

CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF CENTRAL SAANICH

Minutes of the **SPECIAL ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE** Meeting  
Monday, March 27, 2006 at 6:00 pm  
Central Saanich Municipal Council Chamber

---

**PRESENT:** Councillor Christopher Graham, Chair  
Mayor Jack Mar  
Councillors: Bryson, Garrison, King, Mason and Thompson  
Gary C. Nason, Administrator  
David J. Gawley, Consultant  
Trish Flanders, Municipal Clerk  
Hope V. Burns, Director of Planning & Building Services  
Nirmal Bhattacharya, Municipal Engineer  
Ron French, Fire Chief  
Bonnie McKenzie, Manager of Community Services  
Steve Epp, Assistant Treasurer  
Clayton Pecknold, Deputy Chief Constable  
Cathie Ounsted, Central Saanich Police Board  
John Currie, Central Saanich Police Board

---

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:**

340.06            MOVED BY COUNCILLOR THOMPSON  
                     NO SECONDER  
                     *That the Agenda for the Special Administration & Finance Committee Meeting held  
                     on March 27, 2006 be approved as circulated.*  
                     CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**1. Review of 2006 Core Revenues and Expenses**

Mr. Gary C. Nason, Administrator, directed Council's attention to the 2006 Core Budget binders which were previously distributed, and gave some brief introductory remarks in regards to the proposed 2006 Annual Budget process. Mr. Nason referred to the following items of correspondence which had been previously received by Council, and which Council requested be brought forward and the issues further considered in the context of 2006 Core Budget and Financial Plan deliberations:

1. R.H. Rogers, 8413 Lochside Drive, January 4, 2006 (previously received at the January 16, 2006 Regular Council Meeting)
2. Minutes of the Administration & Finance Committee Meeting held on February 13, 2006
3. Mike Fagan, 1575 Kersey Road and Frank Witthoeft, 2361 Tanner Ridge Place, February 13, 2006 (previously received at the February 20, 2006 Regular Council Meeting)
4. David E. Reagan, 7040 Brentwood Drive, February 5, 2006 (previously received at the February 20, 2006 Regular Council Meeting)
5. Jill Wake, 7046 Brentwood Drive, March 1, 2006 (previously received at the March 20, 2006 Regular Council Meeting)

Mr. Dave Gawley, Consultant, advised that the purpose of this evening's meeting was to conduct a comprehensive review of the 2006 Core Revenues and Expenses.

The Deputy Chief Constable Clayton Pecknold and representatives from the Central Saanich Police Board then gave a brief overview of the core revenues and expenditures for the Central Saanich Police Service, and responded to questions from members of the Committee.

Mr. Frank Witthoeft, 2361 Tanner Ridge Place, stated that the staff salaries and benefits for the Central Saanich Police Service appear to have increased by at least 5%, and questioned how these salaries compare to other municipal police departments.

The Fire Chief, Mr. Ron French, gave a brief overview of the core revenues and expenditures for the Central Saanich Fire Department, and responded to questions from members of the Committee.

The Municipal Engineer, Mr. Nirmal Bhattacharya, provided an overview of the core revenues and expenditures for the Engineering & Public Works Department, including Transportation, Public Works and Engineering Services; Other Protection (Pest Control); Parks Maintenance; and Water and Sewer Utilities, and responded to questions from members of the Committee.

It was noted that Mr. Denis Coupland, representing the Peninsula Streams/Hagan Creek-Kennes Watershed Project Steering Committee, was in attendance at the meeting to address the previous request from Peninsula Streams for funding assistance which had been referred by Council to the 2006 Annual Budget and Five Year Financial Plan deliberations for further consideration.

***Due to a potential conflict of interest on the following item, Councillor Graham took his leave from the Meeting at 6:55 pm. Councillor Graham stated that his mother is a member of the Hagan Creek-Kennes Watershed Project Steering Committee.***

- Peninsula Streams/Hagan Creek-Kennes Watershed Project Steering Committee  
Re: Request for \$10,000 in 2006 Core Budget for Stewardship Initiatives

Mr. Dennis Coupland, representing the Hagan Creek-Kennes Watershed Project Steering Committee and Peninsula Streams, encouraged Council to reconsider its previous decision to deny the 2006 grant-in-aid application from Peninsula Streams which was based on the fact that the application was a late submission. He advised that any grant monies would assist with funding the various watershed protection/stewardship initiatives which are coordinated and carried out by Peninsula Streams. Mr. Coupland requested that consideration be given to including an annual amount of \$10,000 in the core funding for the activities of Peninsula Streams.

A lengthy question and answer session took place.

341.06            MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MASON  
                     NO SECONDER  
                     *That It Be Recommended To Council:*

*That the request from the Peninsula Streams/Hagan Creek-Kennes Watershed Project Steering Committee for \$10,000 to assist in funding its various core programs be considered during Council's upcoming consideration of Supplementary Budget Requests.*

CARRIED  
OPPOSED: COUNCILLORS BRYSON AND KING

***Councillor Graham returned to the Meeting at 7:12 pm.***

The Director of Planning & Building Services, Ms. Hope v. Burns, and the Manager of Community Services, Ms. Bonnie McKenzie, then gave an overview of the core revenues and expenditures for the Environmental Planning and Development; Community Services; Buildings and Facilities; and Building and Bylaw Services components of the proposed 2006 Core Budget.

The Administrator gave an overview of the General Government Expenditures as noted in the 2006 Core Budget, and referred to a possible referendum for the proposed Panorama Recreation Facility Upgrade Project, which would require an additional \$18,000 to the Core Budget if Council decided to proceed with a referendum for this project. Mr. Nason also referred to the proposed participation of Council members in the UBCM's extended health and dental group insurance benefit plan, and noted that in order to be included in this year's program the deadline for the submission of applications is March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006.

A lengthy discussion ensued in regards to the proposed referendum for the Panorama Recreation Facility Upgrade Project, as well as Council's participation in the UBCM's extended health and dental group insurance benefit plan for elected officials.

Ms. Elizabeth Chambers, 901 Verdier Avenue, questioned if the cost of the UBCM benefits package for elected officials would be paid for by individual members of Council or by the District. She was advised by Staff that the benefits package would be 100% paid by the District, similar to what is in place for the District's Employees and Management.

Mr. Dave Gawley then gave a comprehensive overview of the Fiscal Services, Revenues Not Included in Other Departmental Discussions, Assessment Information, Tax Multiple Considerations and Tax Ratio Analysis.

Ms. Elizabeth Chambers questioned where the monies from the disposal of an asset would be deposited or transferred.

Ms. Jill Wake, 7046 Brentwood Drive, referred to the servicing agreements which are in place with the Tsawout First Nation, and questioned if similar agreements were in place with the Tsartlip First Nation. She further questioned the status of the budget for the Brentwood Bay ferry docks.

Mr. Frank Witthoef, referred to Servicing Agreements with the Tsawout First Nation and questioned if the collected amounts actually cover the District's costs for providing these services.

Mr. Gawley then gave an overview of the General Operating Fund - Budget Recap and Tax Levy which indicated a 3.77% property tax increase to fund the 2006 Core Budget.

Ms. Elizabeth Chambers briefly commented on the proposed 3.77% residential tax increase.

Ms. Jill Wake questioned Council if it would consider the establishment of a new tax rate to offset the costs associated with the increased property assessment values.

An extensive question and answer session ensued, and the Administrator and Mr. Gawley responded to several questions from members of the Committee.

342.06        MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MASON  
                 NO SECONDER  
                 *That It Be Recommended To Council:*

*That funding for a possible referendum to be conducted in 2006 not be included in the 2006 Core Budget at this time.*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

343.06        MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MASON  
                 NO SECONDER  
                 *That It Be Recommended To Council:*

*That further discussion on the possible participation of Council members in the comprehensive group insurance benefits plan offered by the Union of BC Municipalities be tabled and discussed further at the end of the agenda.*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

344.06        MOVED BY COUNCILLOR THOMPSON  
                 NO SECONDER  
                 *That It Be Recommended To Council:*

*That in its consideration of 2007 Permissive Tax Exemption and Grants-in-Aid applications, Council review its current policy of allocating a maximum amount of funding for these purposes equivalent to a 1% property tax increase to the average residential property.*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Thompson requested that if possible Council be provided with historical data showing the percentage tax lifts for the average residential and business class properties, as well as the tax increase projections currently shown in the Five Year Financial Plan.

345.06        **\*\* DEFEATED \*\***  
                 MOVED BY COUNCILLOR KING  
                 NO SECONDER  
                 *That It Be Recommended To Council:*

*That at an appropriate future date, Council have a discussion in regards to the potential merits and implications of contracting with the RCMP for the provision of police services in Central Saanich.*

**MOTION DEFEATED**

OPPOSED: MAYOR MAR, COUNCILLORS BRYSON, GARRISON, GRAHAM,  
                 MASON AND THOMPSON

346.06            MOVED BY COUNCILLOR THOMPSON  
                     NO SECONDER  
                     *That It Be Recommended To Council:*

*That Mayor Mar and Councillors Garrison, Graham, King and Mason be authorized to participate in the extended health and dental group insurance (Pacific Blue Cross) benefit plan administered by the Union of BC Municipalities, with the benefit premiums to be paid 100 percent by the District consistent with the coverage afforded to Employees Agreement and Management Contract Staff, and the necessary costs be included in the 2006 Core Budget.*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

347.06            MOVED BY COUNCILLOR THOMPSON  
                     NO SECONDER  
                     *That It Be Recommended To Council:*

*That, if required, a Special (Open) Council Meeting be held at 5:10 pm on March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006 to consider formal ratification of the foregoing motion.*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADJOURNMENT:**

*On motion, the Administration & Finance Committee Meeting held on March 27, 2006 adjourned at 10:09 pm*

Recorded by: Trish Flanders  
                     Municipal Clerk