

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  
**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M.**

Present:           **Chair:**       Mayor Atwell  
                  **Council:**   Councillors Brownoff, Derman, Haynes, Murdock, Sanders and Wergeland  
                  **Staff:**       P. Thorkelsson, Chief Administrative Officer; V. Tinney, Director of Finance; L. Ciarniello, Director of Corporate Services; D. Henderson, Director of Parks & Recreation; H. Machielse, Director of Engineering; P. Arslan, Senior Manager, Financial Services; M. Boysen, Sustainability Coordinator; and A. Park, Acting Senior Committee Clerk.

5280-20  
2016 Budget

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Ms. K. Harper, Bonaire Place, stated:

- There is a disconnect between Saanich property tax increases and increases in the cost of living.
- Research shows the consumer price index for Greater Victoria increased 18.6% between 2003 and 2005 while Saanich property taxes have increased 74.06% over the same time period.
- With taxpayer incomes often linked to the CPI, their ability to pay increasing property taxes over the long term will be unsustainable.
- Consider instructing staff to prepare budgets to align with the cost of living and apply a zero-based budget approach to several departments each budget cycle.

Mr. D. Wick, on behalf of the Friends of Mount Doug Park Society, stated:

- Increased visitors to the park and weather have created trail erosion issues which require urgent action from the Parks Department. Saanich Parks staff unfortunately are spread too thin.
- The current Strategic Plan proposes that a plan be prepared to protect or relocate Cordova Bay Road within the park; Council should review the history behind this issue and consider following an earlier agreed plan developed with Sandwell Engineering before proceeding.

Mr. G. Shorthill, Cordova Bay Road, on behalf of Friends of Mount Doug Park Society, stated:

- A good strategic plan already exists for the protection of Cordova Bay Road, which also considered slope erosion and relocating the road. The results of this earlier review were supported by all groups and agencies involved in the review process.
- There is no need for another strategic plan on this issue.

5280-20  
2016 Budget

### **2016 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS – PARKS AND RECREATION**

The Director of Parks & Recreation presented the 2016 budget for the department in the amount of \$15,004,700 which represents a 2.43% increase over 2015. The key accomplishments of 2015 and the key priorities for 2016, as shown in the 2016-2020 Draft Financial Plan, were highlighted.

The Director responded to questions from the Committee.

5280-20  
2016 Budget

### **2016 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS – ENGINEERING**

The Director of Engineering presented the 2016 operating budget for the Engineering Department in the amount of \$12,279,400 which represents a 0.83% increase over 2015. The key accomplishments of 2015 and the key priorities for 2016, as shown in the 2016-2020 Draft Financial Plan, were highlighted.

The Director responded to questions from the Committee.

5280-20  
2016 Budget

### **2016 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS – WATER UTILITY**

The Director of Engineering presented the 2016 operating budget for the Water Utility System in the amount of \$20,620,200 which represents a 2.34% increase over 2015. The system is self-financed from water charges on a user pay basis. The key accomplishments of 2015 and the key priorities for 2016, as shown in the 2016-2020 Draft Financial Plan, were highlighted.

5280-20  
2016 Budget

### **2016 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS – SEWER UTILITY**

The Director of Engineering presented the 2016 budget for the Sewer Utility System in the amount of \$17,674,100 which represents a 6.91% increase over 2015. The system is self-financed from sewer charges on a user pay basis. The key accomplishments of 2015 and the key priorities for 2016, as shown in the 2016-2020 Draft Financial Plan, were highlighted.

5280-20  
2016 Budget

### **2016 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS – GENERAL CAPITAL PROGRAM**

The Director of Finance presented an overview of the 2016 capital budget in the amount of \$37,325,900 highlighting revenue sources and progress toward infrastructure sustainability targets.

5280-20  
2016 Budget

### **2016 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS – ENGINEERING CAPITAL**

The Director of Engineering presented the 2016 budget for Engineering Department capital investments. A total budget in the amount of \$34,866,600 for transportation, underground infrastructure and community facilities requirements was highlighted.

The Director of Engineering responded to questions from the Committee.

5280-20  
2016 Budget

**2016 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS – OTHER CAPITAL**

The Director of Finance presented an overview of the 2016 capital budget for vehicles, equipment and technology. The Director of Corporate Services outlined planned hardware and software expenditures and the Director of Parks & Recreation highlighted the budgets for parks and trails and for recreation facilities.

5280-20  
2016 Budget

**2016 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS – RESOURCE REQUESTS**

Report from the Chief Administrative Officer dated January 18, 2016 recommending that Council consider the 2016 resource requests and confirm inclusion in the 2016-2020 Financial Plan.

**Motion:**

**MOVED by Councillor Derman and Seconded by Councillor Haynes: “That it be recommended that Council approve the 2016 resource requests as outlined in the report from the Chief Administrative Officer dated January 18, 2016.”**

**CARRIED**

5500-20  
Parks & Recreation  
Fees and Charges

**PARKS & RECREATION – FEES & CHARGES SCHEDULE FOR 2016/2017**

Report from the Director of Parks and Recreation dated February 5, 2016 recommending that Council approve the proposed schedule of parks and recreation fees and charges for the period April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017 as outlined in his report.

**Motion:**

**MOVED by Councillor Derman and Seconded by Councillor Wergeland: “That it be recommended that Council approve the Parks & Recreation Fees and Charges Schedule for the period April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017 as outlined in the report from the Director of Parks & Recreation dated February 5, 2016.”**

**CARRIED**

Adjournment

On a motion from Councillor Derman, the meeting adjourned at 9:27 pm.

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CHAIR

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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MUNICIPAL CLERK