

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

**The Centre Lionel E. Lalonde Centre
239 Montee Principale, Azilda**

**Monday, January 19th, 2004
Commencement: 7:30 p.m.
Adjournment: 9:15 p.m.**

Chair

COUNCILLOR TED CALLAGHAN, IN THE CHAIR

Present

Councillors Berthiaume; Bradley; Rivest

City Officials

M. Mieto, Chief Administrative Officer; C. Hallsworth, General Manager of Citizen & Leisure Services; 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; R. Carre, Director of Leisure, Community & Volunteer Services; D. Yachuk, Community Development Officer; A. Haché, Deputy City Clerk; K. Bowschar-Lische, Planning Committee Secretary

Citizens

24 Citizens

News Media

MCTV; Channel 10 News

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

C. Hallsworth, General Manager of Citizen & Leisure Services, 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.

Mr. Henry Perry

Mr. Perry indicated that Inco placed the City on notice that they would no longer sell any water to the City of Greater Sudbury for Levack because they could not afford to upgrade the plant to meet the new drinking water standards. He feels that spending \$75,000.00 for a consultant to assess the situation is a waste of money and feels the City has staff to do the assessment.

Claude Gravelle

Mr. Gravelle, Vice-Chair of the Youth Centre in Rayside-Balfour, advised that the centre has been open since 1996 but operating on and off due to lack of funding. He advised they have had both centres opened all year for the last two years and have approximately 200 members. He outlined the Centre's accomplishments such as pool tournaments, resume writing, life sessions, bullying classes, karaoke nights, baseball, floor hockey, etc. The purpose of the centre is to keep youth busy and off the streets. He asked that the City of Greater Sudbury join in their vision to keep the Centre open so consistent services can be offered to youth. Their grant monies end in September but they cannot apply for a new grant until the end of the present term. It takes 3 to 4 months to receive grant approvals. He asked the City to provide funding for this 3 to 4 month period so they can keep the Centre open. It costs \$3,400.00 per month to cover insurance, Program supports and Program Coordinator.

Rod Furchner

Mr. Furchner, President of the Onaping Falls Old Age Club explained that approximately one year ago, the Club was made aware of a grant available through the Community Improvement Program (CIP). He said that because of this \$8,000.00 grant, many improvements were made to the Club. The grant was made on a 50-50 basis (50 City and 50 Old Age Club) and the total dollar value for the project was in the range of \$17,000.00. They purchased a new computer system, up-graded the parking lot, landscaped, bocce court, new tools, electrical upgrades, etc. They would like to see this CIP Program continue in the budget. They found it helpful and believe that other organizations would benefit from it as well. He asked to be notified of any further grants they could access.

He requested that fares for bus transit from Levack-Onaping to Dowling-Chelmsford be reduced to make them affordable. Many residents are seniors and on a fixed income. There is no grocery store in Levack and they need to go to Dowling or Chelmsford to get groceries and for doctor's appointments.

Gus Bergeron

Mr. Bergeron indicated there are many issues he would like to address but will concentrate on one – that being the terrible condition of roads. He does not believe we should borrow or spend money unless we get better value for the work being done. MR 35 was done 8 years ago, passing lanes were put in and all the work that was done 8 years ago was wiped out with the recent reconstruction this summer. Two years ago, the CPR bridge was repaired but now all of the barrier walls are cracked and scalded. Recently repaired sidewalks are already all scalded. The Kingsway/Barrydowne intersection will go through a major realignment even though a lot of work was done at this intersection in recent years. He is not in a position to have his taxes increased for work that is not at par. The roads are taking a beating because of slurry trucks moving materials. These slurry trucks need to be monitored. We must monitor all construction work to ensure all specifications are being met.

Evelyn Dutrisac

Ms. Dutrisac, former Councillor, advised that she has spoken with a lot of people who are concerned with tax and water increases. She said that the City should lobby with other levels of government to ensure that they are paying their fair share to municipalities. She questioned what was being done about people without City water, who have wells, to make sure they have potable water. It is extremely important that Council look at cuts in this budget. She asked Council to cut items such as consultants because we have competent staff. She requested that taxes be kept as low as possible. She asked that all City Departments examine essential services and cut what is not necessary because youth are leaving and maybe seniors will leave as well.

As a business owner, Ms. Dutrisac expressed concern regarding licensing fees which were \$25.00 and were increased to \$250.00 last year.

As a landlord, she has issues with Ontario Works and indicated that landlords should be paid directly.

Norm Pharand

Mr. Pharand, who lives on Elizabeth Street, between Azilda and Chelmsford, expressed concerns regarding the traffic hazard in this area. Many accidents have already occurred here and there has been 3 fatalities.

The Committee noted that a report from Public Works indicated that the traffic did not warrant lights being installed. The Committee also noted that residents will be signing a Petition for traffic signals or something to be done in this area.

Gerry St. Louis

Mr. St. Louis indicated that his concerns were addressed by Ms. Dutrisac and Mr. Perry.

Jeanne Mallette

Mrs. Mallette indicated that her concerns were also addressed.

Jeannine Robert

Mrs. Robert stated that her concerns about seniors issues were addressed by Ms. Dutrisac.

Bill Ryan

Mr. Ryan, retired citizen, indicated that this taxes increased \$250.00 last year. He cannot afford this kind of increase.

He also said that most people do not have sump pumps so water run-off is being cleaned in the City sewer system and taxpayers are being told the sewer system is overloaded and needs to be upgraded. There are savings in this area as we are spending money to clean water that is already clean.

With respect to the portion of taxes going towards education, he stated something needs to be done to try to control these taxes as schools are being torn down and new ones being built. The City should approach the School Boards to cut back on spending.

He stated taxpayers cannot afford to pay severance packages to employees and referred to a \$250,000.00 payment to a former City employee.

Citizen

A citizen stated that there should be a partnership with the School Boards for matters such as soccer fields and libraries.

Dale Richards

With respect to Mr. Pharand's problem concerning speeding on Highway 144 near Elizabeth Street, he indicated that traffic police should monitor the area as it is a speedway.

He expressed concern regarding the use of City vehicles by employees and the amount of money being spent.

Evelyn Dutrisac

Ms. Dutrisac indicated that City Staff and not consultants should conduct a survey as some bus routes are too busy and others not busy enough. The Committee noted that there is data on every bus route and service levels are adjusted accordingly.

She questioned whether recycling was being monitored as residents are advising that they do not have enough in their blue boxes for weekly pick-up and put their boxes out every two weeks.

Gus Bergeron

Mr. Bergeron once again spoke indicating that his main reason for attending tonight's meeting was to talk about assessment. Assessment is flawed. His assessment went from \$158,000.00 to \$558,000.00 and following appeals it was reduced to \$279,000.00. Businesses outside of Sudbury do not have the capacity for this type of increase. In his case, he was over assessed and there may be properties that could be under assessed. The City should check all assessments independently.

Roger Joliat

Mr. Joliat indicated that Rayside-Balfour currently has the best volunteer Fire Brigade and that it should be left as is.

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

Community Action Network Levack-Onaping A written submission dated January 19th, 2004, from the Community Action Network Levack-Onaping was submitted at the meeting.

Bus Service Petition A Petition regarding adding routes and more frequent bus pick-ups in the Levack/Onaping/Dowling areas was circulated 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.

Adjournment The public meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Councillor Ted Callaghan

Secretary