



**FIRST MEETING OF THE
2012 BUDGET SUB-COMMITTEE
CANADA ROOM, MARKHAM CIVIC CENTRE
October 3, 2011**

MINUTES

Attendance:

Members Present:

Mayor Frank Scarpitti (ex-officio)
Deputy Mayor Heath (ex-officio)
Regional Councillor Gord Landon, Chair
Regional Councillor Jim Jones
Regional Councillor Joe Li
Councillor Valerie Burke
Councillor Colin Campbell
Councillor Alex Chiu
Councillor Don Hamilton
Councillor Alan Ho
Councillor Logan Kanapathi
Councillor Carolina Moretti
Councillor Howard Shore

Staff Present:

Gary Adamkowski, Director of Asset Management
Jim Baird, Commissioner of Development Services
Bill Snowball, Fire Chief
Noeline Chipun, Senior Financial Analyst
Mary Creighton, Director of Recreation Services
Dennis Flaherty, Director of Communications & Community Relations
Paul Ingham, General Manager of Operations
Nasir Kenea, Chief Information Officer
Brenda Librecz, Commissioner of Community & Fire Services
Karen Liu, Senior Financial Analyst
Peter Loukes, Director of Operations
Joel Lustig, Treasurer
Victoria McGrath, Director of Sustainability
Larry Pogue, Director of Administration, Markham Public Libraries
Raj Raman, Senior Manager of Purchasing & Financial Reporting
John Ryerson, Director of Culture
Andrea Tang, Manager of Financial Planning
Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer
Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator

Guest Present:

Marion Matthias

The Budget Sub-Committee convened at 3:32 p.m. with Regional Councillor Gord Landon presiding as Chair.

The Chair reviewed the 2012 Budget Sub-Committee schedule.

1. 2012 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Ms. Andrea Tang, Manager of Financial Planning, presented the preliminary 2012 Budget to the Committee. The presentation included a review of the 2012 budget process; the economic trends

and fiscal scan; an overview of the proposed 2012 budget; the future budget challenges; the 2012 budget highlights; and the next steps.

Discussion

There was an inquiry regarding the fifty (50) vacancies that exist across the organization. It was questioned when the positions will be filled and if they are required to be filled.

The method of providing salary increases was discussed. It was suggested that staff salaries be increased by the same amount for all staff rather than by a percentage.

It was questioned if the ramp-up for the staffing request in the East Markham Community Centre Library is at the same level as in the past, considering recent technological advances, such as automatic book sorters that reduce staffing needs. It was noted that technology has allowed the library to maintain its current staffing level, as its volume of business has increased due to population growth.

It was requested to provide the information on the balances of the water reserve, pre and post of the implementation of the infrastructure surcharge.

It was explained that the 25-year projected life cycle expenditures have increased.

The Chair requested that a list of major projects completed in 2011 be provided in the Public Consultation Meeting.

It was clarified on Slide #40 that the fourteen (14) positions being proposed are new positions. Whereas, the fifty (50) vacancies consist of positions that were approved in previous budget sessions.

It was noted that Council would like to have an opportunity to provide feedback on the Regional Sports Park development schedule. Staff confirmed that Council will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the development of the park.

It was clarified that emerald ash borer tree program will include a condition assessment, treatment of the trees, and the removal and replacement of the trees. The total projected cost of the program is ten (10) million dollars. Currently, it is estimated that fourteen thousand (14,000) trees in Markham are affected by the infestation. The amount of trees infested could increase. It was reported that the Region will have its own program to manage the infestation of the ash borer trees. It was suggested that the work at the Cornell University regarding speeding up the growth of trees be investigated and that the Town consider harvesting its own trees rather than purchasing them from a nursery.

It was recommend that the Chair of the budget public consultation sessions advise the public that the proposed 2012 budget being presented at the meeting is preliminary, and that the information presented is subject to change.

2. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION PRESENTATION

Moved by Councillor Colin Campbell

Seconded by Councillor Howard Shore

That the Budget Sub-Committee approve the Community Consultation Presentation to be presented at the budget community consultation meetings.

CARRIED.

3. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Budget Sub-Committee will be held on Tuesday, October 11, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. in the Canada Room.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The Budget Sub-Committee adjourned at 5:32 p.m.