

THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF CENTRAL SAANICH

Minutes of the **SPECIAL ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE COMMITTEE Meeting**  
(**Public Information Meeting – 2007 Annual Budget and 2007 – 2011 Financial Plan** )  
Monday, April 23, 2007, at 5:30 p.m.  
Central Saanich Municipal Council Chamber

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**PRESENT:** Councillor John Garrison, Chair  
Mayor Jack Mar, Councillors Bryson, Graham, King, and Thompson  
Gary C. Nason, Administrator  
Rosalyn Tanner, Director of Financial Services

**ABSENT:** Councillor Mason

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**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:**

445.07            MOVED BY COUNCILLOR GRAHAM  
                     NO SECONDER  
                     *That the Agenda for the Special Administration & Finance Committee Meeting held on April 23, 2007, be approved as circulated.*  
                     CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**1. Public Information Meeting – 2007 Annual Budget and 2007 – 2011 Financial Plan**

The Administrator, Mr. Gary C. Nason, advised that the purpose of this evening's Meeting is to overview the directions and decisions taken by Council to date in regards to the 2007 Annual Budget and 2007-2011 Financial Plan, and to give the public an opportunity to raise issues and ask questions of Council. Mr. Nason advised that the Director of Financial Services, Ms. Rosalyn Tanner, would be making a presentation on the 2007 Annual Budget, and he further advised that one item of correspondence from Mr. Frank Witthoeft, 2361 Tanner Ridge Place, had been received pertaining to this matter and was included in the agenda package.

The Director of Financial Services, Ms. Rosalyn Tanner, gave a comprehensive overview Powerpoint presentation on the 2007 Annual Budget and the 2007-2011 Financial Plan processes, and described the major fiscal challenges and decisions made by Council in this regard. Following her presentation, Ms. Tanner responded to several questions from members of the Committee.

The Chair then opened the floor for comments from the gallery.

Mr. Frank Witthoeft, 2361 Tanner Ridge Place, advised that one particular item that caught his attention in Ms. Tanner's presentation was the comparative tax increases for various municipalities across the Capital Region. Mr. Witthoeft stated that he was advised by the Director of Financial Services today that approximately 3.7% of the 5.7% tax increase is non-discretionary; therefore, the majority of Central Saanich's tax increase is dictated by other jurisdictions. Mr. Witthoeft questioned whether other municipalities must also be experiencing similar non-discretionary increases in their respective budgets.

Ms. Eli Chambers, 901 Verdier Avenue, questioned the source of funding for the BC Assessment Authority and inquired whether their revenues were obtained through Provincial Government Grants or through property taxation. Ms. Chambers was advised by the Chair that the source of funding for the Assessment Authority is property taxation, and that municipalities across the province collect revenues for the Assessment Authority through their tax notices.

Mr. Wayne Watkins, 7055 Wallace Drive, stated that in his view the issue is not so much the percentage increase in the tax lift, but the resulting cost for the services that are provided by the District. Mr. Watkins stated that he is satisfied with the budgetary work that has been completed on Council's behalf and that in order to reduce the projected tax increase, individual costs would have to be looked at three or four times. Mr. Watkins stated that he is satisfied with the projected tax increase and the reasons behind it.

Mr. Nicholas Filpula, #3 – 1211 Verdier Avenue, questioned why Police costs account for the majority of the tax increase and why the Police Department is such a sizeable portion of Central Saanich's budget.

The Chair then called for any further representations from the public. There being none, the Chair thanked those members of the public in attendance at the Meeting for their comments.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

*On motion, the Special Administration & Finance Meeting held on April 23, 2007, adjourned at 6:16 p.m.*

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Councillor John Garrison, Chair

Recorded By: Gary C. Nason  
Administrator