

**THE FIRST MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
OF THE CITY OF GREATER SUDBURY**

**Council Chamber
Tom Davies Square**

**Thursday, December 18, 2003
Commencement: 4:00 p.m.**

Chair

COUNCILLOR TED CALLAGHAN, IN THE CHAIR

Present

Councillors Berthiaume; Bradley; Caldarelli; Courtemanche; Dupuis; Gainer; Gasparini; Kett; Reynolds; Rivest; Thompson

City Officials

C. Hallsworth, General Manager of Citizen & Leisure Services;
C. Matheson, General Manager of Health & Social Services;
D. Wuksinic, General Manager, Corporate Services; T. Beadman, Acting General Manager, Emergency Services; S. Jonasson, Director of Finance/City Treasurer; G. Clausen, Director of Engineering Services; N. Charette, Manager of Corporate Communications & French Language Services; T. Mowry, City Clerk; K. Bowschar-Lische, Planning Committee Secretary; F. Bortolussi, Receptionist/Stenographer

News Media

Sudbury Star; Le Voyageur; Channel 10 News; Northern Life; My Town; MCTV

Declarations of
Pecuniary Interest

None

Opening Comments

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He said that he was optimistic that this Committee would provide staff with direction tonight to come up with a fair budget for the public. He outlined the process to be followed within the 2004 budget. Tonight's meeting would be an Orientation Session. In January, 2004, the current budget and capital issues would be dealt with. Also, a system to put issues in the parking lot was devised in last year's budget and once again would be utilized and explained throughout the budget process.

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

Item 2
2004 Budget
Communications
Strategy_____

Report dated 2003-12-18 from the Manager of Communications regarding 2004 Budget Communications Strategy was received for information, tabled at the meeting and copies were provided to each individual Member of the Committee.

The Manager of Communications gave an electronic presentation to the Committee regarding the following:

- Summary of suggested communications activities to engage the public in the 2004 budget process.

Item 2
2004 Budget
Communications
Strategy (cont'd)

- Methods of keeping the public informed before and after the budget process with up to the minute results.

Discussions ensued regarding what would occur at each individual meeting, deadlines, summarizing public input for the Committee's information and comments about the entire budget process.

Item 3
Capital Financing
Alternatives

Report dated 2003-12-12, with attachments, from the General Manager of Corporate Services regarding Capital Financing Alternatives was received for information.

The General Manager of Corporate Services presented an electronic presentation to the Committee outlining the following:

- Overview of Council Decisions - June 25, 2003.
- Two options to fully implement the LTFP recommendations to fund significant capital funding gaps.
- Two options to finance Water and Wastewater projects to allow the City to begin addressing the priority list for these services.

Recess (5:18 p.m. - 5:36 p.m. for Dinner - Councillors' Lounge)

Item 3
Capital Financing
Alternatives (cont'd)

The General Manager of Corporate Services continued his electronic presentation to the Committee and further outlined the following:

- OMEIFA Funding.
- Priority List for Sewer and Water for Unserviced Areas.
- Lists of capital envelopes for 2004 and 2003 contribution.

Discussions ensued regarding types of funding available, other alternatives, various sewer and water projects, capital versus infrastructure.

Item 4
Capital Envelopes

Report dated 2003-12-12, with attachments, from the General Manager of Corporate Services regarding Capital Envelopes was received for information, was tabled and copies were distributed to each individual Member of the Committee.

Report dated 2003-10-22, with attachments, from the General Manager of Corporate Services regarding 2004 Budget Process Update was received for information, tabled and copies were distributed to each individual Member of the Committee.

Item 4
Capital Envelopes (cont'd)

The Director of Finance/City Treasurer gave an electronic presentation regarding the following:

- Capital Policy adopted in 2001 and a 10-Year Capital Plan (2001-2010) was approved.
- Lists of capital envelopes for 2004 and 2003 contribution.
- Subsequent modifications, commitments, and increases to the Capital Envelopes.
- Outstanding Debts i.e. 199 Larch Street; Water and Wastewater; Buildings, Transit and Fleet.

CORRESPONDENCE - INFORMATION ONLY

Item 5
2004 Water and Wastewater Rates and Charges

Report dated 2003-12-12, with attachments, from the General Manager of Corporate Services regarding 2004 Water and Wastewater Rates and Charges was received for information.

- By-law 2001-138F (updated by By-law 2003-113F) established a new rate structure policy which provides for the full recovery of water and wastewater costs and allows for a Sustainable Capital Asset Management Plan (SCAMP).

NOTICE OF MOTION

Recreational Facility
Closures - Motion

Councillor Thompson requested that the Committee consent to the introduction and consideration of a motion not on the Agenda directing that Staff undertake, as part of the 2004 Budget Process, studies of the Adanac Ski Hill, R.G. Dow Pool, Falconbridge Arena and the Barrydowne Arena.

Councillor Gainer requested that prior to consideration of Councillor Thompson's request that the motion be read for the information of the Committee.

Following the reading of the motion, two-third's majority of Council was not received to deal with the motion.

QUESTION PERIOD:

Present Area Rating

Councillor Dupuis questioned the Director of Finance/City Treasurer regarding which services were area rated.

Abolished Area Rating

Councillor Dupuis then asked the Director of Finance/City Treasurer what the cost would be to residents if these area rated services were abolished.

Consensus of the Committee was received to have reports regarding these two matters brought forward by the appropriate City Staff at a future meeting.

Effect of Quarterly Water Billing

Councillor Dupuis requested that Staff provide the rationale for switching to quarterly billing for water since now it is off the assessment roll and has become a user fee. He advised that most people do not understand this new system.

Consensus of the Committee was received to bring a report on this matter forward by the appropriate City Staff at a future meeting.

Impact of Facility Closures

Councillor Dupuis requested that Staff report on the impact of facility closures on current ice time requirements.

With the concurrence of Council, the appropriate Staff were directed to bring reports forward and make presentations at the January 24th, 2004 Budget Meeting on this matter.

Solid Waste Capital Reduction

Councillor Gainer questioned Staff regarding the substantial decrease in solid waste capital because of the extended life of landfill sites. With the concurrence of Council, the General Manager of Public Works advised that a report would be provided to each Member of the Committee explaining the substantial reduction in landfill sites.

2003 Recreational Facilities Closure

A general discussion then took place regarding the closure of recreational facilities by the previous Council.

Councillor Gasparini stated that a report regarding Options for closure, etc. would be beneficial for the new Council to review. She stated that these facilities should show up in the Budget since the new Councillors don't understand the criteria and reasons that the decision for closure was based on.

Discussion - Recreation
Facility Closures

Councillor Callaghan suggested that the Options for closure were still relevant and that a brief update should be provided by Staff. He said that during amalgamation there were numerous closures which need to be clarified.

The General Manager of Citizen & Leisure Services advised that the Budget Enhancement Options should be brought back to the table to address the most efficient ways to operate. She advised that during the last budget deliberations, numerous budgets were removed which will directly impact on the 2004 Budget.

Councillor Kett said that a decision in the form of a Policy is needed and that specific areas should not be taken out and closed. He indicated that he would like to see these facilities built into the base budget.

Councillor Gainer asked Staff for an immediate update on the status of previous facility closures to revisit each individual closure.

Councillor Rivest questioned Staff about getting updates on any other closures which have occurred in the last 3 years. He asked if these matters should be dealt with under an Ad Hoc Committee.

Councillor Berthiaume questioned whether the closures would be an issue for the next Priorities Meeting.

Councillor Dupuis indicated that it was important that the new Councillors receive all previous information provided to previous Council Members. He stated that he has received numerous calls regarding insufficient ice time.

The General Manager of Citizen & Leisure Services stated that detailed information was provided in the 2003 Budget. She indicated that she would provide the new Members of City Council with the previous Report regarding options for closures by the first week of January, 2004.

Adjournment

2003-01 Bradley-Dupuis: That this meeting does now adjourn.
Time: 7:14 p.m.

CARRIED

Chair

City Clerk