

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

**Senator Rhéal Bélisle Cultural Centre
2777 Main Street, Blezard Valley**

**Wednesday, June 6, 2007
Commencement: 5:34 p.m.**

Chair

COUNCILLOR GASPARINI, IN THE CHAIR

Present

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

City Officials

M. Mieto, Chief Administrative Officer; R. Carré, Acting General Manager of Community Development; D. Nadorozny, General Manager of Growth & Development; G. Clausen, Acting General Manager of Infrastructure; E. Stankiewicz, Acting CFO/Treasurer; G. Lamothe, Manager of Communications & French Language Service; P. Reid, Business Development Officer; C. Mathieu, Acting Director of Strategic Support Services; E. Bertrand, Manager of Fleet; B. Sedgwick, Roads Engineer; D. Donaldson, Fire Chief; R. Sauve, Director of Transit Services; R. Norton, Drainage Engineer; A. Haché, City Clerk; CJ Caporale, Council Secretary

News Media

Sudbury Star; MCTV; CIGM; Channel 10 News; Le Voyageur; Northern Life; Big Daddy

TOUR OF COMMUNITY

Valley Growers &
Valley East Industrial
Park

Prior to the meeting the Members of the Priorities Committee participated in a tour of Valley Growers, the largest potato plant in Northern Ontario. They also toured the Valley East Industrial Park, home to sixty-six companies that employ over 875 individuals throughout Greater Sudbury.

PART I

5:30 P.M. TO 8:30 P.M.

Declarations of
Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

Opening Remarks

Councillor Dupuis welcomed everyone present, outlined the tour that the Members of the Committee participated in, and stated that Ward 5 was booming.

CITIZEN DELEGATIONS

Item 3 Volunteer Recognition

Councillor Dupuis presented the following recipients with a certificate for their dedication to volunteerism:

Shirley Baxter
Conrad Larocque
Glen & Dee Murray
Roy Langdon
Marcel Servais

Item 4 Valley East CAN

Mr. Marc Tassé, Chair of the Valley East CAN, provided an electronic presentation entitled "*Harvesting the Spirit*". He outlined the initiatives and activities that the CAN has organized over the past year. He stated that in 2004, the people of Valley East rebuilt the community and brought back the sense of pride and belonging that once existed.

Mr. Tassé stated that the Valley East CAN (VECAN) is involved in many initiatives such as roadside and trail cleanup projects, dynamic youth opportunities, an integrated lifestyle centre, etc. He also stated that there are areas that need improvement such as a trail connecting Capreol to Chelmsford, the creation of young teen recreation programs, transportation within the Valley, family physicians, affordable senior housing, increased community policing, increased commercial land, theatre/performance centre, intra-Valley bus service and depot, liability for City supported events, etc.

He concluded by stating that Council should look at areas such as arts and culture, economic development, parks expansion, volunteers, etc. in Valley East. By taking responsibility in the growth and development, one must make use of the space in their community.

Item 5 Lion's Charity Days

Mr. Marcel Servais of the Valley East Lion's Club stated that the Lion's Charity Days, formerly the Valley East Days, is thirty years old and they have been blessed with good volunteers. The Lion's Club became involved with this event in the late 1980's and have recently changed the format by providing funds to needy families within the community. They have provided donations to the Hanmer ballfield and have invited charities to come aboard such as the Food Bank, Easter Seals, etc. He indicated that the event is being held on September 8-9, 2007, and invited staff and the Members of the Committee to the Councillors' Charity Breakfast on Saturday, September 8, 2007.

Item 6
The Kin Club

Mr. Bob Bolger and Mrs. Mary Lou Bolger, Members of the Kin Club of Valley East, indicated that they are part of the National Organization of Kinsmen and Kinettes. He stated that their motto is "Serve the Communities Greatest Needs". They are located in Langdon Park where they maintain the outdoor rink for the local children, are open 7 days a week, and operate a small commissary in the building.

Mr. Bolger stated that they organize an event called "Raise the Flag in Valley East" where they get the local schools involved by holding a contest on "Why I Am Proud to be a Canadian". The winner receives a certificate from the Kin Club and from Mr. Ray Bonin, the Nickel Belt Member of Parliament.

He advised that they have raised \$55,000 to \$85,000 by selling fireworks, hosting bingos every Friday, selling Nevadas, etc., which is given to local charities. Last year they donated \$7,000 to the Good Neighbour Food Bank.

POLICY DISCUSSION PAPERS - PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION

Item 7
Hybrid Vehicles

Report dated 2007-05-01 from the Acting General Manager of Infrastructure regarding Introduction of Hybrid Vehicles into the Fleet was received.

Ms. Chantal Mathieu, Acting Director of Strategic Support Services and Mr. Eric Bertrand, Manager of Fleet, provided an electronic presentation.

Mr. Bertrand stated that automobile emissions are responsible for approximately 20% of the harmful greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and it is the responsibility of the municipalities to help reduce these emissions. In Canada there are only 3,500 hybrid vehicles in use and the makes and models of vehicles that currently offer the Hybrid technology is limited. He provided a list of available vehicles on the market.

He explained how the Hybrid technology operates and outlined the components of the Hybrid Synergy Drive which is manufactured by Toyota. The Hybrid Synergy Drive can operate in three modes; gasoline only, electric motor only or a combination of both which delivers environmental cleanliness and fuel efficiency without sacrificing power and performance.

He also explained the start up mode, acceleration mode, cruising mode, deceleration/braking mode, and reverse mode. He stated that Hybrids produce 70% fewer smog forming emissions than a conventional gasoline powered vehicle and greater fuel efficiencies are realized.

Item 7
Hybrid Vehicles
(continued)

Mr. Bertrand provided comparisons on hybrids and conventional vehicles with respect to the price, warranty, fuel efficiency, and CO₂ emissions. He also outlined the pros and cons of the Hybrid vehicles.

Ms. Mathieu outlined two recommended options, with Option 2 being staff's recommendation:

Option 1: Status Quo - Continue to replace larger, less efficient cars with fuel efficient compact cars.

Option 2: Initiate a Pilot Project - in support of the City's environmental initiatives, initiate a pilot project that would introduce seven (7) Hybrid vehicles into our Fleet System. The pilot would allow staff to gather the necessary information and experience in order to make a long term recommendation on the use of hybrids in the fleet system. Staff recommends that these vehicles be assigned to the By-law Enforcement Section because of the high daily use across Greater Sudbury.

She indicated that the funding required for the purpose of purchasing the seven (7) Hybrid vehicles is estimated to be approximately \$225,000.00 and would be funded from the 2007 Fleet Capital account.

Ms. Mathieu explained that on May 23, 2007, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, through its Green Municipal Fund, issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for financing to support projects that result in the acquisition or retrofit and operation of energy efficient or emissions reducing municipal vehicles. She stated that the Green Municipal Fund will award a total of up to \$10 million in loans and up to \$1.6 million in grants to selected Canadian municipalities under the RFP. The level of potential funding is linked to the projects anticipated environmental, social and economic benefit. She indicated that in order to qualify and meet the application deadline, staff is asking the Members of the Committee to approve the number of vehicles that can be purchased at this time.

She concluded by stating that the Environmental Initiative staff will hold a contest to determine the wording for the decal that would be placed on the Hybrid vehicles.

Item 7
Hybrid Vehicles
(continued)

The following recommendation was presented:

RECOMMENDATION 2007-27: Moved by Councillor Thompson:

THAT Council approve the Hybrid Car Pilot Project, in the estimated amount of \$225,000, as outlined in the report dated May 1, 2007 from the Acting General Manager of Infrastructure;

AND THAT staff report back to Council with regular updates during the course of the pilot project and following the expiry of the pilot project.

CARRIED

COUNCILLOR BRIEFING SESSIONS

Item 8
Widening of MR 80
and MR 15 Update

Mr. Bruce Sedgwick, Roads Engineer, provided an electronic presentation regarding the status of the proposed widening of MR 80 - Donaldson Crescent to Valleyview Drive and MR 15 (Main Street) from MR 80 to Belisle Drive.

An aerial view of the proposed widening for MR 80 was provided. Mr. Sedgwick indicated that removing rock and straightening the curve in the McCrea Heights area will eliminate a blind spot and ice build up. He indicated that sidewalks will be constructed on one side of MR 80, but on both sides in the built-up areas. The total estimated cost is \$8.7 million and the City will receive \$2.45 million from the COMRIF Funding. Construction will commence in August 2007 with an anticipated completion of November 2007. Mr. Sedgwick advised that there will be restrictions for the contractor to allow for a smooth transition of traffic during construction.

An aerial view of the proposed widening of MR 15 was provided. Mr. Sedgwick advised that construction involves the upgrading and widening from two lanes to four lanes with a centre turning lane. He indicated that a paved boulevard and sidewalks in each direction will also be constructed. The total estimated cost is \$5.5 million and \$1.67 million received from the COMRIF Funding. Construction will commence in the Spring of 2008 with an anticipated completion of November 2008.

He concluded by providing a list of additional projects (road and culvert repair) that fall under the 2007 Capital Roads projects.

Item 9
Municipal Drainage

Mr. Ronald Norton, Drainage Engineer, gave an electronic presentation and explained what a municipal drain is and stated that they are implemented by petition through the Ontario Drainage Act. He stated that the City has approximately fifty drains that are usually several kilometres in length in the former Rayside-Balfour and Valley East areas.

Item 9
Municipal Drainage
(continued)

He outlined the process involved once a petition is received from the affected area resident. Mr. Norton provided detailed information regarding the construction of several municipal drains in the Valley East area:

- Horizon Municipal Drain
- Hope Municipal Drain
- Poitras Municipal Drain
- Val Caron Municipal Drain
- Valley Farm Municipal Drain
- Whitson-Paquette Municipal Drain

COMMUNITY INPUT

Mr. John Robert

Mr. Robert stated that in January 2005 he had no opportunity to address Council regarding the request for a recount in 2003, therefore, he requested that he have an opportunity to apprise Council of what he discovered regarding this matter.

He addressed the issue regarding the purchase of Hydro One by Greater Sudbury Utilities Inc. He stated that a public meeting with Hydro One recipients should be held in order to receive the views of the public. He also stated that the former City of Valley East had a report prepared on this matter and suggested that this report be reviewed.

Mr. Robert also spoke to the long distance charges applied for telephone calls made within the City of Greater Sudbury. He advised the Committee that the former Regional Municipality of Sudbury prepared a report on this matter and that Members of Council should review it.

De-amalgamation is still being talked about, especially by the citizens in the area of Valley East. He stated that Council should go to the various Wards and speak with the residents concerning de-amalgamation. Let the people decide this issue and organize a vote.

Mr. Glen Murray

Mr. Murray wanted to know who has jurisdiction of the municipal drains. Mr. Norton advised that the municipality is responsible for the maintenance of the drains from the top of the bank to the top of the bank. There is a right-of-way on both sides of the drainage ditch up to twenty feet for maintenance equipment. They are not public thoroughfares. The Drainage Superintendent has the right to cross private property to access the drains.

Mr. Marcel Servais

Mr. Servais asked when the road to the Centennial Arena in Hanmer would be widened.

Mr. Sedgwick advised that the earliest would be 2009 before the road is widened and before we undertake road reconstruction, there are drainage improvements required.

Mr. Servais asked if there will be a turning lane constructed at MR 80 and Centennial Road.

Mr. Sedgwick advised that he is not familiar with that turning lane but will review it to see if improvements can be made.

Mr. Servais stated that the winter controls policy needs to be addressed in a different format than last year.

Councillor Gasparini advised that there will be a Special meeting of the Priorities Committee on June 18, 2007 to only discuss Winter Control Maintenance.

Mr. Clausen indicated that this meeting will be televised and staff will be providing an explanation of the Winter Control standards and options for Council's consideration regarding the service standards.

Mr. Marc Tassé

Mr. Tassé asked Mr. Norton if there was a possibility of negotiating with the owners during the Municipal Drainage process to utilize one side of the ditch for motorized vehicles.

Mr. Norton stated that negotiating 2-5 kms for a municipal drain from 100+ property owners is an onerous task. He indicated that many of these property owners have experienced property damage from motorized vehicles. He advised that from a transportation view, links for trails is essential but an acquisition of rights has to be negotiated directly with the property owners and obtaining property is a hard task. ATVs using the drainage ditches creates ruts and erodes the banks which costs the City to repair.

Mr. Tassé stated that residents in the McCrea Heights area have expressed concern regarding safety and the need for a pedestrian crossing on MR 80 as residents have to cross four lanes of traffic to access the lake and their mailboxes. He asked if a pedestrian crossing could be provided.

Mr. Sedgwick advised that this is one concern staff will be addressing at the Open House being held in Valley East during the month of July 2007 to explain the project and receive feedback. He pointed that a turning lane for left turns is being provided which will provide a safe haven for pedestrians. He indicated that where there is no existing residential entrance off of MR 80, a median or curbed island will be constructed in the centre lane.

Recognition of Former Mayor & Councillors

Councillor Dupuis acknowledged the former Mayor and Councillors for the former City of Valley East:

Ms. Nellie Lanteigne, former Councillor
Mr. Marcel Servais, former Councillor
Mr. Roger Trottier, former Councillor
Mr. John Robert, former Mayor

Proceed Past 8:30 p.m.

Councillor Gasparini noted that there was an additional presentation by staff regarding the Valley East Industrial Park Update and read the motion to proceed past 8:30 p.m. Failing to receive two-thirds majority, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Councillor J. Gasparini, Chair

Angie Haché, City Clerk