

Ms. M. Sawa, Chief Executive Officer for the GVPL stated:

- The GVPL system has one of the highest usage rates in the country.
- Almost 80% of Greater Victoria residents have library cards.
- In 2011 over 6 million items were circulated.
- Many facility spaces are overcrowded, and there are high use and space challenges at most branches.
- The 2012 operating budget represents a 2.9% increase over 2011, which results in a net levy to municipalities of 4.32%.
- Provincial funding has not just decreased; it has flattened.
- Continuous maintenance and upgrades are required to meet the public's needs as use increases.
- The GVPL would like to extend the Sunday hour openings.
- A development plan addressing alternative sources of revenue will be presented to the Board in March.

In response to questions from Council, M. Sawa stated:

- The GVPL has started a retrofit of the Central Branch in light of hydro increases, and will look at other branches as well.
- She will provide Council the figure on how much money per capita Saanich invests in the library.
- The Board can look into cooperative arrangements for sharing space with recreation centres and some schools or neighbourhood learning centres.

Mayor Leonard stated in terms of Provincial funding, it might be more helpful to include a percentage as well as a dollar amount in order to show that this funding has not just flat-lined, it has decreased.

5280-20
Police Department
2012 Budget

SAANICH POLICE BOARD – 2012 POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET REQUEST

Mr. S. Coe, member of the Saanich Police Board and Finance Committee Chair, presented the 2012 operating budget in the amount of \$26,332,500, which represents an increase of 3.78% from 2011. The key accomplishments of 2011, the challenges and priority initiatives for 2012, and the capital project costs were highlighted, as shown in the 2012-2016 Draft Financial Plan. The Police Board supports Saanich's membership in the Vancouver Island Integrated Major Crime Unit (VIIMCU) which investigates homicides, police involved shootings, in-custody and suspicious deaths on Vancouver Island. It is anticipated that the Saanich component of this unit will be 3 officers and 1 civilian at an estimated cost of \$428,097 for one year.

In response to questions from Council, the Chief Constable stated:

- The 2012 budget does not include funds for membership in VIIMCU should that be approved later this year.
- Technology has helped the department, but sometimes it has made things more difficult and challenging.
- The Strategic Plan is looking at ways officers can spend more time on the streets and less time entering data on a computer.
- The traffic fine revenue received from the Province amounts to \$1,558,000 per year for the next 3 years; most of this money goes towards the operating budget.

- The shared Mobile Incident Command Communications Vehicle for post disaster/emergency preparedness is substantially funded from the Police budget; the remainder is funded through Fire and Emergency Services.
- To expand the Block Watch program would require an additional staff person in the Community Liaison Division.
- Saanich has the second largest contingent of traffic officers (15) in the Province behind Vancouver.

Mayor Leonard stated:

- Regarding Saanich's membership in VIIMCU, it will be prudent to have a Memorandum of Understanding with the RCMP regarding staffing levels now and in the future because it will be an expensive part of the budget going forward. It is important to know what the costs will be now and in the future. Once the municipality is involved in the Regional Crime Unit, it is unlikely we would pull out.

5655-40

Strategic
Community
Investment Funds
Agreement

STRATEGIC COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUNDS AGREEMENT

Report of the Director of Finance dated February 28, 2012 recommending Council resolve to enter into the 2012 – 2014 Strategic Community Investment Funds Agreement.

The Director of Finance stated with the slight decrease in funding there may be some increase in Police equipment costs.

In response to questions from Council, the Director of Finance stated staff could look at including this revenue in the Police Department budget in future, rather than under general revenue, as it is specifically to help defray the cost of local police enforcement.

MOTION:

MOVED by Councillor Derman and Seconded by Councillor Gerrard: "That it be recommended that Council enter into the 2012 – 2014 Strategic Community Investment Funds Agreement with the Province of British Columbia for the Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing Grants, to expire June 30, 2015, as outlined in the report of the Director of Finance dated February 28, 2012."

CARRIED

5660-25

Horticulture Centre
of the Pacific

HORTICULTURE CENTRE OF THE PACIFIC – 2012 GRANT REQUEST PRESENTATION

Letter from the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific dated February 7, 2012 requesting a 2012 grant in the amount of \$130,000.

Mr. S. Wade, President, Horticulture Centre of the Pacific (HCP) Society stated:

- The grant requested for 2012 is \$130,000; same as 2011.
- The HCP's vision is to have a beautiful, locally treasured garden and internationally recognized centre for horticultural education.
- 2011 was a good year and included measurable successes in terms of education.

- HCP is now the second largest horticulture training institute in BC, and the first institution outside Vancouver to run Apprenticeship Level 3 training funded by the Province.
- In 2008 HCP had 13 professional students; in 2011 they had 48. 500 people attended Community Education courses in 2011.
- Garden staff consists of 4 professionals and 200 volunteers contributed 18,000 hours in 2011.
- Accomplishments in 2011 include the opening of the sculpture garden and a vastly improved website.
- There were approximately 20,000 visitors in 2011.
- Since signing the Memorandum of Understanding with Saanich for rehabilitating Outerbridge Park, considerable progress has been made using a regular team of 20 volunteers and the ongoing support of Saanich Parks.
- The Ethnobotany Trail, a cooperative effort with Dr. Nancy Turner at UVIC and the Tsawout nation, has been a huge success.
- The new Couvelier Pavilion will be a multi-purpose venue to accommodate weddings, school visits, courses and meetings.
- The goal is to rebuild the infrastructure lost in the fire by the end of 2012, including the Couvelier Pavilion, the Head Gardener's office and the tool sheds.
- Challenges for 2012 will be the construction zone while continuing with regular activities and expanded education offerings.
- 2012 will also see the introduction of a "speaker series" in cooperation with UVIC's Department of Environmental Science. Topics will include the challenges of global food production.

In response to questions from Council, W. Wade stated:

- The new Couvelier Pavilion will be built to as high an environmental capacity as what HCP can afford.

Councillor Gerrard complimented the HCP on their business plan, and stated he is impressed that the education and retail revenue totals 60% of their total 2011 revenue.

5660-25
Swan Lake
Christmas Hill
Nature Sanctuary

SWAN LAKE CHRISTMAS HILL NATURE SANCTUARY – 2012 MANAGEMENT CONTRACT REQUEST PRESENTATION

Letter from the Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary dated November 30, 2011 requesting a 2012 management fee in the amount of \$310,000.

Mr. T. Morrison, Executive Director, Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary Society, stated:

- In 1973 Saanich Planning developed the plan for lands surrounding Swan Lake/Christmas Hill.
- In the early 1970's the idea of an educational nature centre was conceived and the Society formed in 1975.
- After 36.5 years, he will be retiring at the end of April and he expressed his heartfelt thanks to Saanich Councils and staff past and present for their cooperation over the years.

Ms. J. Watson, Chair, Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary Society stated:

- For 2011, the society is requesting an increase in the annual management fee from \$300,000 to \$310,000. This represents a 3.3% increase over 2011.
- They are also requesting the second installment of \$20,000 towards the boardwalk replacement project. The total of \$100,000 over a 4 year period started in 2011 with \$10,000, with contributions increasing annually from \$10,000 to \$40,000 in the final year.
- 2011 accomplishments include Nature House upgrades, habitat restoration including "trees for tomorrow" in the north woods, invasive species removal, and new frog and waterfowl habitat.
- She detailed the design for the replacement of the floating boardwalk which will include two pods, a reconfigured west entrance, improved anchoring, a design for future climate changes and universal access.
- The original estimate has increased significantly and is now \$822,000 and \$150,000 for the south wharf.
- This cost reflects the increased scope of the project, removal and demolition of the existing structure, and bringing in pre-fabricated sections.
- Forecasted requirements over the next five years are Nature House improvements including a new roof and upgrades to displays, and improved site signage.
- The Board now has a designated Treasurer and they have established a Finance Committee and Fundraising Committee.
- The Executive Director's position has been revised with a focus on financial management, fundraising and community relations. It is hoped to have a new Executive Director by April 1st.
- 2012 priorities are to re-launch the Bridges to Nature capital campaign, hire a fundraiser, continue with Ecosystem Plan implementation, and continue with education programs.

In response to questions from Council, J. Watson stated:

- Regarding the Bridges to Nature Campaign, it is important to get 60% of the funding in place from corporate donors and grant applications before launching a public campaign for the remaining 40%.
- Once the revised costs were known for the new bridge, the Board immediately decided to do some re-enforcement work on the existing boardwalk so it would not have to be closed down waiting for the construction to start which is expected in 2013.
- The gaming grant application is for \$74,000; \$20,000 is for capital improvements and the rest is for educational programs. The status of this application is still pending.
- This budget does not include any money from the rental of property on Ralph Street that will be added to the Sanctuary lands in June.

Council thanked Mr. Morrison for all his hard work over many years, and wished him well in his retirement.

5280-20
Fire Department
2012 Budget

2012 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS – FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Chief presented the 2012 operating budget in the amount of \$13,125,600, which represents an increase of 1.91% from 2011. The key accomplishments of 2011, the challenges and priority initiatives for 2012, and the capital program costs were highlighted, as shown in the 2012-2016 Draft Financial Plan.

In response to questions from Council, the Fire Chief stated:

- In 2011 there were 675 false alarm responses/activations which is a significant decrease from 2010.
- The number of false alarm fines levied in 2011 was 88, down from 97 in 2010.
- The University of Victoria had 29 false alarm fines levied in 2011, down from 43 in 2010.
- The increased revenue in the 2012 budget is mostly due to the new dispatch agreements with Colwood and View Royal.
- The high number of incident medical responses (43.4%) is a direct result of the municipality's participation in the Medical First Responder Program with BC Ambulance Service.
- The overall number of medical responses the department is required to respond to has been reduced by approximately 30% since 2009 due to administrative policy changes.
- A medical priority dispatch system has been established between BC Ambulance Society and Saanich Fire. Which dispatch centre responds first is based on each individual situation and the priority system established. There is constant communication between the two dispatch centres.

5280-20
Emergency
Program
2012 Budget

2012 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS – EMERGENCY PROGRAM

The Fire Chief presented the 2012 operating budget in the amount of \$346,900, which represents an increase of .38% from 2011. The key accomplishments of 2011 and the priority initiatives for 2012, as shown in the 2012-2016 Draft Financial Plan, were highlighted.

In response to questions from Council, the Fire Chief stated:

- There are three staff response teams identified in the Emergency Operations Centre response procedures (primary, secondary and tertiary). Due to staff changes/retirements and the time commitment required for employees wanting to be trained, maintaining the number of employees on those response teams is always challenging but remains a focus.
- The training program budget is for staff training, and has been reduced for 2012 in order to meet budget targets.
- Saanich does have an Emergency Social Services Program with two different levels of response. Last year there were three Level 1 responses, likely assisting residents who had been displaced from their home due to a fire.

Adjournment

On a motion from Councillor Gerrard, the meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

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CHAIR

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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MUNICIPAL CLERK