

**THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE PRIORITIES COMMITTEE  
OF THE CITY OF GREATER SUDBURY**

**Onaping Community Centre  
1 Hillside Drive, Onaping**

**Wednesday, April 18, 2007  
Commencement: 6:14 p.m.**

Chair

**COUNCILLOR GASPARINI, IN THE CHAIR**

Present

Councillors Cimino; Barbeau; Berthiaume; Dutrisac; Dupuis; Rivest; Thompson; Callaghan; Caldarelli; Landry-Altman

City Officials

C. Hallsworth, Acting Chief Administrative Officer; C. Matheson, General Manager of Community Development; G. Clausen, Acting General Manager of Infrastructure; J. Nicholls, Acting Fire Chief; L. Hayes, CFO/Treasurer; G. Lamothe, Manager of Communications & French Language Service; J. Cameron, Economic Development Officer - Technology; R. St. Onge, Manager of Software & Business Applications; P. Baskcomb, Manager of Community & Strategic Planning; J. Pafford, Community Development Coordinator; A. Sweetman, Sewer & Water Engineer; D. Rowe, Citizen Service Representative; K. Lampi, Building Attendant, Onaping Community Centre; A. Haché, City Clerk; CJ Caporale, Council Secretary

News Media

Sudbury Star; MCTV; Channel 10 News; Northern Life; Big Daddy

Declarations of  
Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

**TOUR OF COMMUNITY**

NORCAT  
Underground Centre

Prior to the meeting the Members of the Priorities Committee participated in a tour of NORCAT Underground Centre in Onaping. Mr. Darryl Lake, Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Norm Lavallee, Chief Operating Officer, and Mr. Joe Morin, Mine Superintendent guided the tour and provided information on the inner workings of NORCAT and advised that as a training facility, it is a working mine with ninety-six (96) students training for four weeks at a time.

Recognition of Former  
Mayor & Councillors

Councillor Gasparini acknowledged the former Mayors and Councillors for the former Town of Onaping Falls:

Ms. Shirley Mirka, former Mayor  
Mr. Dick Plaus, former Councillor  
Mr. Bob Parker, former Mayor

## **PART I**

**6:00 P.M. TO 8:30 P.M.**

### **COUNCILLOR BRIEFING SESSIONS**

Item 5  
Quilt of Map of  
Onaping Falls

Ms. Joan Chabot, President and Ms. Lynn Couvrette, Secretary/Treasurer, Onaping Falls Stitchery & Quilting Guild presented the Members of the Priorities Committee with a quilt which displayed a map of Onaping Falls. Ms. Chabot advised that the Guild meets once a week and briefly explained each panel on the quilt and what it represented. She explained that the quilt celebrates the three town sites of the former Town of Onaping Falls. She also advised that the quilt was being donated to the Dowling Citizen Service Centre which will be on display. She concluded by stating that the quilt represents many hours of fun and companionship.

Item 6  
Levack-Onaping CAN

Ms. Martha Cunningham Closs, Chair and Mr. Lorne Taylor, Member, of the Levack-Onaping Community Action Network (CAN) provided an electronic presentation.

Ms. Cunningham Closs briefly outlined the history of the CAN and stated there is a lot of potential for the CANs throughout the City of Greater Sudbury. She outlined several projects that they have organized for the community such as the Annual Greater Cardboard Toboggan Race and the Annual 'Thrill on Onaping Hill' Soap Box Derby. She stated that by continuing to provide financial and administrative support, the CAN will benefit everyone.

Mr. Taylor stated that the CAN supports the recommendation of the Constellation City Report. He indicated that there are several areas of concern such as providing lighting on the trail between Onaping and Levack and the City owned Dowling mall is in need of repair. He suggested that the City contact the local CANs to find out what needs to be done. He concluded by stating that the most important recommendation made by the Community Solutions Team is providing a ward review.

Councillor Berthiaume asked the Acting General Manager of Infrastructure if the City owns the Dowling mall. Mr. Clausen advised the Committee that he will review this issue and report back to Council.

Item 7  
Solid Waste Transfer  
Stations in Dowling  
and Onaping

Mr. Dick Plaus, a resident of Ward 3, indicated that he has been a resident of Onaping Falls for the past thirty-five years. He left the area for several years and could not believe the changes when he came back in 2003. He stated that "there is garbage all over this good land" and believes this is partially Council's fault. He stated that the tipping fees are the cause of illegal dumping. Mr Plaus advised that Onaping Falls had a landfill site which was closed

Item 7  
Solid Waste Transfer  
Stations in Dowling  
and Onaping  
(continued)

after amalgamation. He feels it costs too much for residents to drive to the Azilda landfill site and then have to pay tipping fees. He stated that there have been many deliberations about eliminating the fees and feels that Council needs to "just do it". The City makes approximately \$350,000 in tipping fees from Onaping Falls taxpayers. Mr. Plaus indicated that a little enticement is needed to encourage people to use the landfill site and avoid illegal dumping. He advised that there are two landfill sites in Onaping Falls that could be used to set up transfer stations and the cost would be limited.

Councillor Thompson asked the Acting General Manager of Infrastructure if the cost of having City crews clean up the garbage or setting up transfer stations was comparable. Mr. Clausen stated that he will provide the information to the Solid Waste Advisory Panel but stated that most illegal dumping occurs on Crown or privately owned land and the City has no access to either.

The following recommendation was presented:

**RECOMMENDATION 2007-18: Moved by Councillor Berthiaume:**

THAT staff prepare a report regarding establishing solid waste transfer stations in Dowling and Onaping;

AND THAT this be referred to the Solid Waste Advisory Panel.

**CARRIED**

**COUNCILLOR BRIEFING SESSIONS**

Item 8  
Levack Water Supply  
System Update

Mr. Greg Clausen, Acting General Manager of Infrastructure, provided an electronic presentation entitled "*New Water Supply System - Communities of Levack & Onaping*".

He outlined the current and proposed water system and stated that the City received notice from INCO that they would no longer maintain the water system due to the regulations that the province was enforcing and have extended their deadline to December 31, 2008.

Mr. Clausen advised that the City has completed a Class Environmental Assessment with several options considered and evaluated. He stated that the preferred option was a new well in Levack. Once pumping tests were completed, it was determined that the water was unacceptable. After three Public Information Centres, the City entered into discussions with Falconbridge (now Xstrata) and there was the possibility of the City acquiring their Wickwas Wells and supplying water to both Onaping and Levack from this one source.

Item 8  
Levack Water Supply  
System Update  
(continued)

He advised that Xstrata has carried out preliminary cost analysis and a conception design and stated that this option would meet the requirements of CVRD-INCO.

Mr. Clausen indicated that this project would cost approximately \$10 million, which may include the development of a third well which would provide full redundancy, the construction of a larger water tank in Onaping, the installation of new waterlines to connect Onaping and Levack, and system enhancements and upgrades to meet all current MOE requirements and regulations. This would resolve existing volume, pressure and fire flow issues, the water quality would be improved, and maintenance and operating costs would be reduced for all parties.

Mr. Clausen provided a preliminary schedule and concluded by stating that this project should be completed by Fall 2008, if all goes well.

### **POLICY DISCUSSION PAPERS - PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION**

Item 9  
Improving the City  
Websites

Report dated 2007-04-10 from the Executive Director of Administrative Services regarding Improving the City Websites - Constellation City Recommendation #3 was received.

Mr. Ghislain Lamothe, Manager of Communications & French Language Services, introduced Mr. Ron St. Onge, Manager of Software & Business Applications, and Mr. Jody Cameron, Economic Development Officer - Technology to the Committee.

Mr. Lamothe provided an electronic presentation entitled "Improving City Websites" He stated that there are four major concerns that are being reviewed:

1. Confusion between the three websites, [www.greatersudbury.ca](http://www.greatersudbury.ca), [www.mysudbury.ca](http://www.mysudbury.ca), and [www.sudbury.ca](http://www.sudbury.ca)
2. The Websites remain stale and outdated with problems occurring with .pdf files
3. Navigation and search problems
4. Evaluation process required

He outlined solutions and stated that staff is currently looking at introducing a service oriented model. Mr. Lamothe indicated that Focus Groups such as the CANs, young professionals, members of the accessibility committee and seniors, along with a Task Force made up Communications and IT experts, could provide excellent insight to the solutions.

Item 9  
Improving the City  
Websites  
(continued)

He also indicated that Communications Services would require a part-time employee, who would review and modify the websites, provide quality control, develop a communication plan and website content policy. The financial impact would be \$25,000.

The following recommendation was presented:

**RECOMMENDATION 2007-19: Moved by Councillor Barbeau:**

THAT Council endorse the redevelopment of City websites, so as to enhance usability, as recommended by the Community Solutions Team in the Constellation City Report;

AND THAT the temporary contract position be approved for six (6) months to support the recommendations identified in the report dated April 10, 2007 from the Executive Director of Administrative Services.

**CARRIED**

**MOTIONS**

Item 10  
Property Taxes on  
Federal Buildings

The following recommendation was presented by Councillor Cimino:

**RECOMMENDATION 2007-20: Moved by Councillor Cimino:**

THAT staff prepare a report on steps municipalities can take and have taken to obtain additional property taxes on federal government buildings.

**CARRIED**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Tom Taylor

Mr. Taylor advised the Members of the Committee of several areas of concern, such as increasing the speed limit of Highway 144 to 100 km/hr, increased taxes by 300% on his cottage on Lake Wahnapiatae because of amalgamation, long distance charges applied for telephone calls made within the City of Greater Sudbury, and having Greater Sudbury Utilities Inc. purchase Ontario Hydro in order to reduce charges. He stated that residents had water meters installed years ago, in order to reduce water consumption and following that, they increased the water rates and started charging sewer rates.

Ms. Jana Lahnalampi

Ms. Lahnalampi stated that the residents should be allowed to voice their opinion first and then Council can continue with their meeting. The taxpayers have the right for more time.

She stated that the City of Greater Sudbury needs to invest money in Onaping and Levack by revitalizing the downtown areas. She felt

Ms. Jana Lahnalampi  
(continued)

that Onaping Falls deserve the same treatment as downtown Sudbury. With respect to the \$10 million cost for the Levack Water Supply, she said not to get her started on the cost of the South End Rock Tunnel.

She feels that a multi-pad facility and arts centre would not be of benefit to Onaping Falls. What will happen to the Levack arena? The multi-pad facility would be used for out-of-town tournaments and questioned why are we looking at facilities that serve large populations.

Mr. Andre Fortin

Mr. Fortin stated that transport trucks are using the property next to the Tim Horton's in Chelmsford as a turn around and is creating problems for others. He would like staff to look into this issue.

Councillor Berthiaume stated that if the property is privately owned, the City of Greater Sudbury has no legal recourse. Staff will review this issue and contact Mr. Fortin.

Mr. Shane Picotte

Mr. Picotte believes if these issues are not solved soon, people will be leaving the community. The teen centre is only open on Tuesdays and Thursdays and there are no other facilities for teens to utilize. He stated that there have been many promises made such as cell towers, new water system, etc. but nothing has been provided.

He advised that the tennis courts in Onaping are locked and are not made available for teens to utilize. He also noted that Onaping Falls has no skateboard park. He stated that Council has to invest in the town before any issues could be solved.

Mr. Charles Belcher

Mr. Belcher stated that Ontario Hydro customers pay \$240/year more than Greater Sudbury Utilities Inc. customers. It's time to review this issue again.

Mr. Harry Warren

Mr. Warren stated that something must be done about the water system in Levack and Onaping Falls. If the City of Greater Sudbury is looking to extract water from this location, do not go below the Levack bridge. The iron content in the water is too high. He stated that local residents know more about their own community than experts hired by the City. It's time for Council to start asking questions and deal with the issues.

Proceed Past  
8:30 p.m.

2007-21 Dupuis: THAT we proceed past the hour of 8:30 p.m.

**CARRIED BY 2/3 MAJORITY**

Richie

Richie moved to Onaping Falls in 2005 and he feels like a second rate citizen. He doesn't feel that the outlying areas are a part of the City of Greater Sudbury and have deteriorated since amalgamation. He stated that he has been fighting with Hydro, water, and Bell Canada since 2005 to have his rates lowered and they have advised him that they make an estimation based on the usage of a family of four. He advised that his family consists of himself and his wife.

Richie stated that a transit route should be made available to Onaping Falls residents and his wife should not have to fight with Handi Transit in order to be picked up at a certain time.

Mr. Larry Balfour

Mr. Balfour stated that the residents did not come here to complain but want to be heard. He stated that the bills are being paid by the taxpayers and they are the customers. Council needs to listen to them. He stated that Ontario Hydro will not sell to the City of Greater Sudbury because they make too much profit. He stated that Ontario Hydro rates are higher because the residents are paying rural rates.

Mr. Balfour stated that the children require recreational items and feels it would not be any more expensive to provide a transit route from Chelmsford to Onaping.

He stated that the landfill sites are profitable, so use that money for the communities.

He concluded by stating that Council should consider a walkway over Elm Street from the Rainbow Centres to the Transit Centre before someone is badly hurt.

Councillor Gasparini thanked everyone for attending and that staff will respond to all questions raised at tonight's meeting.

Adjournment

**RECOMMENDATION 2007-22: Moved by Councillor Barbeau:**

THAT this meeting does now adjourn. Time: 8:50 p.m.

**CARRIED**

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Councillor J. Gasparini, Chair

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Angie Haché, City Clerk