

**THE THIRTY-THIRD MEETING OF THE PRIORITIES COMMITTEE
OF THE CITY OF GREATER SUDBURY**

**Council Chamber
Tom Davies Square**

**Wednesday, September 28, 2005
Commencement: 7:03 p.m.**

Chair

COUNCILLOR CALDARELLI, IN THE CHAIR

Present

Councillors Berthiaume; Bradley; Callaghan; Dupuis (D9:15pm); Gainer; Gasparini; Kett; Rivest; Thompson (A8:15pm); Mayor Courtemanche

City Officials

M. Mieto, Chief Administrative Officer; C. Matheson, General Manager of Community Development; R. Skelly, Acting General Manager of Growth & Development; A. Stephen, General Manager of Infrastructure & Emergency Services; E. Stankiewicz, Acting CFO/Treasurer; D. Tincombe, Manager of Community Development & Social Policy; R. Henderson, Director of Citizen Services; A. Sizer, Co-ordinator of Cemetery Services; H. Duff, Director of Social Services/Ontario Works; P. Demers, Community Relations and Policy Advisor; A. Haché, Acting City Clerk; F. Bortolussi, Planning Committee Secretary; CJ Caporale, Council Secretary

News Media

Sudbury Star; MCTV; CIGM; Channel 10 News; Le Voyageur, Northern Life; Sudbury News Now

Declarations of
Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

Item 2
MPAC - New
Assessment Notices

Ms. Mary Dawson Cole, Customer Service Manager, Ms. Kim Pitura, Municipal Relations Representative, and Mr. Darryl Bender, Account Manager, Municipal Relations, Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) gave an electronic presentation entitled "2005 Assessment Update Overview" for information only.

She provided a brief outline of MPAC's history and stated that MPAC is a not-for-profit, corporation consisting of a Board appointed by the Province and is accountable to Ontario municipalities.

She advised that MPAC provides annual assessments for over 4.4 million properties, prepares and delivers the municipal assessment rolls, provides information for capping provisions, resolves assessment concerns, etc.

Item 2
MPAC - New
Assessment Notices
(continued)

Ms. Pitura advised that only land and building improvements are assessable. She also advised that MPAC has a five step process: data collection, analysis, value application, quality testing and value review.

MPAC's database is very extensive and updates data from several sources (Land Registry offices, building permits, on-site property inspections, etc.)

Ms. Dawson Cole stated that under the Current Value Assessment, recent sales of similar properties in the area are used to determine the current assessed value of a property and MPAC also considers site-related factors that may impact a property's value.

She indicated that MPAC uses three approaches for determining assessed values: the sales comparison approach, the cost approach and the income approach. The quality of assessment updates are determined between the relationship of the assessed value and the actual sale value of a property sold in the base year.

Ms. Pitura outlined the assessment cycle and important dates of 2005 property assessment for the 2006 taxation year. Council noted that the new Property Assessment Notice would be mailed out on October 6, 2005.

Ms. Dawson Cole displayed the 2005 Property Assessment Notice for 2005 and explained each section to the Committee members. She indicated that three new data elements were included on the 2005 residential Property Assessment Notices: previous assessed value as of June 30, 2003 used by municipalities to calculate the 2005 property taxes, the percentage change in assessed value from June 30, 2003 to January 1, 2005 at the individual property level, and the average percentage change in residential values for the municipality.

She advised the Committee that MPAC resolves many assessment concerns throughout the year. She also advised that property owners can appeal assessed value through various means.

Ms. Pitura advised that there have been some legislative changes regarding managed forest and equestrian properties which will implement a new assessment methodology.

Item 3
NDCA - Watershed
Management Program

Councillor Ron Bradley, Chair of Nickel District Conservation Authority (NDCA) and Mr. Paul Sajatovic, Planner, NDCA provided an overview of the Watershed Management Program.

Presently they have a number of key initiatives such as flood and erosion control, flood forecasting and warning, regulations enforcement, environmental education, watershed stewardship/habitat protection and regulations enforcement.

From a funding perspective their funding comes from MNR, MOE, City of Greater Sudbury, user fees, fundraising and special projects.

He provided a brief overview of priority initiatives in which they are involved including source water protection, groundwater monitoring, infrastructure maintenance, and generic regulations.

He indicated that the NDCA needs to cultivate and build partnerships. They have partnerships with the City of Greater Sudbury, MNR, MOE, schools and community groups. He advised that the Authority has challenges and issues such as provincial transfer payments, no capital funding primarily for water management, flood plain mapping which is outdated, source water protection implementation which will be a future issue, and conservation area maintenance which will be introduced at budget time.

Item 4
Strategy for
Emergency Shelters &
Homelessness

Report dated 2005-09-22, with attachments, from the General Manager of Community Development regarding Strategy for Emergency Shelters and Homelessness Initiatives was received.

Community Meeting Report dated May 2005 entitled "*Creating Community Solutions - Emergency Shelter in the City of Greater Sudbury*" was tabled.

Ms. Grace Kurke, President, Social Planning Council Board of Directors and Mr. Robert Keetch, Member of the Board of Directors, United Way Centraide Sudbury & District gave an electronic presentation entitled "*SOS: Solutions on Shelters Committee*".

Ms. Kurke indicated that this was a joint presentation by the United Way and the Social Planning Council on behalf of affected agencies. She stated that the need for emergency shelters has increased and that a direct correlation can be made between cuts to Provincial social assistance, and social supports and homelessness. She also stated that two funding streams will cease at the end of this year which will place the current shelter and support in jeopardy.

Item 4
Strategy for
Emergency Shelters &
Homelessness
(continued)

Mr. Keetch advised that there are currently six hundred eight (608) individuals that are homeless, 39% live on the streets or in shelters, 25% of aboriginals are homeless, 12% are children under the age of twelve, 33% are women, and one hundred fifteen (115) homeless families were housed on a temporary basis in motels.

Ms. Kurke advised that the per diem of \$42.95 per day provided to shelters by the Province/City is not adequate. A secondary fund of \$142,211 was received by the Province/City. The Community Placement Target Fund has been depleted over the years. With the loss of the National Homelessness Initiative, Sudbury will suffer a shortfall of \$861,000.

They stated that without funding the homeless will not have access to basic health services or the street outreach workers who provide clothing, transportation to emergency shelters, crisis prevention and intervention. With the decrease of services, the Greater Sudbury Police Services and Sudbury Regional Hospital will have to pick up the slack.

SOS is currently working with the service delivery agencies and attempts to raise operational dollars have not been successful. Representatives of the community have been supportive of a long-term, strategic plan. This issue belongs in the hands of the Provincial and Federal governments, and until funding from the senior levels of government is made available, they must step up to the plate to ensure the safety, security and well being of our citizens.

They recommended that Council:

1. Engage local MPs and MPPs on this issue
2. Develop a community based solutions team.
3. Develop an affordable housing strategy.
4. Provide bridge funding until the new funding is made available.

Ms. Deborah Tincombe, Manager of Community Development & Social Policy, gave an electronic presentation entitled "*Strategy for Emergency Shelters and Homelessness Initiatives*".

Ms. Tincombe provided an overview of the emergency shelters and homelessness initiatives. She gave a brief history outline and stated that funding has been provided by the senior levels of government through the Federal Government's National Homelessness Initiative [Supporting Community Partnerships Initiative (SCPI)] and also through the City's Community Placement Target Fund (CPTF) Reserve.

Item 4
Strategy for
Emergency Shelters &
Homelessness
(continued)

Ms. Tincombe stated that the Social Services Division assigned caseworkers for specialized caseloads for homeless women and men, the Community Development and Social Policy Section initiated the strategic plan and community development which is related to the Emergency Shelters and Homelessness Initiatives and the System Management Group.

She indicated that one time funding was provided by the Provincial Rent Bank and Emergency Energy Fund and that Council provided funding to the Elizabeth Fry Society and extended funding to emergency shelter providers until the end of December 2005. She also stated that various projects are currently under way.

Ms. Tincombe advised that the Provincial per diems of \$42.95 for the Supporting Communities Partnerships initiatives are inadequate. Many municipalities are supplementing with 100% municipal dollars, and a more responsive service delivery and funding model is required.

She advised that the programs and services affected are four emergency shelters at a cost of \$560,998: Inner Sight Educational Homes, l'Association des jeunes de la rue, Elizabeth Fry Society, and Salvation Army.

The 2005 budget was approximately \$2 million for homelessness initiatives and the 2006 budget will be approximately \$1.1 million.

The following recommendation was presented:

Bradley: WHEREAS the per diem rates for emergency shelters and funding that is received from the Province for outreach and support services for homelessness is inadequate;

AND WHEREAS funding that has been provided through the Federal government's Supporting Community Partnerships Initiative (SCPI) and the City's Community Placement Target reserve (one-time Provincial funding) to sustain these services will end in 2005;

AND WHEREAS permanent, long-term funding that is required to sustain the continuum of emergency shelter and homelessness initiatives across the Province has not been identified or secured;

AND WHEREAS Council has recognized the need for the development of an affordable housing strategy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council request that the Federal government extend its commitment to funding of the National Homelessness Initiative to enable the continuation of currently funded homelessness initiatives;

Item 4
Strategy for
Emergency Shelters &
Homelessness
(continued)

AND THAT Council request the Provincial government to increase per diems for emergency shelter beds;

AND THAT Council request that the Provincial and Federal Governments develop, in conjunction with municipalities, a multi-sectoral strategy to prevent homelessness;

AND THAT the City continue to encourage and support community partners in their efforts to attain long-term sustainability for programs that serve the homeless;

AND THAT Council establish a Community Solution Team to review the homelessness funding crisis, prioritize services and supports for the homeless and make recommendations than can be accommodated within existing funding and budgets;

AND THAT the recommendations of the Community Solution Team be presented to Priorities Committee on November 9, 2005.

Friendly Amendment

With the concurrence of the mover, Councillor Gasparini requested that paragraph nine in the foregoing recommendation be amended by deleting "and make recommendations that can be accommodated within existing funding and budgets".

Main
Recommendation
(as amended)

RECOMMENDATION 2005-60: Moved by Councillor Bradley:

WHEREAS the per diem rates for emergency shelters and funding that is received from the Province for outreach and support services for homelessness is inadequate;

AND WHEREAS funding that has been provided through the Federal government's Supporting Community Partnerships Initiative (SCPI) and the City's Community Placement Target reserve (one-time Provincial funding) to sustain these services will end in 2005;

AND WHEREAS permanent, long-term funding that is required to sustain the continuum of emergency shelter and homelessness initiatives across the Province has not been identified or secured;

AND WHEREAS Council has recognized the need for the development of an affordable housing strategy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council request that the Federal government extend its commitment to funding of the National Homelessness Initiative to enable the continuation of currently funded homelessness initiatives;

AND THAT Council request the Provincial government to increase per diems for emergency shelter beds;

Item 4
Strategy for
Emergency Shelters &
Homelessness
(continued)

AND THAT Council request that the Provincial and Federal Governments develop, in conjunction with municipalities, a multi-sectoral strategy to prevent homelessness;

AND THAT the City continue to encourage and support community partners in their efforts to attain long-term sustainability for programs that serve the homeless;

AND THAT Council establish a Community Solution Team to review the homelessness funding crisis, prioritize services and supports for the homeless;

AND THAT the recommendations of the Community Solution Team be presented to Priorities Committee on November 9, 2005.

CARRIED

Item 5
CGS Cemeteries

Mr. Ron Henderson, Director of Citizen Services provided an update on the City of Greater Sudbury Cemeteries.

He advised that the City is responsible for maintenance and operation of twenty-three (23) municipal cemeteries.

He stated that, since amalgamation, all cemeteries are regulated by one by-law, cemetery rates have been harmonized for area town cemeteries, a partnership with Knights of Columbus was formed, the second phase of the mausoleum was completed, and the Beautification Program was implemented.

He indicated there is approximately \$1 million in annual expenditures, \$1.1 million in annual revenues where the annual surplus is used to finance the capital. Currently, there is a balance of \$4.4 million in the Perpetual Care Fund.

Some of the capital projects consist of expanding cemeteries, future phases of the mausoleum, development of columbariums/niche units, remedial work, and software upgrades. He advised that some of the challenges are capital pressures, extensive monument repairs, vandalism issues, and capacity.

Adjournment

RECOMMENDATION 2005-61: Moved by Councillor Bradley:

THAT this meeting does now adjourn. Time: 9:55 p.m.

CARRIED

Councillor Caldarelli, Chair

Angie Haché, Acting City Clerk