

MINUTES of a meeting of ESTIMATES COMMITTEE of the Municipal Council of The Corporation of the District of Oak Bay, held in the Council Chambers, Oak Bay Municipal Hall, 2167 Oak Bay Avenue, Oak Bay, B.C., on Thursday, April 15, 2010.

PRESENT: Mayor C. M. Causton (Chairman)
Councillor H. Braithwaite
Councillor A. R. Cassidy
Councillor P. Copley
Councillor J. D. Herbert
Councillor N. B. Jensen

STAFF: Municipal Administrator, W. E. Cochrane
Municipal Clerk, L. Hilton
Municipal Treasurer, P. Walker
Director of Engineering Services, D. Marshall
Superintendent of Public Works, P. Barnett

Mayor Causton called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

OPERATING BUDGET:

Integrated Domestic Violence Unit

Chief Constable Gaudet was in attendance to alert Council to a budget request to fund a new Greater Victoria Integrated Domestic Violence Unit. The formation of the Unit, he said, was a result of recommendations that arose from the Lee homicide and subsequent Coroner's Inquest.

Chief Gaudet explained that Oak Bay's share of the cost of the unit is \$19,272 for 2010, including the cost of two vehicles, although the cost to Oak Bay was expected to be reduced to approximately \$11,000 for 2011.

There was consensus to add \$19,272 to the budget to accommodate the new Integrated Domestic Violence Unit.

Road Repair and Maintenance

Following up on the discussion at the last Estimates Committee meeting, the Superintendent of Public Works explained that required repairs to Oak Bay Avenue utilizing the "mill and fill" approach would cost \$20,000.

The Director of Engineering Services pointed out that revenue in the amount of approximately \$30,000 could be realized through street occupancy permits in relation to the construction of the Oak Bay Beach Hotel.

It was decided that \$25,000 would be added to the road repair and maintenance budget, and, if the anticipated street occupancy revenue should be realized, that an additional \$30,000 of "mill and fill" work could be undertaken. The overage caused by the extra "mill and fill" work, it was clarified, would be off-set by the unbudgeted street occupancy revenue.

It was anticipated that the \$25,000 for "mill and fill" work would be a new program that would be funded each year from now on.

Cycling Infrastructure Funding

The Committee discussed implementing a fund for cycling infrastructure projects, and it was acknowledged that while it may not be used right away, it would be desirable to start building up funds starting this year, as was done with the traffic calming account some years back. The amount agreed upon was \$30,000.

*Oak Bay Avenue Consultant
Neighbourhood Learning Centre Consultant*

Members of the Committee felt that it may be helpful to hire a consultant in relation to the Community Initiatives Committee's work in looking at improvements to Oak Bay Avenue as well as for assisting with the possibility of incorporating a Neighbourhood Learning Centre into the Oak Bay High School redevelopment project. It was noted that there is a reserve for special consulting services that is no longer needed and it was agreed that \$20,000 for each of those initiatives could be appropriated from that reserve to offset the cost.

Strategic Planning Consultant

It was agreed that \$10,000 would be added to the budget for a consultant to assist with a strategic planning process.

REFERRALS TO ESTIMATES COMMITTEE:

City of Victoria Grant Request Re Our Place Society

The six members of the Committee present were evenly divided on the issue of the grant requested by the City of Victoria for the funding of extended hours of opening at the downtown "Our Place" facility and there was consensus to refer the matter back to Committee of the Whole for a final recommendation to Council.

Tinto Street Boulevard

The two options referred to Estimates Committee involved constructing parking for eight vehicles; one option would see eight spaces in the middle of the boulevard, and the other would see two parking areas for four cars each.

It was felt that the cost of either option was quite high, and that the work was not a priority in the context of the other budget pressures. There was consensus to include \$5,000 in the budget at this point, with the subject to be returned to Committee of the Whole in the future for discussion. In the meantime, it was agreed that the rocks the District placed on the boulevard would remain.

Pesticide Use Reduction Bylaw

Although no formal referral had been made in this regard, Councillor Braithwaite indicated that included in the forthcoming recommendations from the Parks and Recreation Commission for the implementation of a pesticide use reduction bylaw, would be a request for funds to assist in the education component. Following discussion, it was felt that additional funds should not be added to the budget and it was agreed that the Parks and Recreation Department would have to find the required funds within its originally proposed budget.

CAPITAL BUDGET:

Discussion on the capital budget resumed from the last Estimates Committee meeting, and there was agreement to undertake those projects for which funding was included in the Estimates budget.

The following decisions were made with respect to the referrals to the Committee:

Description	Amount Requested	Decision
1. Cadboro Bay/Bowker Intersection	\$125,000	\$39,000
2. Oak Bay Volunteer Services Society	\$30,000	\$25,000
3. Community Association of Oak Bay	\$11,506	\$1,500
4. Greater Victoria Development Agency	\$10,000	Not approved
5. Oak Bay Lawn Bowling Club	\$10,000	Not approved
6. Tourism Victoria	\$3,375	\$3,375
7. Victoria and Vancouver Island Greek Community Society	\$3,000	Not approved
8. City of Victoria – Canada Day Celebration	\$1,500	\$1,500
9. Greater Victoria Film Commission	\$6,000	\$3,000
10. Maritime Museum of British Columbia Society -- request for additional grant	\$2,500	\$2,500
11. Greater Victoria Bike to Work Society	\$1,000	\$1,000
12. Social Service Agencies:		
• The Community Social Planning Council	\$3,924	\$3,924
• Volunteer Victoria	\$2,943	\$2,943
• Crisis Intervention (NEED)	\$4,905	\$4,905
• St. John Ambulance	\$1,070	\$571
13. Oak Bay Heritage Foundation	\$6,500	\$5,500
14. Oak Bay Heritage Committee	\$10,000	\$5,000
15. Tinto Street Boulevard		
• One parking section for 8 vehicles total	\$30,000	\$5,000
• Two parking sections for 8 vehicles total	\$35,000	
16. Granite Street Parking Bay Extension	\$3,500	Not approved
17. Computerized Locking Washrooms at Fireman's Park and Municipal Hall	\$9,920	Not approved

SUMMARY OF ADJUSTMENTS:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Increase to Taxes</u>	<u>Decrease to Taxes</u>
Integrated Domestic Violence Unit	\$19,272	
Mill and Fill Road Repair Program	\$25,000	
Oak Bay Avenue Consulting	\$20,000	
Cycling Lane Infrastructure	\$30,000	
Consulting Reserve		\$20,000
Transfer to Underground Wiring		\$10,000
Neighbourhood Learning Centre Consultant	\$20,000	

*District of Oak Bay Estimates Committee
April 15, 2010*

	<u>Increase to Taxes</u>	<u>Decrease to Taxes</u>
Consulting Reserve		\$20,000
Oak Bay Volunteer Services Society	\$1,000	
Community Association of Oak Bay	\$1,500	
City of Victoria – Canada Day Celebrations	\$500	
Greater Victoria Bike to Work Society	\$250	
Volunteer Victoria	\$177	
Community Council		\$207
Crisis Intervention (NEED)		\$415
Oak Bay Heritage Committee	\$5,000	
Tinto Street Boulevard Modifications	\$5,000	
Strategic Plan Consultant	\$10,000	
Sub-Total	\$137,699	\$50,622

Net Impact on Levy	\$87,077
Pre-Meeting General and Debt Levy	\$15,898,400
Revised General and Debt Levy	\$15,985,477
% Change from Prior Year Levy	3.32%

Taking into account all the budget adjustments made over the course of the Estimates Committee meetings, for the average residential dwelling, the municipal portion of the gross property tax bill, including the solid waste charge, shows an increase of 2.91% over the 2009 amount.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED by Councillor Herbert
Seconded by Councillor Braithwaite, That the Estimates Committee meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

Certified Correct

Municipal Clerk

Chairman