

THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF CENTRAL SAANICH

Minutes of the **ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE** Meeting  
Monday, February 13, 2006 at 8:11 pm  
Central Saanich Municipal Council Chamber

---

**PRESENT:** Councillor Christopher Graham, Chair  
Mayor Jack Mar  
Councillors: Bryson, Garrison, King and Mason  
Gary C. Nason, Administrator  
Trish Flanders, Municipal Clerk  
Hope V. Burns, Director of Planning & Building Services  
Nirmal Bhattacharya, Municipal Engineer

**ABSENT:** Councillor Thompson

---

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:**

The Administrator, Mr. Gary C. Nason, noted the addition to the agenda of the following late items:

- Email correspondence from Councillor King Re: Municipal Webmail/Corporate Email, to be included with Item 2;
- Correspondence from the Greater Victoria Public Library Board Chair Re: Invitation to Library Budget Meeting, to be included as Item 3;

200.06 MOVED BY COUNCILLOR KING  
NO SECONDER

*That the Agenda for the Administration & Finance Committee Meeting held on February 13, 2006 be approved as amended.*  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**1. 2006 Property Assessment, and Consideration of Submission of Related Resolution to 2006 Annual General Meeting of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities**

- a) Copy of correspondence dated January 4, 2006 from Mrs. Marion Rogers Re: 2006 Property Assessment; and
- b) Memorandum dated February 6, 2006 from Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) entitled "AVICC Resolution Deadline".

Councillor Graham gave an overview of the correspondence from Mrs. Marion Rogers and referred to the rising real estate prices, particularly in the Greater Victoria area, which is at the very least partially responsible for inflated property taxes. He referred to the property assessment/taxation practice in California whereby an individual property assessment is "locked in" at the time of purchase with any subsequent tax increases being based on inflation only. Councillor Graham suggested that taxation relief could also be achieved through the application of parcel and/or frontage taxes. He referred to the AVICC Resolution deadline of February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006 and suggested that the District may wish to consider the submission of an appropriate resolution requesting that the Province reduce its percentage of revenues derived from property taxation.

Councillor Graham opened the floor for comments from the public in attendance at the meeting.

Mr. David Reagan, 7040 Brentwood Drive, advised that he has experienced a 100% increase in property taxes over the past five to six years, and questioned the justification behind this outrageous increase. He referred to the recent article in the Peninsula News Review which reported that the average 2006 property assessment increase is 23%, however he experienced a 40% increase. Mr. Reagan expressed concern that another huge property tax increase is likely inevitable due to the recent exorbitant increase in assessments. He then asked that Council act in the best interests of the local residents and set reasonable caps on property taxes.

Mr. Malcolm Hatley, 8433 Lochside Drive, expressed concern that while the rate of inflation can be 2, 3 or 4%, the property assessments have increased by 20, 30 and even 40%, and questioned the effect that this lack of balance will have on the citizens of Central Saanich. Mr. Hatley requested that Council find resolution to this very complex issue.

Ms. Jill Wake, 7046 Brentwood Drive, advised the Committee that her property taxes have increased by 235% since 2003, and asked that the District do something to get control over this situation.

Mr. Tony Peard, 806 Delamere Road, questioned what level of government is ultimately responsible for the excessive property tax increases, and was advised by the Chair that property taxes are divided to several different areas (i.e school, hospital, transit, municipal) and that it is difficult to make adjustments in one particular area without affecting other taxpayers.

During a lengthy discussion, members of the Committee agreed that escalating property assessments and taxes make it extremely difficult for the average person to own and maintain property, which could result in many owners being forced out of their own homes.

201.06            MOVED BY COUNCILLOR BRYSON  
                      NO SECONDER  
                      *That It Be Recommended To Council:*

*That the correspondence be received, and further consideration of the possible submission to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) or to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM), of an appropriate resolution pertaining to the issue of rapidly escalating property assessments and the municipal property taxation system, be referred to upcoming 2006 Budget and Five Year Financial Plan deliberations for further consideration.*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee encouraged the public in attendance at the meeting to participate in the budget meetings which will be taking place over the next few months.

## **2. Municipal Webmail/Corporate Email Service**

- a) Excerpt from the Minutes of the Special Open Council Meeting held n June 28, 2004 Re: Councillor's E-Mail Addresses;
- b) Additional material circulated at the request of Councillor King in regards to Municipal Webmail;
- c) Staff Memorandum dated February 3, 2006 from Ed Sykora, Director of Financial Services Re: Corporate Email Service; and
- d) Email correspondence dated February 11, 2006 from Councillor King Re: Municipal Webmail/Corporate Email.

The Administrator gave a brief overview of the Staff Memorandum in regards to Corporate Webmail/Email Service.

Councillor King referred to the June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2004 Council Resolution which authorized that "any requests of individual members of Council to place an appropriate automatic response on their corporate email addresses indicate that the address is not active be accommodated". He advised the Committee that he is not requesting to have his corporate email forwarded to his personal email address, but to simply discontinue/disable the corporate "csaanich.ca" email address for himself only.

A brief discussion took place.

202.06            MOVED BY COUNCILLOR KING  
                      NO SECONDER  
                      *That It Be Recommended To Council:*

*That Staff be directed to discontinue/disable the "csaanich.ca" webmail address for Councillor King.*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

*That the Memorandum dated February 3, 2006 from the Director of Financial Services entitled "Corporate Email Service" be received, and Staff be directed to discontinue the sending of municipal email to personal email addresses except in those circumstances which may be deemed by Staff, on a case-by-case basis, to be particularly warranted or appropriate.*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**3. Greater Victoria Public Library Board – Invitation to Library Budget Meeting**

- a) Correspondence dated February 8, 2006 from Board Chair Christopher Graham, Greater Victoria Public Library Board Chair Re: Invitation to Library Budget Meeting.

Councillor Graham encouraged members of Council to attend and participate in an informal budget meeting of the GVPL Finance Committee at 12:00 noon on Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006, to address concerns and/or questions pertaining to the GVPL budget process.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

*On motion, the Administration & Finance Committee Meeting held on February 13, 2006 adjourned at 8:59 pm.*

---

Councillor Christopher Graham, Chair

Recorded by: Trish Flanders  
Municipal Clerk