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THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF CENTRAL SAANICH

Minutes of the **SPECIAL ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE** Meeting
Monday, April 19, 2004 at 5:30 p.m.
Central Saanich Municipal Council Chamber

PRESENT: Mayor Allison Habkirk, Acting Chair
Councillors: Haddon, King, Korol and Mason
Gary C. Nason, Administrator
Ed Sykora, Director of Financial Services
Nirmal Bhattacharya, Municipal Engineer
Hope V. Burns, Director of Planning & Building Services
Ron French, Fire Chief

ABSENT: Councillors Graham and Thompson

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

The Administrator, Mr. Gary C. Nason, noted the addition to the agenda of email correspondence dated April 19th, 2004 from Councillor Graham offering his comments with respect to the contents of the Memorandum from the Director of Financial Services dated April 16th, 2004 entitled "Variable Tax Rate Analysis for 2004".

504.04

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR KOROL
NO SECONDER

That the Agenda for the Special Administration & Finance Committee Meeting held on April 19, 2004 be approved as amended.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Variable Tax Rate Analysis for 2004

- a) Staff Memorandum dated April 16, 2004 from Ed Sykora, Director of Financial Services Re: Variable Tax Rate Analysis for 2004;
- b) Minutes from the April 6th, 2004 Special Meeting of the Administration & Finance Committee which contained the various motions which were adopted by the Committee with respect to the 2004 - 2008 Supplementary Operational, Equipment and Infrastructure Budget Requests.

The Administrator advised that the primary purpose of this evening's meeting was to seek direction from Council in regards to the issues contained in the Memorandum from the Director of Financial Services dated April 16, 2004 entitled "Variable Tax Rate Analysis for 2004", which was distributed on April 16th, 2004.

The Director of Financial Services, Mr. Ed Sykora, then proceeded to give a comprehensive presentation on the details of his Memorandum entitled "Variable Tax Rate Analysis for 2004". Mr. Sykora reviewed the various options for adjusting the variable property tax rate multiples, the Central Saanich experience and the trend analysis of the property tax levy by class over the past twelve years. Mr. Sykora referred in detail to the various appendices attached to his Memorandum including a spreadsheet entitled "Municipal and CRD 2004 Property Tax Analysis for Selected Properties".

An extensive question and answer session ensued during which time Mr. Sykora outlined the impact of the various options on the projected tax increase across various property classes.

Mr. Brian Francoeur of Portside Marina, 789 Saunders Lane, was in attendance at the meeting and advised that the initial assessment on his property has been reduced somewhat from that which was forwarded to him in January 2004, however his assessment is subject to a further appeal which is currently before the BC Assessment Authority. Mr. Francoeur advised of the dramatic increases in his property assessment, particularly with respect to the assessment for the water lease in connection with his Marina operation.

Mr. Francoeur was encouraged by members of the Committee to continue to pursue with the BC Assessment Authority the appeal of his property assessment for Portside Marina.

505.04 MOVED BY COUNCILLOR KOROL
 NO SECONDER
 That It Be Recommended To Council:

That the Staff Memorandum dated April 16, 2004 entitled "Variable Tax Rate Analysis for 2004" be received, and no changes be made with respect to adjusting the variable property tax rate multiples for General Municipal purposes for 2004.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

506.04 MOVED BY COUNCILLOR HADDON
 NO SECONDER
 That It Be Recommended To Council:

That a letter be written to the BC Assessment Authority expressing Council's concerns in regards to the sudden dramatic increases in the assessed values for Class 8 Marina properties, and noting the challenges that this has created both for the taxation policy of the District of Central Saanich as well for its marina taxpayers.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion, the Special Administration & Finance Committee Meeting held on April 19, 2004 adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Recorded by: Gary C. Nason
 Administrator