

**THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
OF THE CITY OF GREATER SUDBURY**

**Council Chamber
Tom Davies Square**

**Wednesday, March 3, 2004
Commencement: 5:30 p.m.**

Chair

COUNCILLOR TED CALLAGHAN, IN THE CHAIR

Present

Mayor Courtemanche; Councillors Berthiaume; Bradley; Caldarelli; Craig; Dupuis; Gasparini; Reynolds; Rivest; Thompson

City Officials

M. Mieto, Chief Administrative Officer; D. Belisle, General Manager, Public Works; C. Hallsworth, General Manager of Citizen & Leisure Services; C. Matheson, General Manager of Health & Social Services; D. Wuksinic, General Manager, Corporate Services; T. Beadman, Acting General Manager, Emergency Services; D. Nadorozny, General Manager, Economic Development and Planning; S. Jonasson, Director of Finance/City Treasurer; C. Mahaffy, Supervisor of Accounting Services; Ed Stankiewicz, Budget Coordinator; R. Swiddle, Director of Legal Services/City Solicitor; C. Salazar, Manager of Corporate Strategy and Policy Analyst; T. Mowry, City Clerk; A. Haché, Deputy City Clerk; C. Caporale, Council Secretary; K. Bowschar-Lische, Planning Committee Secretary

CUPE Local 4705

W. MacKinnon, President

News Media

Sudbury Star; Le Voyageur; Channel 10 News; Northern Life; MCTV

Declarations of
Pecuniary Interest

None

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

Item 2
2004 Citizen and
Business Survey

Report entitled "2004 Citizen and Business Survey" was previously distributed to Members of Council.

A copy of the Presentation dated 2004-03-03 from Mr. Paul A. Seccaspina, President & CEO and Dr. Robert C. Sinclair, Ph.D., Oraclepoll Research Limited regarding 2004 State of the Community Survey Results was distributed to Members of Council at the meeting.

Dr. Robert C. Sinclair, Ph.D. provided an electronic presentation of results of the citizen survey. He advised that they did a random survey of 1200 residences. He provided a brief summary of the survey results which included:

Item C-2
2004 Citizen and
Business Survey
(continued)

- 50% of Sudbury residents believe that the quality of life is good or really good
- overall, satisfaction with the services provided by the City have increased this year relative to last year
- citizens satisfaction has increased for the following services - job creation, Pioneer Manor, public health, policing, sewer and water, winter roads maintenance
- citizen satisfaction decreased with the following services - waste management, landfill sites, leisure programs and recreation facilities.
- Everyone in favour of reopening facilities which were closed

He suggested that Council focus on infrastructure and roads, improve efficiencies to cut costs, reopen facilities, encourage growth and economic development.

Rules of Procedure

The Committee agreed to deal with Item 7 (Debate Setting of Council Priorities - 2004) at this time.

MANAGERS' REPORTS

Item 7 - Debate
Setting of Council
Priorities 2004

As noted on the agenda, there would be a recommendation presented at the meeting for the consideration of the Committee.

Caldarelli-Courtemanche: Whereas Council has undertaken the most comprehensive Public Input and Information Consultation Process in the City's history for the 2004 Budget;

Whereas Council is committed to act on this public input;

Therefore be it resolved that Council establish the following priorities for the 2004 Budget:

- City Infrastructure – rebuilding our roads
- City Finances – containing the escalating operating costs through efficiencies and fully developing the City's CIP program
- Community's future – focusing on assessment growth
- Community services – considering community facilities

Amendment

With the concurrence of the Committee, the following friendly amendment was presented:

That the words "as a guiding framework" be added to paragraph 2 and the words "with a "No layoff policy" be added to paragraph 4, bullet 2.

Main Motion
(as amended)

The main recommendation as amended was then presented:

2004-4 Caldarelli-Courtemanche: WHEREAS Council has undertaken the most comprehensive Public Input and Information Consultation Process in the City's history for the 2004 Budget;

WHEREAS Council is committed to act on this public input;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council establish the following priorities as a guiding framework for the 2004 Budget:

- City Infrastructure – rebuilding our roads
- City Finances – containing the escalating operating costs through efficiencies and fully developing the City's CIP program with a "No Layoff Policy"
- Community's future – focusing on assessment growth
- Community services – considering community facilities

CARRIED

Recess

At 7:00 p.m., the Finance Committee recessed.

Reconvene

At 7:15 p.m., the Finance Committee reconvened.

CORRESPONDENCE - INFORMATION ONLY

Item 3
2004 Budget
Council Survey
Budget Issues &
Priorities

Report dated 2004-02-27, from the Chief Administrative Officer regarding Budget 2004 - Council Survey - Budget Issues and Priorities was received for information.

Item 4
2004 Budget
Council Survey
Budget Options

Report dated 2004-02-27 was received from the Chief Administrative Officer 2004 Budget - Council Survey, Budget Options.

The Committee reviewed the summary of budget options provided by individual Council Members in the Council survey and direction was provided by the Committee as follows:

REDUCTIONS/EFFICIENCIES

1. Decrease supplies budget by at least 10% ***(Report Requested including itemized list of accounts)***
2. Reduce Legal Department use of outside consultants by 25% - All legal work for HR labour relations to be done in-house ***(Report Required)***
3. Reduce legal fees for consultants from \$1.6 million to \$600,000 ***(Report Required)***
4. ~~Rock tunnel construction to stop at Algonquin Rd.~~ ***(Deleted)***
5. Convergence of utilities ***(Report Required)***
6. Grow our assessment base through a creative and imaginative plan for sale of surplus properties. Goal \$1 million in 2004. ***(Solutions Task Force)***
7. Reduction of overtime hours through better scheduling (particularly Leisure Services *(savings on overtime for Transit on statutory holidays and holidays)* and Corporate Services) ***(Report Required)***
8. Collect fines and back taxes. Do not hire these positions, but contract out to a new local company ***(Existing Budget Option)***
9. Partner with community groups to create new synergies, cost-savings, and more productivity instead of competing with them i.e. Mayor's Roundtable for Seniors vs. Senior Friendly Sudbury GSDC vs. New Economy Sudbury ***(Parking Lot)***

USER FEES

10. Equitable user fees ***(Existing Budget Option)***
11. Maximum user fee increase 5% ***(Existing Budget Option)***
12. No increase in user fees ***(Existing Budget Option)***

IMPROVEMENTS

13. Road Improvements:
 - a. A 2% - 5% road renewal levy for the term of Council
 - b. An additional \$4.5 million **strictly** for road construction
 - i. 2.5M from operating savings (cut operations budget increase by half)
 - ii. \$2 million from reserves ***(Dealt with by Resolution at a Previous Meeting)***
14. Concentrate 75% of the capital budget on roads - no more capital envelopes ***(Dealt with by Resolution at a Previous Meeting)***
15. Set aside \$300,000 for a comprehensive employee training plan - multitasking teams ***(Report/Budget Option Required)***
16. Design a rebate program for low-income seniors (and others) to protect them from the tax increase ***(Report Required)***
17. Develop a plan to reopen some recreational facilities (Adanac, Falconbridge & Dow) through reserve funds and the use of community groups to govern/fundraise and marketing. ***(Development of Budget Options)***
18. Reduce to \$ 6.00 the transcab fares for seniors and students from Levack to Chelmsford ***(Existing Budget Option)***

Item 4
2004 Budget
Council Survey
Budget Options
(continued)

19. Build turning lane in front First Baptist Church in Garson **(Report Required)**
20. Eliminate tipping fees completely for citizens bringing household garbage to landfill sites **(Referred to Technical Steering Committee on Waste Optimization Study)**
21. Provide sewer/water services to Falconbridge Hwy. (10 homes) across road from Cedar Green **(Report Required including criteria on how project gets on Priority List)**
22. Traffic lights and turning lanes to solve the safety issues at McCrea Heights. **(Report Required)**
23. Initiate analysis of transportation alternatives (e.g. Barrydowne Rd. and Maley Drive extensions) to the congestion of Barrydowne, LaSalle and NotreDame avenues. **(Part of new OP Background Study)**

Additional Budget Options were presented by Committee Members at the meeting and dealt with as follows:

1. Traffic Lights at St. Jean Baptiste Street and Pilon Street **(Report Required)**
2. Blue Box and Garbage Collection every second week **(Referred to Technical Steering Committee on Solid Waste Optimization)**
3. Blue Box and Garbage Collection on One Side of the Street Only **(Referred to Technical Steering Committee on Solid Waste Optimization)**

Item 5
2004 Current
Budget
Public Input Session 2
Wards 1-4

Report dated 2004-02-27 from the General Manager of Corporate regarding 2004 Current Budget, Public Input Session 2, Wards 1-4 was received for information.

Item 6
Estimating Economic
Impact of
Public Infrastructure
Expenditures
Road Improvements

Report dated 2004-02-06 from the General Manager of Economic Development and Planning Services regarding estimating the economic impact of public infrastructure expenditures: road improvements was received for information.

Recess

At 8:45 p.m., the Finance Committee recessed.

Reconvene

At 9:00 p.m., the Finance Committee reconvened.

MOTIONS

Roads Capital Funding

The following motions were presented:

2004-05 Courtemanche-Craig: WHEREAS the citizens of Greater Sudbury through extensive consultation sessions on the 2004 budget and through a number of successive years of residential and business surveys, have voiced their concerns that roads maintenance must be of the highest priority; and

WHEREAS Greater Sudbury continues to rank extremely low on the levy per capita for roads expenditures and capital financing in the BMA Competitiveness Study which ranks municipalities in Ontario on a number of measures; and

WHEREAS Roads Capital Funding has been reduced by fifty percent (50%) since 1995 as a result of the loss of Provincial Road Subsidies; and

WHEREAS the City of Greater Sudbury currently allocates \$9.3M per year towards road capital construction and reconstruction; and

WHEREAS the City of Greater Sudbury Roads Needs have been identified as \$23M annually; and

WHEREAS staff has cited that it is considerably more expensive to repair roads as the condition deteriorates; and

WHEREAS the Federal Government has announced a G.S.T. rebate which can be used to support additional roads capital expenditures; and

WHEREAS doubling the Roads Capital Budget will create an additional 148 person years of employment plus a spin-off of 68 person years of employment for a total of 216 person years of employment;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff be directed to prepare a report which details how the capital contribution to roads can be doubled over the next three year period.

CARRIED

Tax Increase

The following motion was presented:

Courtemanche-Craig: WHEREAS Council has just completed an extensive public consultation on the 2004 Budget; and

WHEREAS the citizens of Greater Sudbury have made it known that a reasonable tax increase would be acceptable if services are maintained or increased; and

Tax Increase
(continued)

WHEREAS Council recognizes that the citizens of Greater Sudbury, particularly our seniors and those on fixed incomes, have a limited ability to support a large municipal tax increase; and

WHEREAS the former City of Sudbury for the last decade held municipal taxes to zero percent; and

WHEREAS the 2004 budget presented by staff on January 24th, 2004, projected a net tax increase of 11.5%.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council set a target of a 7% tax increase.

Motion for Deferral

Councillor Rivest requested that the preceding motion be deferred.

Council defeated the request by Councillor Rivest by a show of hands.

Main Motion

The motion was once again presented:

2004-6 Courtemanche-Craig: WHEREAS Council has just completed an extensive public consultation on the 2004 Budget; and

WHEREAS the citizens of Greater Sudbury have made it known that a reasonable tax increase would be acceptable if services are maintained or increased; and

WHEREAS Council recognizes that the citizens of Greater Sudbury, particularly our seniors and those on fixed incomes, have a limited ability to support a large municipal tax increase; and

WHEREAS the former City of Sudbury for the last decade held municipal taxes to zero percent; and

WHEREAS the 2004 budget presented by staff on January 24th, 2004, projected a net tax increase of 11.5%.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council set a target of a 7% tax increase.

RECORDED VOTE:

YEAS

Berthiaume
Bradley
Gasparini
Reynolds
Thompson
Courtemanche
Callaghan

NAYS

Caldarelli
Craig
Dupuis
Rivest

CARRIED

Remaining Agenda
Items

The remaining items list on the agenda will be placed on Finance Committee agenda of March 8, 2004.

Adjournment_____

2004-07 Dupuis-Caldarelli: That this meeting does now adjourn.
Time: 10:00 p.m.

CARRIED

COUNCILLOR TED CALLAGHAN, CHAIR

DEPUTY CITY CLERK