

**VILLAGE OF POINT EDWARD**

**MINUTES**

**OPERATING BUDGET MEETING**

**March 23, 2010**

**9:00 a.m.**

**Council Members Present:**

**Mayor Kirkland**

**Deputy Mayor Robson**

**Councillor MacKenzie**

**Councillor Hand**

**Councillor Churchill**

**Staff Present:**

**CAO Cramp**

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**DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

**OPERATING BUDGET:**

Chairperson Robson gave a brief overview of where the budget stands at this point after the review by all Committees and provided some of the challenges that Council is faced with.

**Arena**

**Chairperson Larry MacKenzie**

The Arena Committee recommendations were brought forward to the budget meeting for Council's consideration.

There was discussion regarding building maintenance costs. It was thought that they may be reduced since the building is new. However, there are a number of new annual costs to maintain the sprinkler system, quarterly maintenance of the lobby doors, etc. The Arena Committee is also giving consideration to additional revenue through the use of advertisements on the Arena boards.

**Fire Department**

**Chairperson Larry MacKenzie, Fire Prevention Officer Rick MacGregor**

The Fire Committee recommendations were brought forward to the budget meeting for Council's consideration.

**Water and Waste Water Treatment Plant  
Chairperson Churchill, J. Sloma**

The Water/WWTP Committee recommendations were brought forward to the budget meeting for Council's consideration. This budget had been approved previously in order that the 2010 water rates could be established.

The Bayview and Alexandra Storm Station budgets were also reviewed. This includes the cost of storm line cleaning. An agreement with MTO and BWBC is still being considered based on the information provided regarding their stormwater management plans for the area.

**Chair Jack Rand, Vice Chair Kelly Geary  
Point Edward Police Services Board**

Chair Rand and Vice Chair Geary presented the Police Services Board budget for Council's consideration.

There was a discussion regarding janitorial costs and whether or not the cost would be less if it was bundled with another contract. However, it is a part-time employee who does the janitorial service at this location.

It was noted that the OAPSB Conference will be held in Point Edward in April, 2010.

**Public Works, Garbage Collection, Streetlights  
Chairperson Bev Hand, M. Chalmers**

The Public Works Committee recommendations were brought forward to the budget meeting for Council's consideration.

**Parks  
Chairperson Bev Hand, M. Chalmers**

The Parks Committee recommendations were brought forward to the budget meeting for Council's consideration.

**Transit**

A discussion took place regarding the continuation of the Transit system in the Village of Point Edward.

Councillor Churchill expressed concerns regarding the high costs of the services in comparison to the low and declining ridership. He has an issue with taking money out of Casino revenue to cover the operating costs.

Chairperson Robson stated that the savings if minimal if a reduction in the level of service/reduced transit service schedule, particularly if the grant is eliminated. She noted that there are persons in the Village who rely on the Transit service.

Councillor MacKenzie noted that there has been a very low amount of new assessment so there is a concern regarding costs. A reduced level of service may not work for the people who do rely on it as it may not be available when they need it. He noted that some businesses and workers rely on it. It is costing approx. \$100 per person in the Village less grant revenue.

Councillor Hand suggested that there should be public consultation on this important issue.

Mayor Kirkland concurred that public consultation is required. Council needs input from the Village. He suggested that a public meeting be arranged prior to next year.

### **Streetlighting**

The cost of maintenance for the streetlights continues to be an issue.

### **All other areas**

#### **Finance Chairperson Janice Robson**

Chairperson Robson reviewed all of the remaining areas of the operating budget.

### **Comments from the Public**

Opportunity for the Public to make any presentation or comments on the budget

### **Resolution #1**

Moved by Councillor Hand

Seconded by Councillor Churchill

THAT Robert Swift be invited within the bar.

CARRIED.

Mr. Swift, 505 Louisa Street, asked a number of questions as follows:

1. Mr. Swift asked why only a portion of the operating surplus was being used to reduce the taxation. He was advised that \$30,000 is being used towards reduced taxation and the remainder will be used towards the renovations of the Community Hall.

2. Mr. Swift asked about the sustainability of the Village and what happens when the predictions do not equal the actual costs. He was advised that the Village is very fortunate to have the Casino revenue which assists to pay all capital costs for continued maintenance of roads and facilities.
3. Mr. Swift asked if outside services are contracted. He was advised that there is a Procurement By-law which sets out requirements for purchasing. He asked if the Auditors are tendered. He was advised that Council finds the existing Auditor to be very reasonable, particularly in comparison to other municipalities. He asked about the salary increases. He was advised that the Village has included costs for restructuring which is still under review. He asked how many Non Union positions there are in the Village. He was advised that there are 16 full-time employees with nine being Union employees.
4. Mr. Swift asked about changes to Arena Rates. He was advised that the Village Arena rates are checked in comparison to other municipalities to ensure that they are kept in line. This is looked at annually.
5. Mr. Swift asked what the salary increase is for Council members. He was advised that it is 3% which is the same as employees. There is a 4-year Union contract.

Kelly Geary, 319 Michigan Ave. asked the following questions.

1. He asked what the reserves are for the Village. Auditor Jim Dunlop advised that there is approximately \$2.6 million in reserves but a portion of that will be brought forward to 2010 to complete projects that were not finalized in 2009.
2. He asked about tax revenue from the BWBC. It was noted that the Tourist Information Centre is taxed but most of the buildings are not taxed on the Bridge property with the exception of the areas for the custom brokers.
3. He asked about the assumption of Venetian Blvd. by the County. He was advised that the transfer is in process and should be completed by mid year.

Mr. Geary congratulated Council on an excellent budget.

#### **Comments from Auditor Jim Dunlop**

- Comments re: 2010 Operating Budget
- Comments re: Financial Reports for 2009

Auditor Jim Dunlop advised Council that there are major changes that will be in effect beginning with the 2009 financial statements. All assets must now be brought into the books including depreciation, etc. He asked if Council would prefer to continue with statements similar to the previous requirements and then further statements with inclusion of the assets.

Amy Valkenburg was present to review the 2009 Financial Reports.

**Resolution #2**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Robson

Seconded by Councillor Hand

THAT Council accept the recommendation from Auditor Jim Dunlop regarding the proposed process for future financial statements.

CARRIED.

**Resolution #3**

Moved by Councillor MacKenzie

Seconded by Councillor Hand

THAT the 2010 operating budget be approved, as presented, with a 2.2% decrease to the tax rate.

CARRIED.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no New Business at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Resolution #4**

Moved by Councillor Churchill

Seconded by Councillor MacKenzie

THAT the Council Meeting be adjourned at 11:50 a.m. until the April 27, 2010 call of the Chair or at such time as a Special Committee meeting is held to discuss legal matters, property matters or personnel matters.

CARRIED.

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Chairperson Janice Robson

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C.A.O./Clerk Peggy Cramp