

budget - Budget 2013 - Funding Request

From: <webmaster@greatersudbury.ca>
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Date: Tuesday, June 18, 2013 12:20 PM
Subject: Budget 2013 - Funding Request

Budget 2013 - Online Funding Request Form

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Oral presentation requested: no

Comments/Suggestions:

It has been a rough road in recent years with regards to controlling expenses and keeping taxes from going up. Public perception of the task at hand has been at its lowest ever and this as a result of several issues which directly affect budget and expenses. City Council cannot continue to expect taxpayers to just accept tax hikes, while many projects and expenses could very well be reduced or eliminated, which would either eliminate or lower tax increases. For example the attitude of Council with regards to the HCI is not acceptable, and Council should make the decision to discontinue the practice and stop thinking that it is a material part of their duties as Councillors. The saving of \$600,00 per year would go a long way; both on a monetary basis and especially at the public perception and accountability level. Project

ownership such as trailer parks, day care, gyms and Pioneer Manor to mention a few can easily be replaced by the private sector without compromising these services; and would go a long way in saving precious tax revenues; and get the public's trust and confidence from the taxpayers to shift in the right direction finally.

Description of project/program:

Look at establishing a Municipal Bond to fund road construction and infrastructure; this could take away the pressure of a "fix and repair" project to a sustainable long term savings; and take away pressure on the operating budget. Thinking outside the box is not always a bad thing. Enough of trying to put all the cost requirement on existing taxpayers. Our roads and infrastructure are at a mediocre state to start with. Waiting for a miracle or other level of government funding will most probably not happen.

Estimated one-time cost:

Selling Pioneer Manor to the private sector will not only take in millions in the SALE of the building (\$50M or whatever the value) it would also generate property tax revenues, and lessen the tax requirement of \$5-6M per year. The services would still be under the guidelines of the Ministry of Health which would not compromise health care services to the existing and future residents.

Estimated on-going costs:

Millions per year could be saved by eliminating the HCI fund, selling PM, sell off trailer parks, day care and gyms! Not acting on any or all of these is a disservice to the taxpayers of Greater Sudbury.