

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 Wednesday, April 8, 2009.

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

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
Fire Chief, Gerry Adam

Mayor Causton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. 2009-137 MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR, April 3, 2009
Re 2009 Municipal Budget

The Municipal Administrator provided an overview of the 2009 budget as outlined in his memorandum to Estimates Committee, noting that with the Provincial government's assessment freeze, for 2009 there is no tax burden shift from one class to another. Accordingly, he said, the usual discussion on adjustments to the tax ratios to balance the tax burden would not be necessary.

Mr. Cochrane noted that, as presented, the Estimates budget includes a tax increase that is low compared to other local governments in the Province, and is quite manageable at a 4.32% increase over last year's property tax levy. Taking into account new construction, the budget represents an increase of 3.7% in the municipal portion of the property tax bill for the average property, it was noted.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Fire Chief Gerry Adam was in attendance for review of the Fire Department's operating and capital budgets, answering questions from the Committee in this regard.

Chief Adam pointed out that the budget includes an increase in the dispatcher contract, which was not actually required under the terms of the contract, therefore the budget for that contract should be \$68,134 versus the \$75,808 figure contained in the Estimates budget.

Discussion turned to the Emergency Program budget and attention was drawn to the inclusion of funds for a contract for delivery of a coordinated volunteer management system for 2009. Council approved a contract for 2008, noted Mr. Cochrane, advising that Council endorsement of a 2009 contract and the intention to continue on with such a contract in subsequent years, if that was supported, would be appropriate.

MOVED by Councillor Braithwaite,
Seconded by Councillor Copley, That it be recommended to Council that it endorse the Fire Department's intent to enter into a volunteer management contract for the Emergency Program each year.

CARRIED

Following discussion on the items contained in the Fire Department capital budget, Fire Chief Adam left the meeting.

OPERATING BUDGET:

Refuse Collection and Disposal Bylaw

During review of the operating budget, the Superintendent of Public Works noted that there are numerous staff injuries that are attributable to crews collecting refuse from non-regulation totes, for property owners that are exempt from the requirement to purchase totes pursuant to the Refuse Collection and Disposal Bylaw. Collection from the totes, it was acknowledge, poses less of an injury risk as the trucks are designed to lift the totes and empty them automatically, versus the manual work associated with traditional garbage cans.

There was significant discussion on the issues to be considered with respect to a bylaw amendment that would delete the "grandfather" clause exempting some owners from purchasing totes, in an attempt to minimize injuries and the associated lost time and wages.

MOVED by Councillor Braithwaite
Seconded by Councillor Jensen, That it be recommended to Council that staff be directed to bring forward an amendment to the Refuse Collection and Disposal Bylaw to eliminate the "grandfather" clause exempting certain property owners from the requirement to purchase garbage totes.

While concerns were raised about the potential hardship on those who would be required to purchase the totes should such an amendment be adopted, it was the majority view of the Committee that in the interests of reducing staff injuries, and because owners would continue to have the option of dropping off refuse at the Public Works Yard if they chose not to purchase the totes, a bylaw amendment as proposed would be supportable.

The question was then called.

CARRIED

(Mayor Causton and Councillor Herbert against the motion)

SUMMARY OF ADJUSTMENTS:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Increase to Taxes</u>	<u>Decrease to Taxes</u>
Fire Dispatch Contract		\$7,674

Net Impact on Levy	\$ (7,674)
Pre-Meeting General and Debt Levy	\$ 15,494,550
Revised General and Debt Levy	\$ 15,486,876
% Change from Prior Year Levy	4.27%

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Certified Correct

Municipal Clerk

Chairman