# DISTRICT OF SAANICH MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING FINANCIAL PLAN HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS SAANICH MUNICIPAL HALL, 770 VERNON AVENUE MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2013 AT 7:30 P.M.

Present:

Chair: Acting Mayor Wergeland

- Councillors Brice, Brownoff, Derman, Gerrard, Murdock and Wade Council:
  - Staff: P. Murray, Administrator; V. Tinney, Director of Finance; P. Arslan, Senior Manager, Financial Services; and C. Weston, Senior Committee Clerk.

#### 528<u>0-20</u> PUBLIC INPUT 2013 Budget

Mr. T. Rose, Cordova Bay resident, stated:

- He highlighted the need for investment in Saanich's crumbling infrastructure.
- There are chronic problems which will only get worse if ignored; the common theme is public safety.
- Saanich has several hundred kilometers of pressurized underground piping, much of which dates back to the 1940's which may be heavily corroded and leaking; there is also several kilometers of aging pressurized sewer pipe.
- He is concerned about 1980's street lighting using sodium lights and whether there's a plan to upgrade.
- He is also concerned about the lack of street lighting in many areas.
- Potholes and patchwork paving is very common: asphalt doesn't last: there's no drainage and no improvement in surface materials.
- Saanich's debt and borrowing grows every year.
- He expects to see a balanced budget and an attempt to cut costs and overheads.

Mr. S. Brygadyr, on behalf of the North Quadra Land Use Protection Association, stated:

- He urged Council to approve construction of a 165 m sidewalk on the west side of Morris Drive between Ambassador and Lucas Avenues.
- This sidewalk is needed for pedestrian safety and convenience especially for children attending Lake Hill Elementary.
- Children cross Morris at the unmarked and unguarded Clatworthy intersection; then cross an often soggy 10 m grass strip to reach the asphalt path by the school fence which is in the wrong place and is starting to deteriorate.
- The Association and others have been urging this project to proceed for many years and was recently endorsed by the Principals of the four schools in the area.
- 30 local residents signed a petition recently urging this project to proceed.
- Completing this 165 m gap in the sidewalk will achieve a continuous and safe pedestrian way from Lucas Avenue to McKenzie Avenue.

Mr. H. Wolf, 4169 Kincaid Street, stated:

- The amount of vehicle, pedestrian and cycling traffic in the area is heavy, especially with the nearby schools.
- From a safety point, the situation is very dangerous.

Ms. D. Warden, area resident, stated:

- For years has walked her two children to Lake Hill Elementary.
- She has watched children exit Clatworthy Avenue and dodge traffic to get to the other side.
- She has canvassed the area and everybody supports the construction of this sidewalk.
- She urged Council to consider the value of completing a safe and convenient walkway through the Borden/Morris corridor to Lake Hill Elementary.

Mr. H. Charania, on behalf of the North Quadra Land Use Protection Association, stated:

- The North Quadra Transportation Management Plan completed in 2005 includes a Beckwith/Lucas concept plan which shows a sidewalk along Lucas Avenue from Beckwith Park through Belvedere to Lucas and Morris Drive. The Association has never insisted on this sidewalk.
- The small portion of the sidewalk they are requesting serves 4 schools, 2 active parks including 3 playgrounds, a primary pedestrian route to access Lochside Trail, and transit and shopping areas at Borden and McKenzie.
- Traffic volume has grown substantially in the last 8 years and there is a steady increase in urbanization in the area.
- The Association has no intention of urging Council to undertake irresponsible expenditures.
- The Association believes the Morris Drive sidewalk is not treated fairly in the context of the Pedestrian Priority Implementation Plan (PPIP) because it is not considered to be a collector road.
- The Association feels Morris Drive is a collector road and is not given adequate rating.
- The Association estimates the cost of the 165 m section of sidewalk is between \$200,000 and \$350,000 and could be constructed and funded over a two year period.
- If funding is turned down, the Association requests an independent, third-party to review of the PPIP and its rating system in the context of the Safe Routes to School program.
- He urged Council to approve funding for this 165 m strip of sidewalk over a two or three year period.

Mr. G. Halloway, 4745 Rosehill Road, stated:

- He urged Council to complete the Glanford Complete Street Proposal in 2013 and requested that the bike lane component of this project be extended from Vanalman Avenue northward to Quadra Street/Mann Avenue.
- This extension amounts to .5 km.
- There is a safety consideration for cyclists on that portion of road due to the hill and truck traffic due to the light industrial use in the area.
- Regarding Parks and Trails, he requested consideration be given to a

connector trail from Saanich Commonwealth Place to Beaver Lake Park which is about a .5 km stretch.

- Saanich Commonwealth Place has lots of programs for kids that use Normandy and Pipeline Roads to access the park.
- The pedestrian traffic which includes lots of kids and moms with strollers is a very dangerous situation.
- Pipeline Road also has a dip in it which adds to the danger.
- No land acquisition is required, and a gravel trail over the existing rightof-way would greatly enhance the programs offered at Saanich Commonwealth Place.

Mr. M. Tymchuk stated:

- He requested safety upgrades on Glanford Avenue for cyclists, pedestrians and vehicles.
- The Glanford Avenue Site Analysis Report contains nothing to address the safety issues between Vanalman and Quadra.
- Glanford is a major collector road with between 10,000 and 13,000 vehicles every day.
- The CRD designates Glanford as a commuter bicycle route and part of the Regional Cycling Network but states it is suitable for strong, experienced cyclists only.
- He requested Council include funding for upgrading Glanford from Vanalman to Quadra.

2013 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS – ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Director of Engineering presented the 2013 budget for the Engineering Department/Public Works Division in the amount of \$11,582,600 which represents a 0.36% increase over 2012. The key accomplishments of 2012 and the challenges and key priorities for 2013, as shown in the 2013-2017 Draft Financial Plan, were highlighted.

In response to questions from Council, the Director stated:

- The PPIP will be made available on the website.
- There is a priority list for sidewalks outlined in the PPIP. This document was reviewed by the Saanich Community Association Network (SCAN) several years ago and was generally endorsed.
- Engineering will/does work with a neighbourhood to address the issues identified by the neighbourhood related to traffic and speed.
- He will review the North Quadra Transportation Management Plan to ensure that all components of the Plan are reflected in the Capital Plan.
- Morris Drive sidewalk was not endorsed by the Safe Routes to School Plan which recommended children attending Lake Hill Elementary use the marked crosswalk at Ambassador to access the sidewalk on the east side of the road.

# GENERAL CAPITAL PROGRAM/THREE YEAR CAPITAL PROJECTION

The Director of Finance presented the General Capital Program and the Three Year Capital Projection highlighting the benefits of going to a three year and ultimately a detailed five year capital plan. This particularly benefits multi-year projects by providing better expenditure projections in

<u>5280-20</u> 2013 Budaet

5280-20 2013 Budget each year during of life of the project. Previously multi-year projects would have been shown as an expenditure in the first year and then carried forward to subsequent years as the project proceeded. Going to a three year capital projection gives Council and the community a much better idea of where the expenditures are falling in each year.

### Vehicles, Equipment and Technology

The Director of Finance highlighted the Vehicles, Equipment and Technology budgets and responded to questions from Council.

Comments from members of Council:

 It is important that Saanich incorporates a mechanism into its purchasing process as a means to ensure 'right-sizing' of vehicles and equipment for the task intended.

#### Transportation; Drainage; Utilities

The Director of Engineering highlighted the Transportation, Drainage, and Utilities budgets and responded to questions from Council. He stated any road project almost always includes sidewalks and very often bike lanes.

Comments from members of Council on the Transportation budget:

 It would be helpful to better define/describe the project components particularly in the roads/bridges development which may also include sidewalk and bike lane components.

# Parks and Recreation Equipment; Parks and Trails Structures; Recreation Facilities

The Director of Parks and Recreation highlighted the Parks and Recreation Equipment, Parks and Trails Structures, and Recreation Facilities budgets and responded to questions from Council.

Adjournment On a motion from Councillor Derman, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

CHAIR

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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MUNICIPAL CLERK