

**DISTRICT OF HIGHLANDS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held April 24, 2006 at Caleb Pike House, 1589 Millstream Road at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Cardinal, Chair
Councillor K. Brotherston
Councillor Fall
Councillor Kadar
Councillor Mahovlich
Councillor Mendum
Councillor Williams

IN ATTENDANCE: Heinz Burki, Administrator
Sandi Chesley, Administrative Assistant

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**MOVED BY: COUNCILLOR BROTHERSTON
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR MAHOVLICH**

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

2. OTHER BUSINESS

- a) Grant in Aid Application
Western Communities Policing – Bike Patrol
- b) KPMG, Letter dated April 18, 2006
Financial Impact Assessment of Bear Mountain Comprehensive
Development Project

**MOVED BY: COUNCILLOR MENDUM
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR MAHOVLICH**

THAT the Grant in Aid application from Western Communities Policing and the KPMG letter dated April 18, 2006 BE RECEIVED and discussed with the budget discussions.

CARRIED.

- c) Council Travel / Conferences - verbal

**MOVED BY: COUNCILLOR BROTHERSTON
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR MAHOVLICH**

THAT the Council Travel / Conference verbal report BE MOVED to listen in conjunction with the budget discussions.

CARRIED.

d) Budget Discussions

The Administrator gave Council the updates from the last Budget meeting:

Council Travel was increased from \$2,500 to \$5,000

Councillor Fall brought up at this time a Sustainable Workshop that he would like to attend. It is a one day workshop to be held May 12, 2006 in Victoria for \$160.00. Mayor Cardinal advised that it would be okay for Councillor Fall to attend this workshop.

Councillor Williams advised that there was a one day seminar he would like to attend. It is on Municipal Law, put on by Lidstone Young and Anderson on May 25, 2006 in Vancouver. The cost for this is \$500. Mayor Cardinal asked that this request be brought forward to the next Council meeting to be held on May 1, 2006.

Grant in Aid was increased from \$5,250 to \$6,250 to accommodate the request for Grant in Aid from the Western Communities Policing.

Legal Fees were increased from \$40,000 to \$50,000

Hiring/Relocation costs were decreased from \$20,000 to \$10,000

Economic Development increased from \$2,000 to \$10,000

The Administrator pointed out that with those changes the average increase would be \$68 or 7%.

For discussion purposes, the Administrator advised Council of some of the changes he made to the Budget:

- The municipality would save approximately \$20,000 in salary and benefits with the Clerk being on LTD and staff changing positions.
- Eliminated the KPMG Report
- Eliminated the Economic Development request for Fee for Service
- Removed the RCMP Grant request
- Dropped the hiring/relocations costs for the new Administrator

With these changes, it would give an average increase of \$20 or 2% per household.

Another revenue source that will be collected this year will be the Hanington Creek final subdivision fees of \$25,000.

There was a round table discussion and the Administrator answered questions from Council. Councillor Fall showed Council a recent report that was done by the Canadian Taxpayers Federation showing the average tax increase on the Island between 2001 and 2005. Councillor Fall suggested to Council to link tax rates with CPI, which would give a 2.2% tax increase for 2006.

MOVED BY: COUNCILLOR MAHOVLICH
SECONDED:

THAT it be recommended that the proposed policy to link tax rates with CPI be forwarded to Council and referred to the Financial and Environmental Advisory Committee for more information

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The Administrator advised that if Council left the KPMG Report in the budget, one of their goals was to look at the long range benefit using CPI policy.

MOVED BY: COUNCILLOR MAHOVLICH
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR FALL

THAT it be recommended to Council to request staff to ask KPMG how much more it would cost to consider the CPI in their original budget with the Bear Mountain projection.

CARRIED.

MOVED BY: COUNCILLOR MAHOVLICH
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR BROTHERSTON

THAT it be recommended to Council to include in the Budget the KPMG Report, dated April 18, 2006 regarding the Financial Impact Assessment of the Bear Mountain Comprehensive Development Project.

CARRIED.

MOVED BY: COUNCILLOR BROTHERSTON
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR MAHOVLICH

THAT it be recommended to Council to include in the Budget \$2,000 for the West Shore Economic Development Association.

CARRIED.
(Councillor Mendum Opposed)

MOVED BY: COUNCILLOR MENDUM
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR MAHOVLICH

THAT it be recommended to Council to grant a funding request from the West Shore RCMP, dated March 27, 2006 for the Annual Crime Prevention and Bike Patrol in the amount of \$1,000.

CARRIED.

MOVED BY: COUNCILLOR BROTHERSTON
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR MAHOVLICH

THAT it be recommended to Council that the Hiring/Relocation Costs for the new Administrator be reduced from \$10,000 to \$8,000.

CARRIED.

Council reviewed the rest of the Budget and the Administrator answered questions.

MOVED BY: COUNCILLOR MENDUM
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR FALL

THAT it be recommended to Council that the Utilities mill rate be increased to reflect the appropriate rates with other municipalities.

CARRIED.

MOVED BY: COUNCILLOR KADAR
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR BROTHERSTON

THAT it be recommended to Council that a 0% tax increase be implemented.

CARRIED.
(Councillor Fall Opposed)

3. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY: COUNCILLOR KADAR
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR FALL

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

CARRIED.

MAYOR

ADMINISTRATOR