

SIDNEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
“COUNCIL WATCH” REPORT
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING HELD MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018

DISCLAIMER

We offer this Council Watch Report as a service to our members. We have attempted to be as accurate as possible, but recognize that our interpretation of Council discussions may not be quite as the speakers intended.

- *We encourage residents to consult the [attachments to the agenda](#) for background information;*
- *This meeting is available as a [video](#) and we also encourage you to view the video. Our report will indicate the main discussions from our perspective and indicate the point on the video where you can view them.*
- *The minutes of this meeting will be included in draft form as part of the agenda package for the next regular Council meeting. Once approved and posted on the [Council Meetings, Agendas, Minutes](#) page, they are the official record.*
- *Residents may also consult [members of Town Council](#) for clarification of details.*
- *We will correct any significant errors that are brought to our attention.*

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Councillor Mervyn Lougher-Goodey was in the Chair. All Councillors present except Councillor Barbara Fallott.

Audience: 14

2018 – 2022 FINANCIAL PLAN – PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS

There was one agenda item for this meeting, which was the discussion on the draft budget for 2018-2022. The presentation was given by Andrew Hicik, Director of Corporate Services. Before his presentation there was a Public Participation Period and another one at the conclusion of his presentation. Mr. Hicik’s staff report can be read on [pages 2-7](#) of the agenda package.

SPECIAL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD

Scott Garnett said he had a question to staff: If we don’t get the revenue we were hoping for from the sale of the fire hall and parking lot and the final cost of the Community Safety Building is greater than anticipated how will this impact the tax payers?

Andrew Hicik answered that the amount in the budget from the proceeds of the site sale is fairly conservative. They feel strongly that they will at least meet that target. Currently, there is surplus funding in place in case they don’t get any money rolling in. Obviously that’s not something they want to dip into, but it is there. If, for whatever reason, they get slightly less than the conservative estimate in the budget, or there is another slight escalation in the overall cost, they have internal sources to cover that.

PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL PLAN BY ANDREW HICIK AND DISCUSSION BY COUNCIL

Mr. Hicik’s presentation can be viewed on the video beginning at [4:22](#). His full Power Point presentation can be read on the [Town’s website](#). He began by stating he had presented an extensive introduction at the January 15th Committee of the Whole meeting and would not be repeating such detail, but would touch on key points and provide updates as to what has changed since that meeting. The goal of tonight’s meeting was to provide additional details on new or complex budget items. It will also be the first opportunity to discuss all aspects that Council may wish to talk about and focus on the items that he thinks might impact the tax increase. February 20th will incorporate whatever decisions are made at this meeting and, hopefully, have a final deliberation. He said that it was remotely possible that after tonight’s meeting might Council want to approve the budget at the next Council meeting on February 13th.

At the Introductory Meeting, the draft Financial Plan stated out with a 4.1% general tax increase for 2018. Since that meeting, three items have changed (1) \$20,000 supplementary request from Island Health for the creation of a Community Health Network for the Peninsula has been withdrawn as they are not ready to proceed at this point. (2) Another Supplemental item, Canora Road Alignment Design was adjusted to reflect 50% (\$7,500) funding that is to come from North Saanich. (3) A request for funding from a group organizing the World Coastal Rowing Championships was received in January. If approved, this would add \$5,000 to the tax impact unless Council wished to fund from the Economic Development Fund. In the latter case, this would reduce the tax impact. With these three changes, the draft budget is now at 3.85%

Mr. Hicik showed a pie chart of the General Operating Fund and the Tax Funded Expenditures. The largest being the RCMP costs, followed by Public Works. He then showed a list of the Supplemental Requests. These are one-time or ongoing requests for new services and one-time studies. He said it made sense to go through these one by one. If any of them are not approved, that will influence the tax increase. He said the same was true for the Tax Funded Capital items.

The Supplemental Request items for consideration were:

- West Side LAP Village Master Plan - \$50,000
- Shaw Centre for the Salish Sea - \$60,000
- ArtSea annual funding increase - \$10,500
- Canora Road Alignment Design - \$7,500
- Banner Program - \$8,000
- Annual Report Template – \$6,000 (in progress)
- Seagull Control Study - \$5,000
- Increase to Grands Budget – \$4,900
- Town Crier Honorarium - \$2,100 (approved)
- New Year’s Day Tea - \$2,000 (completed)
- Chairs for Beacon Park - \$1,000

The Council discussion regarding the Supplemental Requests begins at [13:35 on the video](#).

Mayor Steve Price MOVED that Council accept the \$50,000 for the West Side LAP Village Master Plan.

Carried Unanimously

Councillor Erin Bremner-Mitchell MOVED that the Seagull Control Study be delayed until 2019.

Carried Unanimously

Mr. Hicik presented a list of the 2018 Tax Funded Projects. (This list can be seen on [page 3](#) of his staff report in the agenda package.)

Councillor Peter Wainwright MOVED that the Decorative Street Lighting be cut for 2018.

Carried Unanimously

Councillor Peter Wainwright MOVED that Council defer \$5,000 of the proposed \$10,000 Council Chamber Upgrades to 2019.

Carried Unanimously

Councillor Peter Wainwright MOVED that Totem Park Shelter and Trees be deferred to 2019.

Carried Unanimously

Councillor Peter Wainwright MOVED that Bevan Sidewalk Replacement be deferred to 2019.

Carried Unanimously

Councillor Peter Wainwright MOVED that the Ocean Avenue Curb Replacement be funded from the Amenity Fund. (He thought this was a legitimate amenity for the neighbourhood and therefore made this motion. Staff confirmed that this could be done.)

Carried Unanimously

Mr. Hicik's final section covered Gas Funded Projects, the biggest being the employee parking lot.

Councillor Peter Wainwright MOVED that the Gas Tax Funding from 2019 be used in 2018 to fund the Skate Park Sidewalk (\$15,000) and the Resthaven Curb Returns – Allbay Road and Harbour Road (\$20,000).

Carried Unanimously

The proposed tax increase was now at 2.6%.

Mayor Steve Price questioned if the ArtSea annual funding increase could be funded from the Economic Development Fund. Mr. Hicik said they were not carrying forward any funds that will not be used. They could fund a small project such as the Rowing event but the \$10,500 would be more than was doable. **Councillor Erin Bremner-Mitchell** said she would not be comfortable with an ongoing contribution to ArtSea coming from the Economic Development Fund.

Councillor Peter Wainwright MOVED that \$5,000 for the World Coastal Rowing Championships be funded from the Economic Development Fund.

Carried Unanimously

The Chair asked what the tax increase was at this point and what the average cost per household would be. Mr. Hicik answered that the tax increase was now at 2.43% and \$30 to \$32 for the average household.

Councillor Peter Wainwright MOVED that the Citizen Survey for \$15,000 be deferred to the next Council and that they might want to see what goes into that survey.

Carried Unanimously

Mr. Hicik pointed out that item was a 2019 item and so the **Motion was Cancelled**.

Councillor Peter Wainwright MOVED that the Sewer and Water Budget for 2018 be approved.

Carried Unanimously

Councillor Peter Wainwright MOVED that Council approve the 2018 budget as amended.

Carried 5:1 Councillor Erin Bremner-Mitchell Opposed

(Councillor Bremner-Mitchell stated she would like them follow the original schedule of having three meetings as planned as she would like to have one more opportunity to see the budget before its final approval. Mr. Hicik said they will have an opportunity next week at the Council meeting and so there is another week should Council decide to make any further changes.)

SPECIAL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD

Don Carscadden said he believed Council has allocated \$50K with respect to the West Sidney Local Area Plan (WSLAP) village development and asked staff if the \$50K was to hire a consultant to develop the plan, and what do we get for that?

Randy Humble replied that it was his understanding that when they look at hiring a consultant to work with the town on developing that Master Plan it's based on recommendations coming out of the WSLAP. The next step is hiring a consultant to assist with the development of the Master Plan.

Don Carscadden asked if \$50K was an appropriate amount for the 3 or 4 residential blocks, and questioned if it could it be done for \$40K.

Randy Humble replied that he would refer to Mr. Tanton but that is the amount recommended. He said that the feeling is that it is an appropriate amount to develop this plan and asked Mr. Tanton if that was correct.

Mr. Tanton answered that it was correct. These numbers were discussed with the consultant who did the West Side Local Area Plan. The feeling was that this was a reasonable number.

Don Carscadden said he had one more question. He stated he saw numbers in the presentation that suggest that tax payers will spend \$900K in fiscal 2018 and a further \$300K in the following year, or \$1.2 million, for the downtown employee parking lot. He asked how many stalls do we get for that?

Andrew Hicik said he believed it was 150 stalls for employees and overflow for the Mary Winspear Center.

Steve Duck said he wanted to refer to the sale of the fire hall and adjacent parking lot as a funding source for deferred items in the budget. He said he knew the primary reason for the sale is to offset construction costs of the Community Safety Building (CSB); a cost now increased to about \$15 million. He asked if the total sale price of this property and parking lot would be used to offset the cost of the CSB or is it only a certain amount to be used for that purpose. If revenue is actually higher based on staff's comment that the sale price is somewhat conservative, will any additional funds be used for deferred budget items?

Peter Wainwright answered that there is no preconceived game plan on this, no guarantees that there will be more money than Council wants to put into the CSB. Even if there is more money, there is no guarantee that it will be used to bring forward some of the capital projects. When they see what they're dealing with, Council will make some decisions.

Steve Duck asked if the fire hall was perceived as public property. If so, does the disposition of this property require public approval?

Randy Humble stated that there is a public notification process advertising the disposition and the public may make comment.

Scott Garnett asked, regarding the employee parking lot, will they be charging for the use of this lot and will this be a revenue source? He also asked how they will monitor the lot to ensure tourists don't park there. Will they provide parking stickers or how will this work?

Randy Humble: We're not anticipating charging for parking, enforcement will come forward to Council for consideration at some future time.

David Calveley said that, regarding the employee parking lot, he had been doing some rough none-scientific research talking to employees around town. He'd been asking them if they will park in the employee parking lot. We do have a shortage of employees in our stores and our business on Beacon. The impression he was getting is that as long as street parking remains as it is, and not reduced, they will continue to park on the street, particularly those that work on the waterfront. They have no interest in walking across town in the rain.

There being no further speakers to the Special Participation Period, and no further business to conduct, **IT WAS MOVED** that the meeting be adjourned.