

**2004 BUDGET PUBLIC INPUT SESSION
OF THE CITY OF GREATER SUDBURY**

**Tom Davies Square
Council Chamber**

**Wednesday, January 21st, 2004
Commencement: 7:30 p.m.
Adjournment: 10:25 p.m.**

Chair

COUNCILLOR TED CALLAGHAN, IN THE CHAIR

Present

Mayor Courtemanche; Councillors Dupuis, Gasparini; Reynolds

City Officials

M. Mieto, Chief Administrative Officer; D. Nadorozny, General Manager of Economic Development & Planning; C. Matheson, General Manager, Health & Social Services; S. Jonasson, Director of Finance/City Treasurer; C. Mahaffy, Manager of Financial Planning/Policy; C. Salazar, Manager of Corporate Strategy & Policy Analyst; J. McKechnie, Executive Assistant to the Mayor; P. Aiken, Government Relations/Policy Analyst; J. Lindquist, French Language Services Coordinator/Translator; A. Haché, Deputy City Clerk; M. Burtch, Licensing & Assessment Clerk; K. Bowschar-Lische, Planning Committee Secretary

C.U.P.E. Local 4705

W. McKinnon, President

Citizens

45 Citizens

News Media

Sudbury Star; CBC Radio; Le Voyageur

Welcome and
Opening Remarks

Councillor Ted Callaghan welcomed those in the audience and advised the purpose of the meeting was to provide an overview of the budget and an opportunity for the public to comment on the 2004 Budget for the City of Greater Sudbury. He indicated that feedback should be provided using the following:

1. Should those who use a service pay for the service (users fees) and/or should everyone share in the cost (taxes)?
2. What level of municipal service do you expect?
Should any services be reduced or eliminated?
3. Would you support a tax increase to maintain existing service levels?
4. Should the City borrow money and/or implement a special levy to fix roads, repairs, arenas, replace fire trucks, maintain police communications, etc.
5. What service would you like to see improved or added?

Submissions would be heard in the order that they appear on the speaker's list. Councillor Callaghan introduced Councillors and staff who were in attendance.

SLIDE PRESENTATION

Budget04
Towards Tomorrow
Together

S. Jonasson, Director of Finance/City Treasurer, addressed the audience with an electronic presentation which provided an overview of the 2004 Budget.

Items in the overview included the National/Provincial Scene; financial update; mandatory, limited discretion and greater discretion services; efficiencies and service improvements; competitiveness study and next steps.

Ms. Mila Wong

Ms. Wong, R.N., Executive Director, and Ms. Mary Elizabeth Paonessa, Manager Jarrett Value Centre, provided a written submission dated 2004-01-21.

Ms. Wong outlined challenges being faced by the Jarrett Value Centre relating to the impact of the City's policies on garbage collection and landfill site tipping fees. In four years, the Centre's landfill tipping fee cost increased from \$7,716 in 1999 to \$26,065 for 2003. Their collection bin sites in the City and on Notre Dame have become a convenient landfill site for some residents of the City without having to pay tipping fees or mileage and travel to landfill sites. The City diverts 13,000 tons of recyclables from the landfill sites while the Jarrett Value Centre diverts 400,000 pounds of clothing to third world countries as well as recycling second hand items they sell back to the community. She presented a number of options for Council to consider. She asked that the City provide remedy and relief for these increased costs which threaten the existence of this 50 year non-profit organization serving the developmentally disabled members of our community.

Major Walter Howells

Major Howells, Executive Director of the Salvation Army Centre on Larch Street, provided a written submission dated 2004-01-21 entitled 'The Salvation Army Centre, Emergency Hostel Shelter Program, Request Budget Enhancement for the Year 2004'. He requested an enhancement of \$116,233.00 to fund the 22 beds they currently have. Statistics show that during the last two years an average increase of 25% per year in the number of emergency shelters they provide to men.

Ms. Genevieve Gibbons

Ms. Gibbons, Canadian Mental Health Association, provided a written submission dated 2004-01-21 entitled 'Canadian Mental Health Association, Enhancement Presentation to the City of Greater Sudbury'. She requested an enhancement of \$66,789.00. Approximately \$7,050.00 would be to increase the salary of the existing Outreach Worker to bring it to par with other salaries at the CMHA and \$59,739.00 for an additional Outreach Worker. Statistics show that the number of persons who utilize these services has almost doubled since 1999 from 128 to 302 and the number of client contacts has gone from 666 in 1999 to 1354 in 2003. The duties of the Outreach Worker include referrals from various groups, contacting landlords of known housing units, viewing apartments, etc.

Ms. Sara Lachance Ms. Lachance, current Outreach Worker, with the Canadian Mental Health Association outlined the statistics since the program started in 1999. She advised that she contacts all clients, finds housing for the homeless, teaches life skills, counselling, family support, etc. alone.

Ms. Lise Senecal Ms. Senecal, President of the Board of the L'Association des jeunes de la rue, provided a written submission dated 2004-01-22 entitled 'Information/Summary Sheet'. She requested funding of approximately \$6,500.00 to add 2 beds at Foyer Notre Dame House. Secondly, she requested a per diem rate versus a base budget as operation costs are the same whether occupancy is 50% or 100%. This would avoid financial hardship for the organization delivery services, enable the organization to plan effectively, efficiently and bring sustainability.

Ms. Peggy Byers Ms. Byers, Canadian Red Cross, provided a written submission requesting additional funding for Red Cross Homelessness Initiative. She explained that the Canadian Red Cross currently provides 3 main services being housing registry, financial assistance and client assessments for the Social Planning Council as well as referrals to other agencies. As a result, they are requesting \$39,804.00 to further support Red Cross Homelessness Initiatives to meet the needs of our most vulnerable citizens.

Dr. James Grassby Dr. Grassby indicated that the projects show that residential taxes will double by 2012 and he has friends who will need to move from their homes if taxes go up by that much. Step one should be to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the operation we run. The Transition Board recommended certain departments be put together to minimize costs, that did not happen. This is a new Council and you will not be able to survive if something is not done. He indicated that in two or three years from now we might get some money from the federal and provincial government. We must examine each of the operations to find cost reductions. He advised there are many retired engineers and accountants who can offer some advice. In 1975, there were 35,000 jobs connected with mining industry, now we have 10,000 and it is still shrinking. We can slow shrinkage by developing the resources we have such as Science North, hospital, university, colleges, etc.

Mr. Adrian Gedye Mr. Gedye provided a written submission entitled 'Adanac Terrain Park Proposal' on behalf of Pinnacle Sports Marketing Inc. and outlined a proposal to partner with the City to create a snowboard park at Adanac Ski Hill. It would be an independently run facility by Pinnacle Sports catering to the sport of trick skiing and snowboarding. The park would be fully functional without the use of a ski lift and use 1/8 of the hill's land area. Every other city in the north has a snowboard park. In the event Adanac opened, it will function as a separate run. Pinnacle Sports is willing to invest over \$34,000 in this project and in turn is requesting the City provide operating budget of \$27,791 and payroll grant to be used for snowmaking and grooming. The park would be opened in 2004.

Mr. Mitch Ouimette

Mr. Ouimette, Development Officer with the Overcomers Support Group of Sudbury, provided a written submission dated December 2003. He requested \$100,000.00 from the City to assist in funding a satellite services network within our community. He explained that this group is a not-for-profit Christian organization that assists the youth and adult homelessness community with housing, food, employment, substance abuse, making referrals to local agencies and other community partners. A need assessment study is required to address the needs of outlying communities. Upon completion of the study, the group will best know what services are required and then work with other organizations to bring their services to those in need.

Mr. Michel Lamar

Mr. Lamar, Executive Director, Overcomers Support Group of Sudbury, advised that people that use their service are very much in need and there is poverty in the community. It is time to develop a strategy to help those in need.

Mr. Brian Miller

Mr. Miller said that one prominent issue last year was the closure of the Adanac Ski Hill. He indicated that the Adanac Ski Hill only represents a small fraction the 384 million dollar budget. He heard Pinnacle Sports proposal to use the ski hill. Funds in our budget should be used to get the Adanac Ski Hill back up and running.

Mr. Gary Kinsman

Mr. Kinsman, Director of the Sudbury Coalition Against Poverty, submitted a written submission entitled 'Anti-Poverty and Housing Action must be at the heart of the 2004 City Budget. He urged Council to see fighting poverty and addressing homelessness and other housing issues as a central priority in the 2004 City budget process. A study released in 2003 found that there were 608 homeless people in Sudbury at the end of July, 2003 (this included 237 people who were absolutely homeless and 371 people near homelessness). The City should immediately implement all of the recommendations contained in the study and lobby the provincial government to act. The City should convert abandoned buildings into housing for the homeless. He suggested the City lobby the provinces to raise social assistance rates by at least 22%; create new legislation to protect tenants and arbitrary evictions; increase minimum wage to \$10.00 an hour.

Mr. Dave Hodge

Mr. Hodge, 1311 Lakewood Drive, said that he has no municipal water or sewer system but lives within the City limits. His area has been on a priority list to receive these services for 30 years and #1 on that list for the last 15 years. There has been money for a co-generation project, the David Street Water Treatment Plant and the World Junior Games. He considers himself a victim of no increase in taxes.

Mr. Ron MacDonald

Mr. McDonald, taxpayer, stated that revenues are not increasing so we have to live within our means. The message coming out in the media is negative in his opinion. It talks about tax increases and it bothers him when a bureaucrat who just got a 23% increase tells the taxpayer that we need a 13% tax increase. There is no mention of alternatives, cost cutting, efficiencies or elimination of duplication which should be a top priority. There are significant savings in a n a \$384 million Budget. With respect to garbage disposal and waste, he suggested that alternatives be examined on better ways to deliver the service and cut costs. The increase in taxes and water/wastewater rates in not friendly to seniors and those on a fixed or low income and we will not only have the out migration of youth but also the out migration of seniors. Surely someone can do something and not expect the Provincial or Federal Governments to bail us out because this will not happen.

Mr. Bud MacDonald

Mr. MacDonald is concerned as to who will bear the burden for debt repayment if this community borrows money to resolve infrastructure problems. He said that Council has concerns with losing youth and asked if they have concerns for losing retirees. He is concerned about medical care as there are 61 medical specialists per 100,000 population, a full 1/3 less than the Provincial average. Water and sewage charges have become a very expensive user fee. Presently, water bills represent 115% of the cost and Council is considering increasing the water bills by 10% this year. In the last 5 to 10 years, the City spent millions of dollars upgrading Ramsey Lake Road infrastructure and recently it was recommended that reserves be used to start a \$25 million Rock Sewer Tunnel. With a shrinking population, what is the urgency to spending this money, why is all the spending focused south of Kingsway/Elm Street. In 1999, a survey of municipal water was done by Ontario Water Works Association. In the survey, Sudbury had a loss or escapement of 44% of water treated for community use. Breaks per year were about 130. This loss of treated water was almost double that of the next highest community which was Ottawa at 26%. He sees bureaucracy as a problem as there is no incentive for city departments to reduce budget.

Ms. Jill Pessot

Ms. Pessot indicated there is a problem with animal over-population problem in the community and there is a need to develop a plan and process to address this without overburdening the citizens. She requested that the \$52,000 which was saved during the previous Animal Control Contract be used to address the animal over-population. She pointed out that Sudbury spends less than \$2 on animal canine and control, North Bay spends \$4.22 and Sault Ste. Marie spends \$6.00 and has a no kill policy in their pounds. She stated that every animal that gets adopted from the City Pound should be spayed and neutered. She expressed concerned with a 13% property tax hike. If Council approves a 13% tax increase, they must show cost cutting measures.

Ms. Vicki Smith Danilyw

Ms. Danilyw advised that as a taxpayer of commercial and residential property she finds a double digit tax increase plus a 10% raise in water/wastewater a bitter pill to swallow. She requested Council and staff to take a hard look at operations and find efficiencies before they pass on more costs to the taxpayer. There are many savings that can be found on a smaller scale. On more than one occasion she has heard City union representatives say they want to work with management to provide service. She suggested that City take lessons from industry on how money can be saved and invite front line people to offer ideas on saving money and if they are successful in saving money, provide them with a bonus. She indicated that many City facilities could be improved by putting them under the direction of volunteer community boards - facilities like ski hills, pools, arenas – who would benefit from fresh ideas in pursuit of cost control measures, marketing and revenue generation strategies. She agrees that Federal and Provincial Governments have responsibility to share more of the revenue but does not think that will happen any time soon. Closing of the Adanac Ski Hill was a big disappointment to many people in the community and she encouraged Council and staff to work closely with those who have come forward with ideas to re-open this facility. She requested City Council to support the development of trails and bike paths to encourage non-motorized transportation. She asked Council to look at expenditures as if spending their own money, because they are - spend it carefully and wisely.

Mr. Jeff McIntyre

Mr. McIntyre indicated Sudbury needs to sustain growth as it has lost a lot of people. With respect to cost savings, he suggested that the City purchase hybrid vehicles with the money received from selling the Crown Victorias. Using hybrid vehicles would result in cost savings on fuel, on repairs as would be under warranty and would have a good resale value. Several small cost savings add up - giant savings will not be found. Council has to look at reducing costs before they ask for a 13 % tax increase and start borrowing large amounts of money. The City is poised to grow – we have low property values, low taxes and the mining sector is booming. We have the expertise and we have to make sure we make City available for business to move here. Raising taxes and taking out large loans will not encourage people to do business in this City.

Mr. John Lindsay

Mr. Lindsay provided a written submission entitled 'Budget Recommendations: Greater Sudbury - 2004' and spoke on the following:

Cost Control Measures

- Freeze all hiring activity and re-deploy staff as necessary;
- Review and eliminate as many assistant and middle management positions as possible;
- Reclassify management to union positions where appropriate to reduce layoffs;
- No hiring take place except where direct service to the public would be threatened;
- Review all departments discretionary spending amounts and levels to determine areas of potential waste and duplication;

Mr. John Lindsay (cont'd) - No outsourcing of contract and/or services without specific Council approval.

Bike Route Development

- Act on recommendations of the former Bicycle Advisory Committee, specifically Phase 1 of route around Lake Ramsey. Involves creating a bike lanes on Howey, Bellevue and Bancroft Drive.

Senior Friendly Community Development

- Develop coordinated approach to senior and older adult issues and concerns through integration of present initiatives with the Senior Friendly Sudbury Program. Create an information and help centre (accessible by Internet, phone and in-person) at a central location, staffed by older adult volunteers.

Development of Recreation Activities in Minnow Lake

- Complete plans for a competition level skateboard park at the Carmichael Sports Complex property and establish a beach, volleyball court and kiddies playground at Minnow Lake Place in conjunction with community partners.

Mr. Dave Chevrier

Mr. Chevrier spoke regarding City TV as local stations do not provide much coverage on anything in the community. He suggested purchasing inexpensive cameras and within 5 years we would be little Hollywood exporting to the country and the world. He indicated that there is a need for a farmers co-op whereby local farmers could drop off their goods at grocery stores as they don't have time to sit at the farmer's market all day. We should be self-sufficient in our food supply and start growing our own food in case of major emergency. We need jobs and we should produce what we need - clothing, food, rubber boots, etc. He suggested City owned grocery stores, city owned farms and city owned manufacturing. He suggested that \$10 a month should be taken from the 13,000 Ontario Works recipients and at the end of 10 months there would be \$1.3 million to buy homes for people in need.

Mr. Mark Kirkwood-
Callingham

Mr. Kirkwood-Callingham spoke on "Towards Tomorrow Together" and presented his views on a number of items such as sacrificing for the sake of children, admitting we are not always right, learning to listen, etc.

Ms. Barbara Stewart

Ms. Stewart indicated that taking \$10 from every Ontario Works recipient would not be a good idea, as suggested by a previous speaker. She would rather it be taken from the middle and upper classes, as Ontario Works recipients are already on a tight budget.

Mr. Dylan Petran

Mr. Petran, a Laurentian University Student, advised that he is in the planning stages of starting a Monday to Saturday Hockey Team at Laurentian University.

Ms. Lara Friedrich

Ms. Friedrich added to Jill Pessot's presentation on the need for a spay and neuter program. She pointed out that funds from the licensing of cats and dogs does not go to animal care. She advised that Mr. Paquette of Wenrick Kennels says that \$160,000 is generated from licensing pets. None of that money goes into the animal care system.

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

Mr. Christophe Coulombe

A written submission from Christophe Coulombe, Community Action Network Facilitator, entitled 'City of Greater Sudbury The Healthy Community Movement, The Ultimate Investment-Deliberate Democracy was submitted at the meeting.

CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Callaghan expressed his appreciation to all those who provided written or oral submissions. He advised Staff had taken note of all concerns and these matters would be identified through the budget process. He indicated that a summary of all input received would be compiled and reviewed by Council then posted on the City's website.

ATTACHMENTS

The following is a list of attachments submitted at the meeting:

- ▶ Letter dated 2004-01-21 prepared by Mila Wong R.N., Executive Director and Mary Elizabeth Paonessa, Manager, Jarrett Value Centre
- ▶ Request Budget Enhancement for the Year 2004 prepared by The Salvation Army Centre, Emergency Hostel Shelter Program dated 2004-01-21
- ▶ Enhancement Presentation to the City of Greater Sudbury prepared by the Canadian Mental Health Association dated 2004-01-21
- ▶ Information/Summary Sheet prepared by L'Association des jeunes de la rue dated 2004-01-22
- ▶ Enhancement Request 2004 City of Greater Sudbury prepared by Peggy Byers, Canadian Red Cross
- ▶ Adanac Terrain Park Proposal prepared by Adrian Gedye on behalf of Pinnacle Sports Marketing Inc.
- ▶ Overcomers Support Group of Sudbury Enhancement Request prepared by Mitch Ouimette, Development Officer dated 2003-12
- ▶ Anti-Poverty and Housing Action must be at the heart of the 2004 City Budget prepared by the Sudbury Coalition Against Poverty
- ▶ Budget Recommendations: Greater Sudbury - 2004 prepared by John Lindsay
- ▶ City of Greater Sudbury - The Healthy Community Movement - the Ultimate Investment-Deliberative Democracy prepared by Christophe Coulombe, Community Action Network Facilitator

Adjournment

The public input session adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Councillor Ted Callaghan

Secretary