



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF ROSSLAND

AGENDA

**COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MEETING OF COUNCIL
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2009
7:00 PM**

- (1) CALL TO ORDER**
- (2) ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
- (3) NEW BUSINESS**
 - (a) Review of 2009 Budget**
 - (i) Councillor Moore email – Follow up questions from March 24, 2009 meeting**
 - (ii) Councillor Stradling's recommendations from March 11, 2009 meeting (based on budget figures prior to the March 24th, 2009 meeting)**
 - (iii) Revised budget with March 24, 2009 Committee of the Whole recommendations included**
 - (iv) Water & Sewer Parcel Tax**
- (4) NEXT MEETING – WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2009 @ 7:00 PM**
- (5) CLOSE OF MEETING**

Ron Campbell

From: Kathy Moore [km@2cats.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2009 6:36 PM
To: Ron Campbell; Deb Timm; Mike Thomas; Darrin Albo
Cc: 'Andy Stradling'; Mayor Rossland; Hanne Smith; 'jill spearn'; Kathy Moore ; 'Kathy Wallace'; Laurie Charlton
Subject: follow up questions from last nights meeting.

Hello all- Again, sorry I had to leave the meeting, especially since I had a number of questions. Hanne generously spent some time with me to review what was covered so now, this not-to-long list is all that is left. (Sorry it looks a little sloppy- the result of cut and paste from my master list of questions). I would appreciate it if you could take a look and have the appropriate person answer. Thanks so much.

km

1) Carry forward items

- Sustainability- green muni grant carry over- is this already allocated to the Sust budget or could this be used to start additional task forces? (to augment the existing \$71k budget to \$102k?)

To reserves:

- Replace WTP sand- used to offset parcel tax? Why not use for some other infrastructure project? what will be done with the remaining \$32.5k? **WILL BE DISCUSSED IN PARCEL TAX DISCUSSION- (BUT WASN'T)**

2)Capital budget

- What might we use the current and future Strategic community Investment fund for? (\$592k, \$212k, \$127k) **NEEDS TO BE DISCUSSED LATER- when?**

P 1 Admin

- Laptops part of emergency program? Wasn't there some grant \$ involved? (Unnecessary to have but interested in where grant \$ shows) **MAYBE BACK IN BUDGET. I don't think it is needed this year.**
- **P1** office renos- waiting for more info about need from rec.dept
- **P1** Video council, take a hard look at equipment? **GOT BUMPED UP TO \$5500. I don't think its needed this year**

P2 Recreation capital

- Dtn beautification – look closely at it. **SENT BACK TO STREETScape COMMITTEE FOR REVISION**

Replacing planters or adding new ones?

Town sq- why discourage skateboarders? At least they are on the main street where nothing terrible is likely to happen to them....or others

Planting base area- What is this?

No bike wash – unnecessary use of water.

New Total: \$10,000 (\$9,100)

P3 Water & Sewer

*10/25
Please discuss
Ron 26/09*

- Don't want to neglect capital- must be done but with econ slow down are any projects less urgent now?
- **P3 pig water mains-** now off list entirely- need maintenance plan? When will this get done? How important is it? **DIDNT GET MENTIONED**
- **P3 PRV vaults-** whats this?
- **P3 Master water & sewer infrastructure plan** is important. Should be moved forward from 2012. Perhaps get grant money sooner? (p3) total \$57,500 & \$65,00= \$122.5 **NEED TO CONSIDER**
Watershed management plan needs to be incorporated in overall planning too. Something task force can work on? Understand lots of money for planning projects available now, might be good time to try for grant. Plus could have significant bearing on Topping creek intake decisions. **NEED TO CONSIDER**
- **P3 What other infrastructure grants** might we be eligible for under new fed or prov programs? Requiring our portion of funding?
- **P3 topping creek intakes:** Where was our portion of funding required if we get the **towns for tomorrow grant** for topping intake rebuild? None in 2009 or 2010 wouldn't we need engineering costs at least?

3. Sidebar items

- **P2 when planning to do MH roof?** "surpassed longevity" nice if had a priority list by Jason **NEED THIS list.** Money could be borrowed for roof- improvement that provides long term benefit for community is ok to borrow for.
- **P2- Museum-** What was \$12.5k for? Could it be put off a year? (focus on adit work this year)
- **P2. adit work-** any of the \$170k covered by grants? Update please.
- **P2 cemeteries-** \$10k for tree removal- instead of taking to dump, have tree workers cut and remove to arena parking lot. Sell for firewood.

4. Community groups

- Should be yes to all. Provide important services to Rosslanders.

a. Water task force: **RECOMMENDED TO BUDGET**

- Mikes memo: Understand that overall intention of water group was to get accurate reading from all our creeks (Hanne, Murphy, topping, little sheep & Elgood,)
- Proposal contemplates weir measurements. How to address issue of weir failing in the spring freshet?
- Would it be possible to establish weirs on Hanne, Topping & Murphy and use the cheaper salt gauging methods and volunteers on the others? Bill M suggested he could train volunteers in 1 hour and be the manager of the project (mixing the proper salt solution and setting up the gauging stations)

b. Tourism Rossland is best \$ generator we have. Without funding deanne will be cutting to ½ time and close office, impacts chamber too (share rent) Need to replace \$30k to get \$60k matching funds from rocky mtn tourism/bc tourism

RECOMMENDED TO BUDGET

c. Need to support animal safety and rehab services are part of our SSP of stewardship of our natural area.

SPCA- \$600 **RECOMMENDED TO BUDGET**

Beaks- \$1500- **NOT RECOMMENDED-** this is disappointing- we should contribute to this service just like we contribute to the SPCA.

5. Water- P3

a. Problem meters- do we really expect \$20k worth of problems? We don't have that many meters installed yet do we?

b. meter rebate program- What cost was used? if costs were \$250 for 35 households= \$8,750 (not \$5k)

c. Back up generator at WTP- if we don't have one at all, isn't it important? If it is urgent we should borrow for it or at least set money aside for it and get one next year. What is probability of failure?

4. Water and sewer parcel tax –DIDNT GET DISCUSSED

Would like to hold taxes down but don't want to do it artificially.

Don't understand the need to use reserves to reduce parcel tax.

Using reserves artificially deflates the actual cost for service. What if we don't have a reserve one year? citizens will be hit with a larger increase. This approach was not recommended at the LGMA

Not using reserves adds \$17.57 per household per year or \$1.46 per month. Better to have utility rates accurately reflect costs.

Kathy Moore

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Please Support the BC Citizen's Assembly's Recommendation on Electoral Reform
On May 12 ... Vote for Better Democracy, Vote for BC-STV

Recommendations from Councillor Stradling to CoW 11 March 2009

Rationale

Our new Council is faced with the challenge of responding quickly to the rapidly changing economic climate which is already impacting our community. In reviewing the current draft of the 5-yr plan I see too many indications that we are proceeding as though it is business as usual. Many of the departmental budgets show significant increases over last-year's actual expenditures. There is little evidence of a significant attempt to cut costs, and perhaps some restructuring of our departments, to reflect the expected decrease in housing construction and amenity migration into the community. I also feel that Council deserves the opportunity to consider a shift in priorities and public spending to those services and programs that might help us protect us from further downsizing of our community, and help us emerge quicker and stronger from the current recession.

My recommendations reflect my experience in developing the 2009 budget and business plan for my own organization. I had to prepare several scenarios for my upper management to consider, including worst case scenarios. I think Council should expect our senior staff to prepare some similar scenarios for us to consider for 2009 so that we might take more proactive action to address our current situation. The 5-yr plan Council chooses to adopt would likely not resemble any of the three scenarios contemplated below, but some hybrid of these.

1. That staff prepare two additional budget scenarios for Council to review at a Committee of the Whole meeting to be held prior to approval of the 5-yr financial plan. These shall include specifically: a) a '*Standstill Budget*' where 2009 Total General Fund Expenditures are frozen at the level of 2008 actual expenditures ie. \$7,458,345, and b) a '*Reduced Budget*' where 2009 Total General Expenditures are reduced from 2008 actual expenditure levels by 10%, that is to \$6,712,510. These shall be presented to council on the form of a high-level budget summary, broken down into Administration, Protective Services, Transportation, Environmental Health, Public Health, Planning & Development, Recreation & Culture, and Fiscal Services. Against each of these eight expenditure categories staff shall provide a brief narrative outlining the impact that these two budget scenarios will have on public services, programs and city hall staffing levels relative to the initial CPI Indexed budget.
2. That staff prepare for Council, a summary report on departmental staffing levels and municipal salary and labour costs over the past five years, and as projected in the current five-year plan. This should be broken down to distinguish between permanent and temporary staff, full-time and part-time, management and bargaining unit personnel.
3. That staff prepare for Council, an estimate of the expected 2009 general, parcel and utility tax revenues that would be collected from Rossland residents if mill rates were held constant at 2008 levels. There were no other municipal tax increases beyond the water and sewer rate increases currently before council, and potential RDKB increases outside our control. Any increase in the city's property tax revenues would be limited to new home construction and BC assessment increases.