

Notes re: Jan 22 Ward 2 Public Input Budget Meeting, Kinsmen Hall

Welcome: Councillor Barbeau explained process for evening: brief Power Point Presentation by City Staff, followed by Input from community – in order as signed in Speaker's List- each limited to 5 minutes; time for additional speakers

A. Presentation included 'Hand-outs' of 9 slides: Purpose of Public Input Sessions, 2006 How 2006 Operating Dollars Were Spent, Sources of Revenues 2006 Budget Net Expenditures, Budgetary Pressures, Opportunities & Efficiencies, Budget Schedule, Conclusion.

*** Some highlights:**

1. \$229 Million Revenues, \$455 Million Expenditures, \$156 Million Municipal Taxes

2. Net Expenditures- funded by Levy:

Roads = 24.2% Police services = 17.7% Emergency Services = 12.3%
Health & Social Services = 11.5% Citizen & Leisure Services = 10.5% Transit 4.2%

3. Operating Expenses:

Salaries & Benefits = 158 M Purchased Contract Services = 149M
Material & Op. Expenses = 31M Capital Reserves = 51M

4. Budget Process:

- a. All community Input will be passed to Staff
- b. Prepared documents go to Council Feb.22
- c. Finance Committee reviews material Feb. 26,27, March 1
- d. Budget Finalization, Voting on Options & Approval by Finance Committee, March 5th
- e. Final Overview & Approval by Council March 7th
- f. Property Tax Policy – April – May/07

B. Public Input:

1. Ray Bennett, Whitefish: services taken away from us

- a. Snowplowing for our Churches parking lots needed VS cutting grass all summer at cemeteries
- b. Skidoo Trails: cross every driveway, schools, stores etc dangerous & litter every where
- c. Dogcatcher policy/services need changes: dogs running free & people told to catch & tie up dogs & dogcatcher will come & get them
- d. Police: don't see them unless they're called
- e. Handicapped Parking Spaces: need to protect spaces & fine abusers

2. Brenda Ulrichsen, Copper Cliff: need to keep Clarabelle Road open

- a. Optometrist in Copper Cliff – husband is Dentist – in same building
- b. Business people want road access to Copper Cliff via Clarabelle Rd. kept open
- c. Impact of closure will have negative impact on business via HWY 144
- d. 250 people signed Petition- in 3 days- tabled with CGS...asking INCO to bring their private road up to standard & change it to a city road
- e. Road used since 1940's
- f. Better lit & populated than Big Nickel Mine Rd.
- g. **Secondary access road to Copper Cliff from HWY 144- takes off 4 kilo for Police officer coming from Station 2 in Azilda**

3. Richard Bois, Walden-CAN:

- a. Background info. re: W-CAN: community identified issues & priorities for action 2005
- b. Committees/Task Force set up: Best example of success of partnership- Walden-CAN + Community + City Staff + Councillors = Walden Ski Hill
- c. Issues outstanding requiring budgetary considerations:
 - **Task Force re: Anderson Farm Museum:** going to Council Jan.30th
 - **Police Services in Walden:** Community Policing was alive & well a year ago, What's really happening; working with Councillor/Police/Police Board/CGS; we would like policing restored to previous level
 - **Transit: in Walden** always had poor ridership; needs to be re-examined; rationalization re: empty buses needs to be addressed; Solutions team Report
 - **Lively Medical Centre:** Very important to us- down to 2 Doctors nearing retirement; read about Southern Ont. Communities signing Contracts with Medical Students at our Medical School; If Mayor's Roundtable of Recruitment & Retention of Physicians is looking for incentives – we'd like to be part of the process
 - **Walden Help Centre:** MPP Bartolucci announced more gov't funds & transfer of power to SRH & it looked good for our local clinic BUT rumor says it's going to close; building is owned by CGS – what happens to building if closed & how will residents of Walden access mental health services?
 - **Roads:** It's wonderful to have more money spent on our roads but CGS should look at decentralizing roads; have local people/staff make the decisions re: sanding, snowplowing etc based on experience & knowledge of the area; not a one size fits all city
 - **Community Improvement:** entrances to Town terrible condition; need more funds re: downtowns to maintain care/beautify
 - **City Plans in Abundance:** Official Plans, recreations Plans, Improvement Plans in abundance were prepared by former Municipalities; re-visit the old plans; Get parklands established in subdivisions – as they were designated & protected in Walden Plans eg Mikela
 - **Assessments:** will there be relief for us in 2008? Impacted by individuals from southern Ontario who built huge mansions on our lakes- making small camps unaffordable for families; CANs could be helpful working with CGS to lobby province

4. Joseph Van Oort, Mikela:

- a. Snow removal: Snow not being removed on School Bus Routes- Jessie Hamilton; no sidewalks -plowing not wide enough- people have to go in the ditch
- b. Need for Noise Barrier: heavy truck traffic heard from By-Pass; need noise barriers

5. James Haddow, Hillcrest:

- a. Is there an Emergency Preparedness Plan?
 - Sirens are needed to warn people to stay indoors
 - People need to be educated re: proper response to sirens etc
 - Could be Toxic Chemical spills re: traffic accidents or Nickel Refinery gas emissions-

- b. Bus Services:
 - We don't need as many as we have- often empty
 - Why couldn't we use smaller buses- transfer to larger buses
- d. Repairs to roads:
 - CGS has problems fixing bumps in the roads
 - When finally repaired – best job in 15 years
- e. CGS policy re: Lowest Bidder: Is this always the best solution? Best job?
- f. Snow Removal:
 - Not being plowed wide enough – have to walk on road
 - Used to be 6 passes along our road- now it's 2 passes

6. Kathy Talos, Sudbury Regional Soccer:

- a. Healthy Community means: choices of affordable, accessible & doable activities
- b. User Fees have sky rocketed
- c. Few places for indoor sports- year round
 - Indoor Soccer- growing 21,000 in N. Ontario - 800 in Walden
 - Played by both sexes – all ages
 - No space in Walden
- d. Regional/Provincial Soccer Competitions – boys & girls – could be at CGS Site
- e. Need to look for funding: federal/provincial/municipal for multi-pad facility
- f. “ **Goose droppings are not good**...dangerous for our health...something should be done at Hillcrest Soccer Field to deal with the Canada Geese problem- 100s of them”

7. Sue Leblanc, Alpine Rd., Penage:

- a. Roads are not being plowed
- b. 3 different school buses every day; needs to be addressed
- c. Diesel fuel on the road- dangerous
- d. Knocked down power lines for one month; needs to be addressed

8. Reggie White, 3rd. Lively:

- a. CGS neglecting care of Cemeteries:
 - Knights of Columbus used to work with Town to care for Cemeteries
 - Had Porta-potties on site for use by seniors – looking after plots
 - Need them again; well used location
- b. CANs: Glad to hear that Council is looking forward to working with CANs; a good thing- in response to Floyd's report
- c. Hope to see future construction of recreational facilities in CGS
- d. Emergency Prepared Centres are needed: police/fire/ambulance all together needed in Walden too

9. Dave Rysdale, Walden Minor Hockey Assoc:

- a. Multi-Pad Facility needed: attract people/tourists/businesses to CGS
- b. Mayor's speech spoke to changes in future- listening to communities
- c. Barrydowne Arena was closed- needs to be re-opened
- d. Leisure Services Master Plans should be looked at again
- e. Perhaps other plans should be re-examined.

10. Jeff Sewell, Walden Cross Country Fitness Assoc:

- a. Important to have a healthy lifestyle

- b. Volunteers have expanded the Chalet in Naughton (1,000 sq. ft.)
- c. Provide many programs: Cross Country Skiing, running, fitness;
- d. Jack Rabbit Johansson Cross Country Programs/ municipal/prov./national level competitions
- e. Hosting major Comp. 150 people
- f. Plans to host Ont. Mountain Biking Comp in next few years
- g. Expanded trails; increased membership to 600
- h. Need an expanded facility to provide activities/programs
- i. Fundraising campaign re: 1,500 sq.ft building \$60,000 in materials
- j. Looking for funding Partnerships: Trillium/CGS/Community

Other speakers- not on Speakers List:

11. Paul Doyle, 4th Ave., Lively:

- a. Need for visible police services
- b. Walks for 45 min. 2 times a day – every day- using a variety of paths through Lively
- c. Used to see cruisers patrolling every day
- d. In the last year it's very rare to see a cruiser; could be weeks without seeing one on patrol
- e. Police are not here; proactive services; empty cruisers at store front don't count

12. Ron Sitko, Walden Minor Hockey:

- a. Speaking to problems re: vandalism in Walden
- b. There is a correlation between sports activities & less vandalism
- c. We need more activities for youth

13. Ray Bennett, Whitefish:

- a. Walking Trails in Naughton:
 - People are afraid to walk them because of ATVs racing by
 - Need more policing to enforce rules re: ATVs on Walking Trails; people ignore signs posted
 - ATVs damage the paths; crushed rock pushed to side of Trails; money wasted re: preparing walking trails

14. Joseph Van Oort, Mikela:

a. Police Store Front:

- Volunteer at Store Front
- Police are doing a tremendous job
- Unable to take a shower at Lively Store Front- as they can at Station 2 in Azilda
- Police officers come from all over CGS to work – not just Walden

Note: *Jacques informed people of Community Safety Forum/Police Consultation Meeting on Feb 6th, Tom Davies Arena*

15. Troy Crowder:

- a. Accountability of CGS: as said before part-time Councillors don't have time to look into all the issues
- b. Ice Time @ Arenas:
 - Fees are based on Arena Costs

- Staff doesn't know all the facts re: costs @ arena- summer VS winter costs

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- Leaks in pipes could increase water costs until repaired
- c. Inefficiencies need to be addressed
 - d. We need to be realistic re: where will we get the money for all the 'Great Projects'
 - e. Huge Projects won't happen for years
 - f. Need to get realistic projects done first