

COUNTY OF BRANT COUNCIL MINUTES**SPECIAL MEETING RE: 2010 BUDGET**

Council Chambers
7 Broadway Street West, Paris
Thursday, February 18, 2010
7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Eddy, Councillors Wheat, Schmitt (8:00 p.m.), Simons, Powell, Atfield, Chambers, Hodge, Coleman and Gatward.

Regrets: Councillor Haggart

Staff: Glassford, Compeau, Johnston, Bell, Kozak-Selby, Boissoneault, Ballantyne, Atkinson, Henderson, Koekoek, Ayres, Mifflin, Gubbels, Staley and Carman

Mayor Eddy in the Chair.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by – Councillor Coleman
Seconded by – Councillor Hodge

That the agenda and addendum for this meeting be approved as circulated.

. Carried

DELEGATIONS**South Dumfries Historical Society**

David Judd outlined the various activities that members of the South Dumfries Historical Society have been involved in during 2009. He thanked Council for the use of the St. George Memorial Hall and for continuing their grant of \$1,500 for 2010.

Purchase of Sacred Heart School

Marilyn McCulloch, Secretary of the Paris Optimist Club, clarified the position of the Paris Optimists in regard to their proposed use of the former Sacred Heart School. They are very happy with their present venue at the Syl Apps site, and would only rent space at Sacred Heart should their facility at Syl Apps no longer be available. The Paris Optimists recommend that the County keep the Syl Apps Community Centre operational for the next five years to prove its worth.

Edith Stone expressed her concerns about the purchase of the former Sacred Heart School at a cost of a million dollars and annual operating costs of \$40,000 - 50,000, particularly since this facility is outside of the downtown Paris core area. She suggested that the Syl Apps Centre be used instead since it is accessible, there is ample parking and with modification it could meet the needs of many groups and activities, some of which would generate income and make the facility financially self-sufficient. Ms. Stone also noted that the residents attending the public meeting on the Lions Park pool made it very clear that the pool should be refurbished or a new one built at that location. She suggested that the S.C. Johnson Company has offered some financial assistance towards the pool costs. Ms. Stone questioned why the County still has Aquatics staff when there is no aquatics program, and suggested that the staff costs could be used towards repairs and re-opening of the pool.

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Don Glassford, C.A.O., responded that the Recreation Programming and Facilities staff is operating with one less person, and some of these duties have been reallocated to the Aquatics Co-ordinator. Most of the Aquatic salary costs were for part-time employees at the pool, and these costs have been eliminated in the Community Services Budget. He noted that although the people who attended the public meeting were in favour of a pool at Lions Parks, the people who responded to the survey had a different point of view. He noted that Council must consider all of these views when making a decision on the pool. Mr. Glassford also advised that the budget recommendations being proposed for this meeting include allocating funds to proceed with a structural report and feasibility study for the Syl Apps Community Centre.

Mary Parkhill, Past President of the Paris Lawn Bowling Club, advised that their club was not interested in relocating to the Sacred Heart location unless their current location is not able to be repaired. She suggested that it would cost approximately \$100,000 to locate greens at Sacred Heart and that parking at that location would be a problem. The Club is happy that their current facility will be repaired in time for their 2010 season. Ms. Parkhill suggested that if the club house were fixed up, it could be rented out more by the County to other organizations and could also be used for seniors' activities.

Don Glassford responded that the staff reports on the Sacred Heart site have indicated that there are a number of organizations who are looking for suitable space and that this site has the potential for a variety of uses, it being recognized that not all these uses can be accommodated on this site.

2010 OPERATING BUDGET

In response to questions, the C.A.O. noted that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board has advised that the former Sacred Heart School is to be disposed of by tender. County staff has estimated a cost of \$1 million in 2010 for the acquisition and renovations to this property, with this cost to be funded from Reserves. He suggested that if Council wished to discuss the purchase price for this property, it should be done during an In Camera session.

Moved by – Councillor Wheat
Seconded by – Councillor Chambers

That the 2010 Operating Budget having a gross expenditure of \$57,954,542 and requiring a tax levy of \$29,585,359 be approved.

. No Vote – Amendments Follows

The following information was provided to Councillors in response to questions on the 2010 Operating Budget:

- the increase in the C.A.O.'s budget is a result of an overlap of salaries and recruitment advertising costs
- it is proposed that the election costs for the 2014 municipal election will be prorated over the years 2011 – 2014
- the proposed sprinkler system for the St. George soccer park is consistent with the systems in place at the two soccer parks in Paris

- removal of the cost recovery amount for Councillors will increase the budget by \$28,900
- freezing the Council salaries at the 2009 rate would result in a savings of \$6,000
- reducing non-union salaries from the proposed 3% effective April 1 to 2% will result in a savings of approximately \$59,000 for salaries and benefits
- the 2010 Operating Budget, taking into account all of the changes approved to date, results in a 5.06% increase over the 2009 budget and a 3.27% increase in taxes

Moved by – Councillor Coleman
 Seconded by – Councillor Chambers

That the current practice of cost recovery for appointments to outside Boards and Committees be discontinued, resulting in an increase of \$28,900 to the 2010 Operating Budget.

	<u>Recorded Vote</u>	
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Councillor Simons		1
Councillor Haggart		Absent
Councillor Powell		1
Councillor Atfield		1
Councillor Chambers	1	
Councillor Hodge		1
Councillor Coleman	1	
Councillor Gatward	1	
Mayor Eddy		1
Councillor Wheat	1	
Councillor Schmitt		1
. Defeated	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>

Mayor Eddy then called for a vote on the original motion, as follows:

“That the 2010 Operating Budget having a gross expenditure of \$57,954,542 and requiring a tax levy of \$29,585,359 be approved.”

	<u>Recorded Vote</u>	
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Councillor Chambers	1	
Councillor Hodge	1	
Councillor Coleman	1	
Councillor Gatward		1
Mayor Eddy	1	
Councillor Wheat	1	
Councillor Schmitt	1	
Councillor Simons	1	
Councillor Haggart		Absent
Councillor Powell		1
Councillor Atfield	1	
. Carried	<u>8</u>	<u>2</u>

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2010 CAPITAL BUDGET

Sacred Heart School

Councillor Powell presented his position paper outlining the reasons why he doesn't support the purchase of Sacred Heart School, and suggesting that the County should work with the Paris Seniors to find them a more cost-effective alternative.

C.A.O. Don Glassford provided an explanation of proposed funding from the Property Reserve, Parkland Reserve and the Capital Reserve towards the purchase of the Sacred Heart property. In response to questions, he noted that it is not the intent to relocate the Recreation Department to Sacred Heart, but that this facility would be used for recreational programming. Mr. Glassford pointed out that the Recreation Master Plan identified a significant shortage of space for recreational programming, and in particular a gym, which is available at the Sacred Heart site. In response to suggestions that other school gyms in Paris be used for recreational programs, he explained some of the difficulties faced by staff, participants and parents with programs at school locations because these bookings can be bumped at any time in favour of school activities. He also noted the difficulty in renovating the Syl Apps Centre to address the needs for a gymnasium and other recreational needs, storage space, etc. Mr. Glassford pointed out that the County has a limited opportunity to purchase this property, noting that to build a new facility would cost significantly more than what is proposed for Sacred Heart. The renovations that are required to be done can be postponed to begin in 2011 and be done over a number of years.

Moved by – Councillor Wheat
Seconded by – Councillor Chambers

That the recommendation from the C.A.O. to acquire the former Sacred Heart School be approved and that the purchase be funded from the Property Reserve, Capital Reserve and Parkland Reserve.

. No Vote – Tabling Motion Follows

Moved by – Councillor Chambers
Seconded by – Councillor Coleman

That the resolution regarding Sacred Heart School be tabled until after an In Camera Session to discuss the proposed acquisition of this property.

. Carried

Moved by – Councillor Gatward
Seconded by – Councillor Wheat

That the Council of the County of Brant go in camera to discuss a proposed property acquisition.

. Carried

In Camera at 8:50 p.m.

This portion of the meeting is recorded in the In Camera – Confidential minutes of Brant County Council dated February 18, 2010.

Open Session at 9:15 p.m., on motion of Councillors Schmitt and Wheat.

Councillor Coleman left the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Moved by – Councillor Schmitt
 Seconded by – Councillor Wheat

That the recommendation from the C.A.O. to acquire the former Sacred Heart School be approved in principle and that the purchase be funded from the Property Reserve, Capital Reserve and Parkland Reserve;

And further that staff be directed to obtain an appraisal of the property and that a report be brought back to Council prior to consideration of the tender bid being submitted to the School Board.

	<u>Recorded Vote</u>	
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Councillor Simons		1
Councillor Haggart		Absent
Councillor Powell		1
Councillor Atfield	1	
Councillor Chambers	1	
Councillor Hodge		1
Councillor Coleman		Absent
Councillor Gatward		1
Mayor Eddy	1	
Councillor Wheat	1	
Councillor Schmitt	<u>1</u>	
. Carried	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>

Paris Outdoor Pool

In response to questions, Mr. Glassford advised that staff has reviewed the timelines to carry out repairs to the Paris Pool at Lions Park during 2010. Due to the estimated costs and complexity of this project, it will be necessary to issue a RFP for Engineering Services, have the specifications drawn up, go to tender and award the job before the repair work can begin. It may be possible to complete the repair work during 2010, but the pool would not be operational during the summer months.

Moved by – Councillor Atfield
 Seconded by – Councillor Hodge

That the recommendation from the C.A.O. to postpone the rehabilitation of the Paris Community Pool at Lions Park until 2011 be approved.

	<u>Recorded Vote</u>	
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Councillor Simons		1
Councillor Haggart		Absent
Councillor Powell		1
Councillor Atfield	1	
Councillor Chambers	1	

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	<u>Recorded Vote</u>	
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Councillor Hodge	1	
Councillor Coleman		Absent
Councillor Gatward		1
Mayor Eddy		1
Councillor Wheat	1	
Councillor Schmitt		1
. Defeated	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>

Councillor Simons stressed that it should be priority for the County to move forward with the Paris Pool project as quickly as possible so that it would be ready for use in the summer of 2010. Concerns were expressed by other Councillors that it was impossible to complete this project by the summer of 2010, and that it would be increasing the municipality's debt load at a time when the Council should be reducing debt.

In response to questions, Mr. Glassford pointed out that three options for the pool, as a result of the consultant's report (repairs, replacement or construction of an indoor pool), had been referred by Council to the 2010 budget process for discussion. The funding options for the estimated \$600,000 cost to repair the pool, which does not include any accessibility or building improvements, include increasing the tax levy, debt financing or using reserves to offset the cost. In response to a suggestion to use a design/build process to speed up the process, Mr. Glassford noted that County staff does not have the expertise to be able to review the proposals to ensure a quality product.

The C.A.O. noted that one of the options for Council to consider would be to proceed with the RFP process for an Engineer to prepare the specifications and tender documents in 2010, so that the tender can be let in 2011 and work completed prior to the 2011 summer season. The estimated cost of this option would be approximately \$50,000, which could be funded from the Capital Budget by reallocating funds from the Community Halls renovations budget.

Moved by – Councillor Simons
Seconded by – Councillor Atfield

That Council proceed immediately with the repairs to the Paris Community Pool at an estimated cost of \$600,000, to be funded from the Capital Reserve Account.

	<u>Recorded Vote</u>	
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Councillor Chambers		1
Councillor Hodge		1
Councillor Coleman		Absent
Councillor Gatward	1	
Mayor Eddy	1	
Councillor Wheat		1
Councillor Schmitt		1
Councillor Simons	1	
Councillor Haggart		Absent
Councillor Powell	1	
Councillor Atfield		1
. Defeated	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>

Syl Apps Community Centre

Councillor Powell presented a brief overview of his position paper on the future uses of the Syl Apps Community Centre, noting that he had contacted a number of parents who were interested in enrolling their children in indoor soccer. He presented information on his vision for a Brant County soccer team and two different options for a moveable turf surface.

In response to questions, the C.A.O. advised that the structural report would look at the current basic structure of the building, including the roof, based on its current use. Once the feasibility study is completed, Council will need to review the costs to renovate the building to accommodate the activities identified in the study.

Moved by – Councillor Wheat
 Seconded by – Councillor Schmitt

That the recommendation from the C.A.O. to have a structural building condition report completed for the Syl Apps Community Centre in 2010 in the amount of \$4,000, to be funded from the capital levy, be approved;

And further that based on the results of the structural report, that a feasibility report that will examine a variety of uses for the Syl Apps Community Centre, to be completed at a cost of \$36,000 to be funded from the capital levy, be approved.

	<u>Recorded Vote</u>	
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Councillor Wheat	1	
Councillor Schmitt	1	
Councillor Simons	1	
Councillor Haggart		Absent
Councillor Powell	1	
Councillor Atfield	1	
Councillor Chambers	1	
Councillor Hodge	1	
Councillor Coleman		Absent
Councillor Gatward	1	
Mayor Eddy	<u>1</u>	
. Carried	<u>9</u>	<u>0</u>

2010 CAPITAL BUDGET

Moved by – Councillor Chambers
 Seconded by – Councillor Hodge

That the 2010 Capital budget, having a gross expenditure of \$16,815,140 and requiring a tax levy of \$5,607,749 be approved.

. Carried

There was consensus that staff would prepare the necessary by-laws to implement the budget decisions made at this meeting for Council's consideration.

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NEXT MEETING

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 p.m. to meet again on **Tuesday, March 2, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Council Chambers.

Mayor

Date Minutes Approved

Clerk