Public Works Committee
MINUTES 08-002(a)
10:00 a.m.
Thursday, February 7, 2008
Hamilton Convention Centre
One Summer’s Lane
Chedoke Room C

Present:
Chair R. Powers
Vice Chair C. Collins
Councillors B. Bratina, L. Ferguson, T. Jackson, S. Merulla,
M. McCarthy, D. Mitchell

Also Present:
Mayor F. Eisenberger
Councillor T. Whitehead
S. Stewart – General Manager, Public Works
B. Shynal – General Manager, Public Works
G. Davis – Sr. Director, Capital Planning and Implementation
B. Goodger – Director, Waste Management
J. Mater – Director, Fleet and Facilities
D. Hull – Director, Transit
G. Moore – Director, Engineering Services
J. Rinaldo – General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services
C. Ippolito – Manager, Business and Administration
C. Biggs – Legislative Assistant, City Clerk’s

Prior to dealing with the business on the agenda, Councillor Powers and the members of the Public Works Committee acknowledged Bill Weaver, Acting Manager of Roads, for his efforts to keep the City roads plowed during the snow storms to date, and commended all of the crews for their long hours of work to maintain safe roads in the City.

1. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

The Clerk advised that Report PW08018, Item 5.3 on the agenda shown as “to be distributed”, will be a verbal report provided by the General Manager of Public Works.

(Collins/Merulla)
That the agenda be approved, as amended. CARRIED

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
The Chair requested if there were any declarations of interest, of which there were none.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of January 17, 2008 Budget Meeting

(Collins/Merulla)
That the Minutes of the January 17, 2008 Budget Meeting of the Public Works Committee be approved, as presented. CARRIED

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Response to Questions from January 17, 2008 Budget Meeting (No Copy)

Scott Stewart gave a power point presentation in response to some of the issues and concerns expressed at the previous meeting, and to present possibilities for new reduction opportunities for the Committee's consideration. He also indicated that where possible, e-mail responses would be provided to issues on the task list.

The presentation included the following:

➢ Review of Key Budget Drivers
  
  o Street Tree Trimming Program
    ▪ Budget Pressure
    ▪ Budget Implementation Schedule

  o Winter Control Program Budget Enhancement – Phase 3
    ▪ Overview
    ▪ Program Budget – Fixed and Variable Costs
    ▪ Program Budget – Phase In
    ▪ Budget History
    ▪ O&M Winter control Reserve Analysis
    ▪ Budget Forecast

  o Highway No. 6 South
    ▪ Overview
    ▪ 2008 Budget

  o Red Hill Valley Parkway
Overview

Program Budget Pressure

Parks Activity – Detail

Roads Activity – Detail

♦ Budget Reduction Opportunities
  o O&M Budget Items
  o HHW Depot at Hotz
  o Energy Utility Account
  o Consulting Budget Review
  o Winter Control Program – Budget funding Alternative

Councillor Mitchell requested an update on local/rural multi-tasking. Staff advised that information on this issue will be provided directly to the Councillor.

Joe Rinaldo advised the Committee that a report detailing consultant costs for the all City Departments will be submitted to the Committee of the Whole.

The Committee was advised that the slide listing “Opportunities for Reduction – Public Works Programs” contained a typographical error, and that the $391,500 for O&M Reductions should read $391,000; therefore, the dollar amount of the 2008 net operating levy for Public Works reflects this change.

Councillor Ferguson expressed concern with respect to cost of maintenance of Highway 6 vs Red Hill Valley Parkway.

Councillor Collins commented that drawing from the Reserves to fund a shortfall is not sustainable; Joe Rinaldo indicated that he would meet with staff from Public Works to review the costs of winter control maintenance and specifically, the amount of Reserve funding.

Mayor Eisenberger expressed his appreciation to staff to bring reductions forward; however, there is still a need to bring back further reductions to reduce the budget impact to 3%.

With respect to Item 5.3, Operations and Maintenance Division – Operating Budget Impacts from Infrastructure Growth – 2008 Program Enhancement Request (Unaffordable), Scott Stewart outlined this matter within the presentation.

(Collins/Jackson)
That the presentation be received. CARRIED
Following the presentation, Chair Powers requested that the Committee review the 2008 Budget Task List, in light of the information presented, and amend the list accordingly.

As a result, the following items were removed from the Task List:

B $1.3m for Phases 3 and 4 of Winter Control Program
C $2.6m for Red Hill Valley parkway
D Highway 6 South
E Reserve Funding
V Blue Box Program (response provided by e-mail)

The following items from the Task List require additional information to the Committee:

A FTE’s – disposition of staff from the Red Hill Project Office to be addressed in overall report
F Program Enhancements
G Spending on Infrastructure
I Closure of Mount Albion Road
J General Administration (Report to be forwarded to Budget Steering Committee)
K CPI – Savings through staff vacancies (Staff to provide departmental response by e-mail)
L Energy, Fleet and Facilities – Staff Vacancies (Staff to provide departmental response by e-mail)
M Energy, Fleet and Facilities – Consultant Costs (Corporate Services will be providing a report on consultant costs for all Departments which will address this issue)
N Fleet Overtime (Corporate Services will be providing a report on overtime for all Departments which will address this issue)
O Operations and Maintenance – Gage Park (Staff to obtain clarification from Ward Councillor)
P Communications i.e., posters, newsletters (Staff to provide response by e-mail)
Q Clothing/City Apparel (Staff to provide departmental response by e-mail)
R Student Employment – gross amount for student employment on an annual basis and what greater need is in terms of finding cost savings/reductions; synopsis of cost; look at utilizing students more to save; all inclusive corporate view
S Staff Vacancies (Staff to provide departmental response by e-mail)
T Reserves/Recoveries
U Staff Overtime (Corporate Services will be providing a report on overtime for all Departments which will address this issue)
W Cracked Sealant (to be forwarded to Public Works Committee)
The Committee recessed at 12:10 p.m. and reconvened at 12:35 p.m.

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 Collection of Recyclable Materials in Parks – Pilot Project (PW08017) (City Wide)

(McCarthy/Jackson)
That sub-section (a) of the recommendation approved by the Public Works Committee on January 17, 2008 respecting “Recycling Collection in Parks” (Appendix 3 of Unaffordable/Council Referred/Other Program Enhancements), be reconsidered.

(CARRIED)

(McCarthy/Collins)
That sub-section (a) of the recommendation approved by the Public Works Committee on January 17, 2008 respecting “Recycling Collection in Parks” (Appendix 3 of Unaffordable/Council Referred/Other Program Enhancements) be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following in lieu thereof:

(a) That the former Pilot project providing collection of Recyclable Materials be implemented as an ongoing seasonal program within the 28 parks as noted within Report PW08017 through the provision of $47,773 in annual operating funding and .99 FTE (equivalent to 3 Students), supporting collection service three times weekly from April 1st to Labour Day.

(CARRIED)

5.2 Budget Reduction Opportunity – Household Hazardous Waste Depot located at Hotz Environmental Services (PW08020) (City Wide)

(McCarthy/Jackson)
(a) That the Household Hazardous Waste Depot located at 239 Lottridge Street and operated by Hotz Environmental Services Inc. be phased-out and residents be directed to the newly opened Kenora Community Recycling Centre (KCRC) for the same services;

(b) That the budget savings of $150,000 from the transfer of services from 239 Lottridge Street to the Kenora Community Recycling Centre be removed from the 2008 Waste Management Operating Budget.

(CARRIED)
5.3 Operations and Maintenance Division – Operating Budget Impacts from Infrastructure Growth – 2008 Program Enhancement Request (Unaffordable) (PW08018) (City Wide)

No Report.

Opportunities for Reduction – Public Works Program

(Collins/Mitchell)
(a) That a reduction of $391,000 in the Operations and Maintenance budget be approved;

(b) That staff report back in the 3rd quarter of 2008 with implications, if any, to the storm water management ponds ($40,000) and outlet control ($30,000), as a result of the respective budget reductions. CARRIED

(Ferguson/Collins)
That an adjustment in the amount of $170,000 from the Energy Utility Account be approved. CARRIED

(Collins/Jackson)
That a reduction in the amount of $41,575 for Consulting Services (GM's Office), be approved. CARRIED

(McCarthy/Mitchell)
That $2,000,000 be used from the Winter Control Reserve as a one-time revenue source. CARRIED

The motion CARRIED on the following vote:

Yees: Powers, Bratina, Jackson, McCarthy, Merulla, Mitchell
Total Yeas: 5
Nays: Collins
Total Nays: 1
Absent: Ferguson

Ground Litter Control in the Downtown Core – Program Enhancement (Unaffordable)

Councillor Bratina advised that this issue will be discussed at the next meeting of the Cleanliness and Security in the Downtown Task Force, and will bring their recommendations forward.
5.4 2008 Tax Supported Operating Budget – Public Works (FCS08004(d))
(From January 17, 2008 Public Works Budget Agenda)

(McCarthy/Mitchell)
That the 2008 net operating levy for Public Works, inclusive of approved program enhancements, be approved at $162,059,025.  CARRIED

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Councillor R. Powers
Chair
Public Works Committee

Carolyn Biggs
Legislative Assistant
February 7, 2008