

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BROCK

CANNINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

SESSION EIGHT

MONDAY, APRIL 30, 2007

The Eighth Meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Township of Brock, in the Regional Municipality of Durham, was held on Monday, April 30, 2007, in the Cannington Community Centre.

Members present:	Mayor:	Larry O'Connor
	Councillors:	Mike Manchester
		Harold Lodwick
		Anthony Woodruff
		David Marquis
		W.E. Ted Smith

Members absent:	Regional Councillor:	John Grant – on vacation
-----------------	----------------------	--------------------------

Staff Members present:	Clerk-Administrator George S. Graham (recording the minutes)
	Deputy Clerk-Administrator Thomas G. Gettinby
	Clerk-Stenographer Susan Creighton
	Treasurer Michael Legge
	Chief Building Official Joe Bonura
	Fire Chief Rich Harrison
	Fire Prevention Officer Wayne Ward

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Larry O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mayor O'Connor welcomed those in attendance and proceeded to introduce members of the Committee of the Whole and those members of staff in attendance.

II. PURPOSE

2007 Annual Operating and Capital Budget
Corporation of the Township of Brock

1. The purpose of this public meeting is to obtain public input with respect to the Draft 2007 Annual Operating and Capital Budget for the Corporation of the Township of Brock.

MAYOR LARRY O'CONNOR OUTLINED THE FOLLOWING POINTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THOSE IN ATTENDANCE:

2. There will be no decisions made with respect to the adoption of the budget at this meeting.
3. The Township of Brock Committee of the Whole will consider all input received at tonight's meeting prior to the formal adoption of the Annual Operating and Capital Budget for 2007
4. It is intended that a by-law to adopt the Annual Operating and Capital Budget for 2007 will be enacted by Council at their meeting to be held on Monday, May 14, 2007.
5. **MAYOR LARRY O'CONNOR CALLED UPON THE TREASURER TO PROVIDE A SHORT PRESENTATION AS TO THE CONTENTS OF THE DRAFT ANNUAL OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET FOR 2007 TO THOSE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO ARE IN ATTENDANCE AT THE MEETING.**

Treasurer Michael Legge provided a power point presentation to summarize the current 2007 Municipal budget and to highlight some of the more significant projects which the

municipality plans to undertake this year. The following slides comprised the presentation:

- 2007 Draft Tax Levy
 - Tax levy Breakdown
 - Budgeted Operating Expenditures
 - Budgeted Operating Expenditures in graph form
 - Expenditure Category Explanations
 - Budgeted Capital Expenditures
 - Budgeted Capital Expenditures in graph form
 - Capital Expenditure Highlights
 - Budgeted Revenues
 - 2007 Budgeted Revenues in graph form
 - Municipal Dollar Impact to Residential Taxpayers
 - Municipal Dollar Impact to Farmland Properties
 - Overall Tax Levy in Brock in graph form
 - Overall Dollar Impact to Residential Taxpayers
 - Overall Dollar Impact to Farmland Properties
6. MAYOR LARRY O'CONNOR OPENED THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC TO RECEIVE INPUT, REQUESTING THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE INDIVIDUAL(S) SPEAKING.

Mr. George McGibbon, Beaverton, referenced the Township of Brock growth factor of 0.4% and enquired of the council whether they are happy with this growth factor and is there any plan to increase said growth factor? Mr. McGibbon advised that Lakeview Manor Staff have been using a portion of the Beaverton Fairgrounds as a parking lot. He enquired whether the municipality is being reimbursed by Durham Region for this use and who paid for the gravel that was required when the "parking area" became very muddy. Mayor O'Connor advised that these lands are being used under agreement with Durham Region during the Lakeview Manor rebuild and that Durham Region provided the gravel required in this instance.

Mr. McGibbon enquired whether Durham Region will be paying to restore Main Street East which has been damaged as the result of the heavy truck traffic during the Lakeview Manor rebuild and was advised by Mayor O'Connor that there will be a number of things to be reviewed as the result of the work at Lakeview Manor. Mr. McGibbon enquired whether cost overruns at Lakeview Manor will impact the municipality and was advised that these costs would be the responsibility of Durham Region who is currently in negotiation with the contractor due to the problems experienced after the move in.

Mr. McGibbon addressed the monies for ice time owed by the Cannington Figure Skating Club and asked whether it is the intent of the municipality to write off any or all of these funds. He was advised by Mayor O'Connor that the Club is currently under agreement with the municipality and is making regular payments and that it is not the intent of the municipality to waive any or all of the outstanding monies in this regard.

Mr. Neil Jamison, 86 Morrison Avenue, Beaverton, advised that his taxes have doubled in the past five years and that services are decreasing for the tax dollars paid. He noted the increasing number of properties that are for sale along the beach roads within the municipality as the result of the taxes being paid. Mr. Jamison referenced increases to certain departmental budgets specifically mentioning the Roads Department, parking lots, Beaverton-Thorah Health Centre, Canine Control and council, noting that total operating expenditures have increased 13%. He noted the work undertaken in the dentist's suite at the Beaverton-Thorah Health Centre, enquiring whether these costs would be recouped through the rent received. Mr. Jamison referenced increased costs pertaining to sand and salt, winter control, winter standby control and road maintenance, adding this is a municipality where the residents have to leave the area to find decent jobs.

Mr. Jamison enquired as to the increased caretaking costs at the Beaverton-Thorah Health Centre and with regard to the local community centres and the operating losses that are incurred annually. He suggested that if they cannot pay for themselves, that consideration be given to closing one or more of the arena facilities. He enquired how paving the parking lot at the Beaverton Arena can be a consideration, under the circumstances. Mr. Jamison voiced the same opinion when it comes to the three town hall facilities, advising that they should be closed if they cannot pay for themselves.

Ms. Denise Marsh, Box 366, Sunderland, voiced her support for the retention of the existing community centres and town halls as they are an integral part of the community and in order to make the arenas viable, she is suggesting that a management board be appointed by council, similar to the town hall management boards which have been appointed.

Ms. Marsh voiced concern with respect to the 0.4% growth rate within the municipality and the duplication of administrative staff in that she does not feel the municipality requires a Clerk-Administrator and a Deputy Clerk-Administrator, nor a Director of Public Works and Supervisor of Operations. She advised of the need for the municipality to obtain fair market rental rates when leasing properties, which she understands is not the case with the Sunderland Patrol Yard property.

Ms. Marsh advised she too has a concern with respect to the monies owed by the Cannington Figure Skating Club in that Treasury should have been more diligent in collecting receivables. It would be a slap to those user groups paying their ice rental, should these funds be waived.

Mr. Jim McCann, Cameron Street, Cannington, enquired as to the amount of outstanding back taxes currently owed the municipality, in that in 2006 there was approximately 1.6 millions dollars owed, and how much has since been collected? He was advised by the Treasurer that the amount outstanding for 2007 is similar to 2006 and that every attempt is made to work with the ratepayers to collect back taxes prior to the municipality taking action through the tax registration/sale process. Mr. McCann expressed concern that taxes paid are increasing to cover those who are not paying their taxes.

Mr. McCann enquired of staff how many quotations were received for the roof required at the Cannington Community Centre and was advised by the Clerk-Administrator that one quote has been received for budget purposes, however prior to the project commencing, a minimum of three quotes will be obtained and it is anticipated that the work will be completed for less than the amount budgeted.

Mr. McCann suggested that the arena facilities are not being rented out to their full extent and that more effort in this regard on the part of the Facilities Coordinator is required.

Mrs. M. Jamison, 86 Morrison Avenue, Beaverton, commented she can appreciate the arenas in each community, however it appears the time has come to make a decision as to the closure of one or even two facilities due to the operating and repair costs required. She advised the same holds true when it comes to each of the town hall facilities as well.

Mrs. Jamison commented on transportation costs, referencing the schedule for Durham Transit, and commenting that the operating hours are not accommodating to those who work. She referenced the operating schedule for the specialized transit service, noting it features door to door pickup, two weeks advance booking notice, and runs seven days a week from 7-12 a.m. She enquired as to the need for this service, asking who goes out at 7 a.m. to return at 12 a.m., and was advised by Mayor O'Connor that Brock's transportation costs are not impacted by the Region's transit costs, and that the advance booking notice is required to make maximum use of the vehicle.

Mrs. Jamison commented that there are volunteers within the municipality who could provide a similar service.

Mr. Clarence Baker, Cedarhurst Beach Road, Beaverton, noted that within the presentation there was no mention of work to be completed on Cedarhurst Beach Road, work which has been promised to the residents of this road for some time, to which Mayor O'Connor advised that the presentation did not contain the details of all the works proposed within the 2007 budget, and that some work in this area is proposed.

Mr. Ben Deith, Cannington, spoke on the importance of the arenas within the municipality as a source of recreation and as a social venue. He expressed his support to retain the three arenas, noting it would be a shame if the kids in the area had to travel to Lindsay in order to play hockey.

Mr. Vern Gostlin, Queen Street, Cannington, commented that council should have obtained quotes for the Cannington Arena roof prior to releasing the budget figure in order to get the best contracted price. He also questioned the \$10,000 to be spent on partitions in the Beaverton Arena washrooms, noting it seems rather expensive.

Ms. Heather Gillies, Concession 13, enquired of the committee how they plan to compensate for reduced property taxes due to decreased property values as the result of Durham Region's proposed action at the Brock landfill site and is there money within the 2007 municipal budget to maintain and repair Sideroad 17 and Concession 13 as the result of the large numbers of heavy trucks which will be hauling refuse to the landfill?

Mrs. Nancy Laundrie, Regional Road 15, Beaverton, advised that she is one of many residents who do not make use of the community centres and she has interests as do others, but does not expect everyone in the municipality to pay for her interests.

Mrs. Fran Fish, Concession 14, commented on the expense involved in operating the arenas within the municipality, advising further that the arena upper auditoriums would be used more if they were not so expensive to rent.

Mrs. Fish enquired as to the reason for the environmental services budget to have increased by 100% and was advised by the Treasurer that the increase involves the purchase of garbage receptacles for the main street in Sunderland.

Mrs. Fish asked why Brock pays more for garbage disposal than other area municipalities in Durham Region and was advised by Mayor O'Connor it is because of the recalculation of pickups and additional pickup areas such as the condominiums at Edengrove and the Wayside Apartments which adds to the cost of this service. Mrs. Fish commented it would be cheaper for her to just take her refuse to the landfill and have this cost deducted from her taxes. She enquired whether Brock receives any revenue from Durham in conjunction with the landfill and was advised by Mayor O'Connor that this could be a possibility, however it would be as the result of a situation that he is sure no resident in Brock would be agreeable to.

Mrs. Fish commented on high administrative costs within the municipality and enquired whether the municipality is aware of what Durham Region plans in the immediate future insofar as the landfill, to which Mayor O'Connor advised that the municipality is not aware of any further reports in this regard. She enquired as to the possibility of a transfer station vs. a landfill and why gravel expenditures have not been increased to maintain the municipal road system? Mayor O'Connor advised that monies have been included within the budget for gravel expenditures as well as for the purchase of a new grader. Grader staff are also receiving training insofar as a new method of grading our roads to achieve better drainage.

Mrs. Fish enquired who is responsible for enforcing half load season, noting that the trucks running in and out of Pefferlaw Peat are ignoring this requirement.

Mrs. Fish noted that the municipality could save gas by not sending Canine Control Staff out to sell dog tags.

Mr. Chris Shier, Concession 11, expressed the need for the rural roads to be graded, requesting further that the graders not be sent out just prior to it raining.

Mr. Joe Petrie, Sunderland, enquired of the committee what portion of the 2007 budget is comprised of one time expenditures that would result in tax reduction in future years, and has the municipality ever considered a partnership with large corporations, for example, the Tim Horton's Arena in Sunderland?

Mr. Larry Mathison of Edengrove Beach Condominiums, advised that he does not appreciate the comment made that waste management costs in Brock have increased as the result of Edengrove Beach residents receiving garbage collection, and was advised by Mayor O'Connor that the intent of the comment is that the pickups at Edengrove are a share of the increased cost.

Mr. Neil Jamison, 86 Morrison Avenue, Beaverton, commented on the large turn out at the meeting, and as a council, how do you feel about the tax increase in that the public is upset and feels you are in a position to do something about the tax increase and should listen and take action.

Mr. Jim McCann, Cameron Street, Cannington, commented he is not happy with a tax increase in that taxes increase and service lessens. He advised that council does not know its job and that council works for the public, the public does not work for the council.

Mr. Carle Parliament, Region Road 12, Cannington, advised he is a life long resident of the municipality who, one day last summer noticed municipal employees watering the plants on the main street when it was raining. He commented that the taxpayers cannot

afford three arenas, each with two paid employees and of the need to put the blades down on the graders when they are on the rural roads. Further he suggested that in lieu of driving the graders back to Beaverton each night that they be parked nearby, have fuel delivered the next morning and they would be ready to work much quicker, saving travel time, fuel and contributing to cleaner air.

Mr. Neil Jamison, 86 Morrison Avenue, Beaverton, enquired whether instead of purchasing new equipment, the municipality would consider good used equipment. Mayor O'Connor advised that this has been a consideration in the past, sometimes working to the benefit of the municipality and sometimes not. Mr. Jamison commented that buying used would be a benefit if the municipality has good maintenance practices. He further commented that \$10,000 for waste receptacles on River Street is an obscene expenditure.

Mr. Vern Gostlin, Queen Street, Cannington, advised that prior to the municipal council voting themselves a raise, the public needs to vote on the issue.

Mr. Bernie McGinty, 23 Cedar Beach Road, Beaverton, advised that his children and now his grandchildren make use of the Beaverton Arena, however if the money isn't there to maintain the facilities, they cannot afford to be kept. Rather than considering construction of a new twin pad arena, he suggested that a second pad be constructed at an existing arena and a junior hockey team obtained in order to draw the public to the arena. He advised that the numbers of youth playing hockey in Beaverton are declining due to high hockey costs, and he would like to see the arena remain, but only if it is viable. Mr. McGinty suggested closing the town halls as well unless they are viable.

Mr. McGinty commented that on one occasion he witnessed 17 regional employees at a water main break and when it was reported to Durham Region, all but 3 of the employees disappeared from the job. He commented this is an unnecessary waste of taxpayers money, and it is not what you know but who you know!

Mr. George McGibbon, Beaverton, expressed his appreciation to Mr. Scott Howard of the Brock Citizen for keeping the residents of Brock informed. Mr. McGibbon commented he was glad to hear Mayor O'Connor say that money in the municipal budget is dispersed township wide, not by ward. He further commented that the town hall facilities seem to be "protected" by the ward councillor in which they are located and of the need to look at the monies to operate these facilities closely with a view to close one, two or possibly three. He reiterated the need to close the town hall and arena facilities if the funding is not there to operate and maintain same.

Mr. Joe Petrie, Sunderland, enquired as to the life expectancy of the new vehicles proposed for purchase within the 2007 municipal budget and based on the dollars paid to Durham Region, has the municipality ever requested used equipment from Durham Region? Mayor O'Connor explained to those present that the municipality places funds in reserves for equipment replacement. Mr. Petrie advised that he has lived in Brock for over ten years and his concern is that if taxes continue to increase as they are, that within the next 10 years he will be unable to afford to live in Brock. Mayor O'Connor advised that increases in taxes are not favourable and he will continue to lobby the Provincial Government to continue with their fiscal review of services which have been downloaded to the lower tier municipalities.

Ms. Dale Dixon, Beaverton, enquired as to the services Brock residents receive from the regional levy paid and was advised road maintenance, seniors' services, EMS, child care, water and sewers, social housing and police. Ms. Dixon encouraged the committee to obtain the amount of regional levy paid as compared to the dollar amount of services received in the municipality.

7. MAYOR LARRY O'CONNOR INQUIRED OF THOSE PRESENT WHETHER THEY HAVE FURTHER INPUT TO PROVIDE.
8. There being no further input received, Mayor Larry O'Connor requested a motion to close the meeting.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution No. 1-8

MOVED BY Harold Lodwick that we do now adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

CHAIR

SECRETARY