

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

**Council Chamber
Tom Davies Square**

**Wednesday, March 10, 2004
Commencement: 5:05 p.m.**

Chair

COUNCILLOR TED CALLAGHAN, IN THE CHAIR

Present

Mayor Courtemanche; Councillors Berthiaume; Bradley; Craig; Dupuis; Gainer; 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 (A: 5:45 p.m.); D. Wuksinic, General Manager, Corporate Services; T. Beadman, Acting General Manager, Emergency Services; D. Nadorozny, General Manager, Economic Development and Planning; I. Davidson, Chief of Police (A: 5:45 p.m.); 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; T. Mowry, City Clerk; C.J. Caporale, Council Secretary; K. Bowschar-Lische, Planning Committee Secretary

News Media

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

Declarations of
Pecuniary Interest

None

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

Item 2
Presentation from the
NDCA Board

Councillor Bradley, Chair, NDCA Board indicated that the NDCA recognizes the financial pressures of the City but appreciates the continued support for the NDCA. He advised that the NDCA works very hard. They are only asking for a small increase in the levy from the City of Greater Sudbury and know that their request has been pulled from the budget to be considered separately.

A copy of the Presentation dated 2004-03-10 entitled Nickel District Conservation Authority 2004 Budget Overview was distributed to Members of Council at the meeting.

Paul Sajatovic, Planner, NDCA gave an electronic presentation regarding the NDCA 2004 Budget Overview which outlined the following:

- photographs of floodings which occurred in the area in 1988 and 1998

Item 2
Presentation from the
NDCA Board (cont'd)

- in 2003, NDCA began to address deficiencies in infrastructure when they had to find local shares to match the Provincial share
- annual allocation to specific reserves from Timberwolf revenue
- "Sudbury Response" to Source Protection Planning Report
- NDCA fundraising activities
- community stewardship initiatives/partnerships
- performing operational efficiency work on the 34 year old Maley Dam
- box culvert inspections performed in February, 2004 on Nolin and Junction Creeks, some City owned and some NDCA, will attend Priorities with a presentation
- 2004 budget pressures included flat-lined annual provincial grant allocations, shortfall of approximately 10 million dollars
- property reassessment/increased property taxes, last year paid approximately \$28,000.00 not exempt
- general insurance costs escalated
- staff wage settlements and benefit costs
- rising utility costs such as hydro, telephone, etc.
- 2004 levy request is 3% increase over approved 2003 levy and are still working to find savings
- request for special capital allocation of \$277,500.00 which is part of a multi-year program submitted in 2002
- Provincial grants and deficits chart showing steady decline from 1996 to 2003
- Municipal levy allocation chart from 1996 to 2004
- 2004 funding increase request comparisons from outside boards and internal City departments
- NDCA Members and Staff not a very large organization but very dedicated with 4 elected and 3 non-elected members
- photo of April 18, 2002 flooding
- summation of NDCA flood control measures

Councillor Bradley advised that the NDCA is not only responsible for absorbing local waters but for bodies of water spanning 7,600.00 km. all the way north from Georgian Bay and over many urbanized areas.

The Committee discussed and applauded the work and partnerships created by the NDCA.

Item 3
Presentation from the
Sudbury and District
Health Unit Board

Councillor Gasparini, Chair of the Sudbury & District Health Unit, indicated that the City is headed for a crisis and should start putting our attentions towards the determination of health issues. She reviewed the Oracle Surveys which have been done over the years relating to health care in our area.

A copy of the Presentation dated 2004-03-10 entitled Sudbury & District Board of Health Approved Budget 2004 was distributed to Members of Council at the meeting.

Item 3
Presentation from the
Sudbury and District
Health Unit Board
(cont'd)

Dr. Penny Sutcliffe, Medical Officer of Health, SDHU, gave an electronic presentation regarding the Sudbury and District Board of Health Approved Budget 2004 which included:

- the SDHU's role in everyone's lives
- various help and protection provided by the SDHU
- 2003 busy year for public health programs such as mass immunization, meningitis, SARS, West Nile, smoke-free city, boil water advisories, healthy teeth in schools, etc.
- local issues dealt with in 2003 such as SARS, meningitis, power outage, Alymer beef recall, hurricane preparations, collective bargaining, new legislation Bill 105, etc.
- various health issues dealt with by 37 Public Health Units across Ontario such as home visits, dental disease screening for students, prenatal package distribution, student placement, smoke free by-laws enacted, inspection of child car seats, volunteers, mosquitoes trapped, etc.
- Public Health doesn't work to treat but to prevent diseases
- responsibilities of Ontario Boards of Health very serious obligation, very prescriptive guidelines across Ontario and some services mandated
- legislated funding as set out in legislation, 19 municipalities in Sudbury obligated to fund Public Health
- how public health is funded in Ontario chart from 1991 - 2003, showing 50/50 cost share by municipality and province
- City of Greater Sudbury Gross Expenditures 2003 Budget pie chart
- 2004 Sudbury & District Board of Health Approved Budget
- where money goes i.e. outbreaks and infectious disease, safe water, health hazards, education, vaccines, infections, prevention of diseases, parenting, etc.
- savings identified, line by line review
- budget pressures such as contracts, benefits especially OMERS, infectious disease programs, travel, insurance, etc.
- increase of 5.51% over 2003 budget
- West Nile Virus under the Health Protection and Promotion Act requirements of municipalities
- changes in Public Health environment and opportunities and challenges faced such as new diseases, structure and funding of public health system, etc.
- budget is not only about dollars but about quality of life

Councillor Gainer pointed out the to the Committee that the Sudbury & District Health Unit budget does not reflect the OMERS increase since the Board was wise and did not remove that amount 3 years ago.

Ms. Sutcliffe advised that the Health Unit is facing major overhauls in the next few years. She indicated that historically, the Health Unit has been underfunded. The requirements for the West Nile Virus funding came out last year but it is the City's choice to include it in the budget.

Item 3
Presentation from the
Sudbury and District
Health Unit Board
(cont'd)

The Committee discussed reserve funding for the West Nile Virus and Councillor Kett asked that this item be put in the parking lot.

Mayor Courtemanche questioned staff about the tax rate stabilization fund and if deficiencies are present would that fund then be accessed.

The General Manager of Corporate Services advised that the Committee would identify which reserve fund they would like to access.

The Director of Finance/City Treasurer stated that there is presently approximately \$680,000.00 in the tax stabilization rate fund but with current expected deficiencies, there will be nothing left.

The Committee concurred with a recommendation by the Chair that the Sudbury & District Health Unit Budget be referred back to the Board of Directors for reductions in its operating budget. Furthermore, the Committee requested that City Staff prepare a report on the West Nile Virus program and funding on alternatives of same.

Adjournment

2004-09 Berthiaume-Gasparini: That this meeting does now adjourn.
Time: 6:45 p.m.

CARRIED

COUNCILLOR TED CALLAGHAN, CHAIR

CITY CLERK