

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 28, 2017 AT 6:06 P.M.

Present: **Chair:** Mayor Atwell
 Council: Councillors Brice, Brownoff, Haynes, Murdock, Plant, Sanders and Wergeland
 Staff: P. ThorkeIsson, Chief Administrative Officer; V. Tinney, Director of Finance; L. Ciarniello, Director of Corporate Services; H. Machielse, Director of Engineering; K. Watson, Director of Legislative Services; S. Samborski, Director of Parks and Recreation; S. Hvozdzanski, Director of Planning; B. Downie, Police Chief Constable; M. Burgess, Fire Chief; P. Arslan, Senior Manager, Financial Services; K. Armstrong, Senior Manager, Recreation Services; E. Riccius, Senior Manager, Parks; and P. Masse, Senior Committee Clerk

PUBLIC INPUT

A. Beck, James Heights, stated:

- Budget related documents are not made public in time for proper analysis; public education and engagement sessions regarding the budget process should be a priority.
- The departmental budget presentations should be made available on the website prior to the meetings; they are difficult to see on Council Chamber monitors from the gallery.
- Any increases to I.T. investments should be leveraged to assist in streamlining staff processes.
- Staff should be empowered to provide information and responses to the public in a timely manner; waiting for a response by Committee is not efficient.

J. Spearing, Eric Road, stated:

- She is currently a Lead Steward for several Saanich parks; the coordinator of volunteers in Saanich parks and the Pulling Together Program are integral and funding decreases should not be considered for these items.

R. Pym, Scottswood Lane, President, Rithet's Bog Conservation Society, stated:

- The work being done through the Pulling it Together Program is important and benefits the community.
- Conservation of our natural resources is essential; the volunteer coordinator position is an important part of the conservation process.

1410-04
Report – Finance

xref: 5200
Budgets

2017 MUNICIPAL STAFFING RESOURCE REQUESTS

Report of the Chief Administrative Officer dated March 21, 2017 recommending that Council consider the critical resource requests, as recommended by the Personnel Committee.

Questions from Council were answered.

MOVED by Councillor Brice and Seconded by Councillor Murdock:
“That it be recommended that the following critical resource requests, as outlined in the report from the Chief Administrative Officer dated March 21, 2017, be included in the 2017 budget considerations:

- 1) Procurement Specialist;
- 2) IT Security / Privacy Specialist; and
- 3) In-House Municipal Solicitor.”

The Motion was then Put and CARRIED

MOVED by Councillor Haynes and Seconded by Councillor Murdock:
“That it be recommended that the following critical resource request, as outlined in the report from the Chief Administrative Officer dated March 21, 2017, be included in the 2017 budget considerations:

- 1) Planner I (2 positions);
- 2) Planning Technician; and
- 3) Planning Graphics Technician.”

The Motion was then Put and CARRIED

MOVED by Councillor Plant and Seconded by Councillor Haynes:
“That it be recommended that critical resource requests #5 through #12, as outlined in the report from the Chief Administrative Officer dated March 21, 2017, be included in the 2017 budget considerations.”

The Motion was then Put and DEFEATED
With Mayor Atwell and Councillors Brice, Brownoff, Haynes, Murdock, Sanders, and Wergeland OPPOSED

MOVED by Councillor Brice and Seconded by Councillor Brownoff:
“That it be recommended that critical resource request #5 (Recreation Facilities Maintenance – Building Service Workers Additional Hours), as outlined in the report from the Chief Administrative Officer dated March 21, 2017, be included in the 2017 budget considerations.”

The Motion was then Put and CARRIED

MOVED by Councillor Plant and Seconded by Councillor Sanders:
“That it be recommended that critical resource request #7 (Tree Risk Abatement – Additional Parks Labour Hours), as outlined in the report from the Chief Administrative Officer dated March 21, 2017, be included in the 2017 budget considerations.”

The Motion was then Put and CARRIED
With Councillors Haynes, Murdock and Wergeland OPPOSED

MOVED by Councillor Plant and Seconded by Councillor Haynes:
“That it be recommended that critical resource request #9 (Plan Checker I), as outlined in the report from the Chief Administrative Officer dated March 21, 2017, be included in the 2017 budget considerations.”

The Motion was then Put and CARRIED

MOVED by Councillor Plant and Seconded by Councillor Sanders:
“That it be recommended that critical resource request #10 (Arboriculture Inspector), as outlined in the report from the Chief Administrative Officer dated March 21, 2017, be included in the 2017 budget considerations.”

The Motion was then Put and DEFEATED
With Councillors Brice, Brownoff, Haynes, Murdock, and Wergeland
OPPOSED

MOVED by Councillor Plant and Seconded by Councillor Wergeland:
“That it be recommended that Police Department critical resource request #1 (Research and Policy Analyst), as outlined in the report from the Chief Administrative Officer dated March 21, 2017, be included in the 2017 budget considerations.”

The Motion was then Put and CARRIED

MOVED by Councillor Plant and Seconded by Councillor Brownoff:
“That it be recommended that Police Department critical resource request #2 (PRIME Coordinator), as outlined in the report from the Chief Administrative Officer dated March 21, 2017, be included in the 2017 budget considerations.”

The Motion was then Put and DEFEATED
With Councillors Brice, Haynes, Murdock, Sanders, and Wergeland
OPPOSED

MOVED by Councillor Plant and Seconded by Councillor Murdock:
“That Council take a five minute recess.”

CARRIED

The meeting reconvened at 9:14 p.m.

BUDGET REDUCTION OPTIONS

Report of the Chief Administrative Officer dated March 22, 2017 presenting options to reduce the impact on taxation of the 2017 proposed budget.

xref: 5280-20
2016 Budget

In response to questions from Council, the Director of Finance stated:

- 1% of budget lift is equal to approximately \$1,000,000.
- A suite of budget reduction options have been provided to Council to allow for flexibility in obtaining a desired reduction scenario through a variety of means.
- Grant reductions and permissive tax exemption budget reduction opportunities are not an option for 2017; however, it does deserve future Council consideration.

MOVED by Councillor Plant and Seconded by Councillor Murdock:
“That the meeting continue past 11:00 p.m.”

CARRIED

Questions from Council were answered.

MOVED by Councillor Haynes and Seconded by Councillor Brownoff:
“That the Budget Reduction Options report from the Chief Administrative Officer dated March 22, 2017 be received for information.”

The Motion was then Put and CARRIED

1410-04
Report – Finance

xref: 4300-02
Council
Remuneration

2017 COUNCIL REMUNERATION

Report of the Director of Finance dated March 20, 2017 providing the annual survey of Council remuneration in other municipalities of comparable size to Saanich.

MOVED by Councillor Plant and Seconded by Councillor Brice: “That it be recommended that Council approve 2017 remuneration of \$39,492.27 for Councillors and \$99,362.91 for the Mayor in accordance with the survey conducted under Council policy and outlined in the report of the Director of Finance dated March 20, 2017.”

The Motion was then Put and CARRIED

1410-04
Report – Finance

xref: 1110-30
Financial Plan
Bylaw

REVENUE, TAX AND TAX EXEMPTION POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES

Report of the Director of Finance dated March 20, 2017 recommending that Council approve the policies and objectives for inclusion in the 2017-2021 Financial Plan Bylaw.

Questions from Council were answered.

MOVED by Councillor Murdock and Seconded by Councillor Haynes:
“That it be recommended that Council approve the revenue, tax and tax exemption policy statements outlined in the report from the Director of Finance dated March 20, 2017, for inclusion in the 2017-2021 Financial Plan Bylaw.”

CARRIED

5280-20
2017 Budget

COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS ON PROPOSED BUDGET

MOVED by Councillor Murdock and Seconded by Councillor Brownoff: "That staff review the permissive tax exemptions program and that the findings be referred to the Finance Committee for further discussion and direction."

The Motion was then Put and CARRIED

Adjournment

On a motion from Councillor Haynes, the meeting adjourned at 11:32 p.m.

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CHAIR

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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MUNICIPAL CLERK