects. This type of a surcharge can be allocated to other potential unfunded capital projects in the future.

Moved by Regional Councillor Gord Landon

Seconded by Councillor Colin Campbell

That the Budget Sub-Committee approve a total tax rate increase of 1.5% that is split into a 1% tax rate increase to support the day-to-day operations and a 0.5% tax rate increase to address an extraordinary item, Emerald Ash Borer Infestation.

CARRIED

Regional Councillor Gordon Landon re-presumed the role of Chair.

4. 2013 OPERATING BUDGET DETAILS

It was questioned if Markham's parking control officers are provided with a quota for issuing parking tickets. Staff advised that parking is enforced in Markham to ensure compliance with its by-law.

A Member questioned if the user fees for the Cornell Community Centre would be the same as at other Community Centres in Markham. Staff advised that most of the user fees will be the same, but that the Cornell Community Centre has some unique features that will be priced differently (e.g. a rehearsal hall).

A Member questioned why the 2014 election cost will be higher than the 2010 election cost. Staff advised that the election cost will increase due to population growth, technological advances and to support the election rebate program.

It was questioned why Markham's water rate increases on April 1, 2013 rather than on January 1, 2013. Staff advised that the water rate increase occurs on April 1, 2013 to be consistent with York Region's increase.

5. NEXT STEPS

The Committee reviewed the next steps with respect to the 2013 budget approval process.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

Seconded by Regional Councillor Jim Jones

That the Budget Sub-Committee approve the next steps with respect to the 2013 budget approval process.

CARRIED

6. APPROVAL OF THE RESTRICTED BUDGET SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

Moved by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

Seconded by Regional Councillor Jim Jones

That the Restricted Minutes from the October 26, 2012 Budget Sub-Committee (Sessions 1 and 2) be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

7. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Colin Campbell

Seconded by Councillor Alan Ho

That the Budget Sub-Committee adjourn at 11:17 a.m.

CARRIED