



**SIXTH MEETING OF THE
2012 BUDGET SUB-COMMITTEE
CANADA ROOM, MARKHAM CIVIC CENTRE
October 25, 2011**

MINUTES

Attendance:

Members Present: Deputy Mayor Heath (ex-officio) Regional Councillor Gord Landon, Chair Councillor Valerie Burke Councillor Colin Campbell Councillor Don Hamilton Councillor Alan Ho Councillor Logan Kanapathi Councillor Carolina Moretti Councillor Howard Shore Regrets: Mayor Frank Scarpitti (ex-officio) Regional Councillor Jim Jones Regional Councillor Joe Li	Staff Present: Gary Adamkowski, Director of Asset Management Jim Baird, Commissioner of Development Services Dennis Flaherty, Director of Communications & Community Relations Morgan Jones, Acting Manager, Roads Operations Rino Mostacci, Director of Planning & Urban Design Bob Nicholson, Manager of Business & Technical Services Brenda Librecz, Commissioner of Community & Fire Services Peter Loukes, Director of Operations Joel Lustig, Treasurer Victoria McGrath, Director of Sustainability John Ryerson, Director of Culture Andrea Tang, Manager of Financial Planning Bob Walters, Acting Manager, Parks Operations Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator
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The Budget Sub-Committee convened at 1:02 p.m. with Regional Councillor Gordon Landon presiding as Chair.

1. DISCUSSION ON COUNCILLOR REQUESTS

New Request - Lights in heritage estates

Councillor Carolina Moretti noted that there are 11 missing lights at the Heritage Estates. A special councillor request was made to replace one of the lights (at the mailboxes) immediately at the cost of \$7,000. Staff agreed to this request.

Item No 37 – Purchase of 20 by 20 Canopy tent

A Member questioned why the larger tent was not being purchased. Staff advised that the 2 smaller tents being purchased can be combined to serve the same purpose as the larger tent, noting the operating cost to move the larger size tent would be very high. The Town has only 2 events that use a large size tent and a larger tent can also be rented for these events at a cost of \$500 inclusive.

Item No. 30 – Celebrating the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee

Staff advised this item was referred to the General Committee for further consideration.

2. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS FROM PREVIOUS BUDGET SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Committee reviewed the responses to the questions from the previous Budget Sub-Committee Meetings.

Discussion on Appendix A Question No. 7

A Member inquired how much funds are being put aside for Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearings. Staff advised \$203,500 is being put aside for development related OMB hearings in 2012 (excluding hearings on the Regional Official Plan). It was questioned why the Town needs to be represented at Regional Official Plan OMB hearings. Staff advised that Markham may need to represent itself if there are appeals to the urban boundary that do not align with Markham’s Growth Strategy.

Discussion on Appendix A-3

The Committee requested that the broader public be consulted on the pre-design of the sports park. It was thought that this would stimulate interest in the park and that expectations regarding timelines could be managed. The Commissioner of Community & Fire Services offered to help organize the public consultation meeting, as a similar approach was used in the pre-design phase of the South East Markham Community Centre.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Heath

Seconded by Regional Councillor Joe Li

That the Design Capital Budget Item No. 12035 be approved.

CARRIED.

Moved by Councillor Alan Ho

Seconded by Regional Councillor Joe Li

That the responses to the questions from the previous Budget Sub-Committee Meetings be received.

CARRIED.

3. REVIEW OF FEEDBACK FROM THE 4 PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETINGS

The Committee reviewed the feedback from the 4 public consultation meetings.

Discussion on Appendix B - Stormwater Management

A Member noted that there has already been some action taken with respect to the management of the erosion in Pomona Valley and German Mills Ravine.

Discussion on Appendix B - Cycling & Pathway Programs

There was a discussion on cycling safety. It was noted that there was an article in The Toronto Star regarding the Provincial review of cycling safety. This matter will be discussed at the next Cycling & Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting to bring forward the issues on segregated bike lanes to the Region.

Discussion on Appendix B – Windrow Removal Assistance Program

There was an inquiry regarding whether the Town has a policy on clearing the snow from lane ways. Staff advised that the Town clears the snow from lane ways as part of its current winter maintenance contract.

There was a question regarding why the Town is responsible for purchasing winter maintenance equipment when it contracts out the service. It was explained that if winter maintenance was done in-house these vehicles would need to be purchased by the Town. The request is to obtain development charge funding to offset a portion of the winter maintenance costs paid through the operating budget.

The Committee thought that the existing Town windrow service for seniors needs to be better promoted. There are currently 2,200 resident enrolled in the program. A Member questioned when it would be more cost effective to provide the service at large. It was suggested that the Seniors Advisory Committee be consulted on how to improve the promotion of the program

A resident noted her concern regarding the speed of the winter maintenance vehicles. It was noted that GPS has now been installed on all winter maintenance vehicles.

It was reported that there will be one more Windrow Task Force meeting.

There was a question on the status of the by-law for boulevard maintenance. Staff advised that a report will be brought forward to the General Committee on this matter.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

Seconded by Regional Councillor Joe Li

That the feedback from the 4 public consultation meetings be received.

CARRIED.

Moved by Councillor Logan Kanapathi

Seconded by Councillor Howard Shore

That the Minutes from the October 7, 12, 13 and 20, 2011 Budget Community Consultation meetings be approved.

CARRIED.

4. STATUS OF THE 2012 OPERATING BUDGET

The Chair advised that the Mayor had requested that the Budget Sub-Committee defer any discussion on the operating budget to a future Budget Sub-Committee meeting. Consequently, the 2012 Budget will be approved in early December.

Note: After the meeting it was decided that the 2012 Budget will now be approved in February 2012.

5. REVIEW OF THE 2012 NEW SUPPORT STAFFING REQUESTS

The Committee reviewed the 2012 new support staffing requests.

There was a question regarding the Senior Buyer Position. Staff advised that the Senior Buyer oversees the Town's procurement process, noting this request is to convert an existing position into a full time position. The \$94,424 includes both salary and benefits.

Moved by Councillor Don Hamilton

Seconded by Councillor Logan Kanapathi

That the 2012 new support staffing requests be approved.

CARRIED.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

Seconded by Councillor Colin Campbell

That the Friday, October 28, 2011 Budget Sub-Committee meeting be deferred to a future date; and,

That a Public Meeting be held on November 16, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber to review the Development Fee By-law.

CARRIED.

Note: After the meeting it was decided that the Development Fee By-Law will be reviewed as part of the December 6, 2011 Development Services Public Meeting.

6. COUNCIL EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT POSITION

There was a discussion on last year's Budget Sub-Committee request to convert the Council Executive Assistant position to full time. A Member questioned if a staff report was being prepared on this matter.

Moved by Councillor Howard Shore

Seconded by Councillor Don Hamilton

That the discussion on the conversion of the Councillor Executive Assistant position from part time to full time be referred to the General Committee.

CARRIED.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Deputy Mayor Heath

Seconded by Councillor Colin Campbell

That the Budget Sub-Committee adjourn at 2:49 p.m.

CARRIED.