

**TENTH MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
OF THE CITY OF GREATER SUDBURY
FOR THE PUBLIC INPUT MEETING - 2008 BUDGET**

**Council Chamber
Tom Davies Square**

**Thursday, September 6, 2007
Commencement: 5:30 p.m.**

Chair

COUNCILLOR TED CALLAGHAN, IN THE CHAIR

Present

Councillors Cimino; Barbeau (A6:52pm); Berthiaume; Dutrisac; Dupuis; Rivest; Craig; Landry-Altmann; Mayor Rodriguez

City Officials

M. Mieto, Chief Administrative Officer; G. Clausen, General Manager of Infrastructure Services; T. Beadman, Chief of Emergency Services; D. Donaldson, Fire Chief; C. Hallsworth, Executive Director of Administrative Services; L. Hayes, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer; C. Matheson, General Manager of Community Development; D. Nadorozny, General Manager of Growth & Development; D. Bergeron, Manager of Financial Support & Budgeting; A. Haché, City Clerk; M. Vezina, Planning Committee Secretary; F. Bortolussi, Council Secretary

Media

Le Voyageur; Northern Life; Rogers Radio; Sudbury Star

Welcome and
Opening Remarks

Councillor Callaghan welcomed those in attendance to the Public Input Meeting of the Finance Committee of Council. He stated that the purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for the public to provide their input and opinions on the City's current budget. He advised that the public that they have until September 10, 2007 to submit comments or requests.

PRESENTATION

2008 City of
Sudbury Budget

Lorella Hayes, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer, provided an electronic presentation outlining the 2008 budget, the budget process and the budget schedule. She stated that the Canadian National Economy grew by 68% over 10 years and, during that period, the Federal and Provincial governments saw a 40% revenue increase while municipalities saw only a 33% revenue increase as municipal revenues are mostly property taxes which do not keep pace with economic activity.

Ms. Hayes explained the 2007 budget (expenditures of \$486M, revenues of \$322 M and tax levy of \$164 M), how the operating dollars were spent and the sources of revenues.

Ms. Hayes outlined the budgetary pressures or challenges, opportunities and the strategies to implement efficiencies and solutions.

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

Written submissions were received from the following:

- Samantha Baulch
- Glenn Murray
- Julie Psarras
- Jeff Baron
- Gary Gray
- Joanne Renzoni, Copper Cliff Community Action Network

PUBLIC HEARING

A speakers' list was available and submissions were heard in the order that they appeared.

Canadian Red Cross
Sudbury Branch

Harvey Wyers, President, and Louise Trudel, Disaster Management Coordinator, Canadian Red Cross, Sudbury Branch, provided an electronic presentation entitled "*Personal Disaster Assistance Funding Request 2008*". Mr. Wyers explained that Personal Disaster Assistance (PDA) consists of trained emergency response volunteers on call 24 hours a day who work in partnership with the Greater Sudbury Fire Department. He stated the volunteers help individuals who have lost everything they own or can not return to their home due to fire or flood providing essential services at the scene for the first 72 hours. The emergency services provided were outlined in detail.

Mr. Wyers stated that the \$10,000 received from the City of Greater Sudbury on a yearly basis goes directly to client services and not for administration, training, etc. He advised that in the last four years they have been running a deficit as they have had more incidents, assisted more people and distributed more funds. He indicated that the senior levels of Red Cross help out with deficits; however, they demand that the books be balanced which results in less resources for other programs or enhancements. He therefore stated their request is that the City increase the PDA funding to \$20,000 yearly.

Laurentian Playground
Association

Chris Lockman, President, Laurentian Playground Association, stated Laurentian Playground is a 'hidden jewel' easily accessible to all residents of Val Caron and Greater Sudbury which seems to have been forgotten. Younger families in the area have renewed interest to in the parkland and a Playground Association was formed. He indicated that, with a huge amount of support and volunteers, there is now a swimming area, fenced off play area, boat launch and scenic lookout at the property. He stated they have creative ideas they wish to discuss with City Officials. Also, they require ongoing summer maintenance to keep the area clean and safe. He feels that with proper investment by City Council, it could become a beautiful park for all residents and tourist.

Grotto of Lourdes
Redevelopment
Committee

Murray Bowers, Grotto of Lourdes Redevelopment Committee, introduced the members of the Committee. He provided an electronic presentation regarding the Grotto of Lourdes Shrine. He explained 'spiritual tourism' and stated that pilgrimage is a form of tourism and provided the number of visitors to certain pilgrimage sites. He stated this is an opportunity to expand tourism in Sudbury.

Mr. Bowers outlined the project timelines and costs totalling \$2,024,200 and provided a partner investment overview. He indicated the \$84,000 requested from the City, which represents 4% of the total cost, would be used for sanitary sewer work in Phase I of the project. If that can not be achieved, they can defer part of their request for funding to Phase II. He concluded by outlining the project impact including job creation and tourism revenue.

Cathy Castanza

Cathy Castanza stated she has concerns regarding the park at Whitewater Lake. She indicated that, because of all the debris and weeds, she has not been able to bring her children to the beach. She would like to see a lifeguard at the beach as there was in the past; her son having attended camp at that park. She indicated there are 14 trailers at the property as it has camping facilities. She stated that the park needs work and the children will not be using the facility if improvements are not undertaken.

Ms. Castanza indicated the Rayside-Balfour Soccer Association has raised \$50,000 to contribute to a soccer field which has already been designed. She stated they parents are concern as there are 500 children in their soccer association who have to travel to other areas of the City to play. She stated they were told there would be something done in their area and asked why nothing is being done when the have money available for a soccer field.

Bob Rosset

Bob Rosset stated he resides near Regent and Arnold Streets and for five years has been concerned about one kilometer of road from Telstar Avenue to Arnold Street. He stated that nothing has been done and is told that it is not in the budget. He asked if anything can be done. He also stated that four or five years ago he requested lights at the intersection of Regent and Arnold Street and asked if lights will be installed if the road is five-laned.

Sirio Bacciaglia

Sirio Bacciaglia stated that the condition of the roads are a disaster and CAA is making roads a provincial election issue. He indicated he can no longer ride his bicycle into downtown due to the state of the roads. He stated more funds should be requested from the provincial and federal governments. He feels the road budget should be doubled during the next four years to \$64M. He stated that the City has to go back to essential services only and cut out any frills.

Closing Remarks

See no further speakers, Councillor Callaghan expressed appreciation to those present for their attendance and input at this budget public input meeting.

Adjournment

2007-18 Cimino-Berthiaume: THAT this meeting does now adjourn.
Time: 7:30 p.m.

Councillor Callaghan, Chair

Angie Haché, City Clerk