

CITY COUNCIL #26-96

PRESENT: A special meeting of Council was held with the following members present: His Worship, Mayor Ron Martelle, Aldermen Dick Aubry, Naresh Bhargava, Denis Carr, Susan Carter, Chuck Charlebois, Brian Lynch, Claude Poirier, Chris Savard and Brian Sylvester.

Alderman Dean Hollingsworth arrived at the meeting at 7 p.m.

A Special Public Meeting was held for the purpose of providing a constructive venue whereby the citizens were given an opportunity to offer City Council valued input in the budget process.

Mayor Martelle established the format for the evening by indicating that each Board or Commission that had responded to the public advertisement would be allowed fifteen minutes to make a presentation and that City Council would listen and no questions or debate would take place.

CORNWALL AND SEAWAY VALLEY TOURISM

Mr. Brian Mulligan, President and Dawn Murray, Executive Director, reviewed the planned activities, marketing and promotional plans of their organization. They requested Council's continuing support for a fee for service of \$185,000 in 1997 plus an additional fee of \$6,000 which will be dedicated to continued development of their group tour market.

LACAC

Mr. Ian Bowering, Chair, explained an eight part action plan that would allow his Committee to preserve and promote the City's rich heritage. His Committee is requesting \$8,100 for the year 1997 which represents 10% reduction over 1996.

S. D. & G. HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mr. Bob Gregory, President, indicated that the Society would like to continue its management arrangement with City Council to operate both Inverarden Regency Cottage Museum and the United Counties Museum. The Society is requesting \$76,000, a 5% reduction over 1996 plus \$5,000 to be transferred by the City for snow and ground work at Inverarden. It is also interested in returning to a direct contractual transfer payment as existed in the past.

RAISIN REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Mr. Jacques Legault gave a short history of the purpose of the Authority, Provincial legislation and its impact on the Authority during 1996. He also indicated that the Authority agreed to use 1996 to review the programs, services and land holdings it has with a view to ensuring the long term viability of the organization.

He concluded the presentation by indicating that the Authority had just started 1997 its budget deliberations and nothing had been finalized.

CORNWALL PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mr. Stephen Renner, Chairman, indicated that the new site for the Library, a \$6 million dollar project is almost ready. With Federal-Provincial grants, this project is a bargain for our Community but it is no bargain if we do not have lots of people coming to use the facility.

While it is not a good time to ask for a 8.5% budget increase, it is required to cover the increased cost of operation as well as to finalize the sick leave payment. The funding request for 1997 is \$1,315,522 an increase of \$103,775 over 1996.

CORNWALL REGIONAL AIRPORT

Mr. Yvan Gravel, Chairman, indicated that because of Provincial cutbacks, his Commission is seeking a 7.5% increase in the City's share. This would increase the City's contribution from \$40,700 to \$53,843.

CORNWALL REGIONAL ART GALLERY

Mr. Robert Hubsher, President, stated that the Gallery's total revenue in 1997 is estimated at \$98,250 compared to \$89,460 in 1996. The City of Cornwall's funding in 1996 was \$42,300 and in 1997 it is estimated at \$44,650 which represents a 45% City participation of the total revenue compared to a 47% participation in 1996. Similar to the Historical Society, his group would also like to deal directly with City Council for its funding. The Gallery is also looking for a new facility and if the facility is not a rented facility, some subsidies may be available.

ST. LAWRENCE REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN

Ms Elaine Kennedy, Chairperson of the Public Advisory Committee, detailed the history of the Committee. She urged Council to remain a partner in the Fly Creek Storm Water Pond Retrofit Project. This will greatly reduce the contaminants now carried by the overflow which eventually reaches the St. Lawrence River. She further listed projects where the City should continue its efforts to remediate our portion of the St. Lawrence River.

MANUEL JACOB

Mr. Jacob, citizen, spoke on a necessity in Cornwall, public transit. He suggested that there are three basic necessities in life: food, shelter and transportation. He highlighted several areas of concerns where the Transit Department may enjoy substantial operating budget savings. He indicated that he is looking forward to Council addressing his concerns during the upcoming budget deliberations.

Mayor Martelle asked if there was anyone present, who had not requested to address Council, wishing to speak to Council. Hearing none, on behalf of City Council, he thanked those people who participated in the public meeting and City staff for attending.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.


C.A.O./City Clerk


Mayor