

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, MARCH 1, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M.

Present: **Chair:** Mayor Atwell
 Council: Councillors Brice, Derman, Haynes, Murdock, Plant and Wergeland
 Staff: P. Thorkelsson, Chief Administrative Officer; V. Tinney, Director of
 Finance; P. Arslan, Senior Manager, Financial Services; and Lynn
 Merry, Senior Committee Clerk

5280-20
2016 Budget

PUBLIC INPUT

K. Harper, Bonair Place, stated:

- She is concerned about the proposed tax increases; from 2002 to 2015 the increases on the average home were 74.06% while the CPI has been 18.6%; this is a huge disconnect.
- If Saanich is to be affordable, Council should consider a budget increase of 2% or less; staff should be consulted in an effort to find efficiencies.
- It is important to create a culture that is respectful to the taxpayers' ability to pay.

5280-20
Greater Victoria
Public Library Board

GREATER VICTORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD – 2016 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Letter from the Chair, Greater Victoria Public Library Board, dated February 22, 2016 submitting their 2016 Final Budget in the amount of \$5,395,089.

K. Murdoch, Chair, Greater Victoria Public Library (GVPL) Board and M. Sawa, CEO highlighted the following:

- The goal of the 2016 budget was to maintain services despite cost pressures; budget drivers such as the regionally negotiated wages and benefits increases and declining fine revenue have impacted the budget.
- The budget has also been impacted by the weak Canadian dollar; staff are looking at opportunities to raise revenue.
- The GVPL has been consistently ranked by the Canadian Urban Libraries Council (CULC) as one of the highest per capita circulating libraries in Canada.
- The municipal contribution increase to the budget for 2016 is 2.49% which represents a \$1.60 per capita increase.
- Provincial funding has remained the same for the past six year.

Questions from Council were answered.

5660-25
Horticulture Center
of the Pacific

HORTICULTURE CENTRE OF THE PACIFIC – 2016 GRANT REQUEST PRESENTATION

Application from the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific dated January 19, 2016 requesting a 2016 grant in the amount of \$170,000.

A. Kadwell, General Manager, Horticulture Centre of the Pacific (HCP) stated:

- 2015 accomplishments include re-establishment of the ethnobotany trail, a five-year agreement for Outerbridge, café renovations and a new roof for the classroom, increased usage of the Couvelier Pavilion and a new core team.
- The HCP has a high dependency on donations; restricted funds cannot be used for operations.
- Goals for 2016 include expanding community education, increased volunteer support and education, expansion of the college curriculum, growth of the gardens, and new infrastructure and technology.

Questions from Council were answered.

5660-25
Swan Lake
Christmas Hill Nature
Sanctuary

SWAN LAKE CHRISTMAS HILL NATURE SANCTUARY – 2016 MANAGEMENT FEE

Letter from the Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary Society dated November 30, 2015 requesting a 2016 on-going management fee in the amount of \$369,750, a one-time fee of \$50,000 for the demolition of 821 Ralph Street and a capital grant of \$200,000.

K. Burton, Executive Director, Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary, stated:

- A three part funding request includes a one-time \$200,000 leadership gift which would be used towards Phase II of the Floating Boardwalk Replacement project; \$50,000 is also requested for the decommissioning and demolition of the property at 821 Ralph Street; this property will be turned into parkland.
- \$200,000 is requested for a capital grant.
- A modest decrease in administrative material and services is anticipated.

Questions from Council were answered.

5660-25
Saanich Heritage
Foundation

SAANICH HERITAGE FOUNDATION – 2016 GRANT REQUEST PRESENTATION

Application from the Saanich Heritage Foundation dated January 20, 2016 requesting a 2016 grant in the amount of \$42,000.

B. Shuya, President, Saanich Heritage Foundation, stated:

- The Heritage Restoration Grants Program is based on eight applications to the Saanich Heritage Foundation (SHF) received for 2016 totaling \$91,063.87 in work; the potential contribution from the SHF is estimated at \$31,872.35.
- The funds would be used to provide house restoration grants for the 2016 applicants, secretarial/administrative costs, continuing education for SHF members, and to further promote public awareness.

Questions from Council were answered.

5280-20
2016 Budget

COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS ON PROPOSED BUDGET

The Mayor stated that this is an opportunity for Council to deliberate and provide feedback on the budget.

Council members discussed the proposed budgets and staff responded to various questions and comments.

Adjournment

On a motion from Councillor Derman, the meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

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CHAIR

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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MUNICIPAL CLERK