



## SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING # 02-2003

BUDGET SESSION # 02

Tuesday, January 21, 2003  
Meeting began at 6:00 p.m.

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**PRESENT:** A special Budget meeting was held this evening with the following members present: Mayor Brian Sylvester, Councillors Susan Carter (arrived at 6:30 p.m.), Donald Deebank, Syd Gardiner, Dean Hollingsworth, Corey Kennedy, Perry Lalonde, Claude Poirier and Naresh Bhargava

**REGRETS:** Councillors André Rivette and Denis Carr

**ADMINISTRATION:** Cecil Vincent, Chief Administrative Officer, Denise Labelle-Gélinas, City Clerk, and the following Management Personnel: Graham Dart, Susan Cain, Debora Daigle, Roger Desjardins, Victor Leroux, David Dick, David Fielding, Morris MacCormick, Fernand Hamelin, Conrad Miller, Frances Lafave (arrived at 8:30 p.m.) Tracy Poirier, Paul Scrimshaw and Anita Roach

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**CHAIR:** Mayor Brian Sylvester called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Sylvester reconfirmed for Council's benefit, the conduct of proceedings that would be followed through all Budget deliberations. He indicated that he would entertain three questions from any Councillor who wished to speak and move on to the next Councillor. Additional questions from any member of the council who has already spoken will be entertained after all members of the council have had an opportunity to speak.

Motions will be entertained to add or delete from the budget at any time, and as past practice, Council may revisit any motion voted on. Should a report be requested from the Administration, a motion requesting the matter will be entertained by the Chair.

### PRESENTATION BY OUTSIDE AGENCIES

#### 1. Cornwall Police Service Board

The Cornwall Police Service Board was represented by Chief Tony Repa, Acting Deputy Chief Danny Aikman, Chief Financial Analyst, Rolly Lefebvre, Staff Sergeant Luc Brunet and Executive Assistant, Diane Guibault.

Chief Repa provided his 2003 Budget presentation with an overview of their Operating and Capital needs. The 2003 operating and capital budget requirements has an increase of \$518,000.00 over the 2002 requirements. Budget figures for 2002 were set at \$9,491,000 and 2003 are requested at \$10,009,000. A breakdown was provided as follows:

Reclassifications	increase of	\$200,000.
Salaries	increase of	\$ 63,000.
Corporate costs	increase of	\$145,000.

Insurance premium	increase of	\$ 66,000.
Purchase of goods	increase of	\$34,000
Services and Rents	increase of	\$29,000

Chief Repa indicated that the Board had requested that they review their expenses in order to determine whether reductions could be made to offset increases that might arise as a result of upcoming salary negotiations and that they were successful in finding a reduction of approximately \$31,000 with the elimination of one car from their fleet.

A special presentation was made through the introduction of "Bosco" their K-9 unit dog.

Mayor Brian Sylvester raised from the Chair and called upon Acting Mayor Don Deebank to resume the meeting. (7:00 p.m.)

## **2. Eastern Ontario Board of Health**

Dr. Robert Bourdeau, Chief Medical Officer of the Eastern Ontario Board of Health provided a brief overview of their 2003 budget requirements. Their 2003 requirements are requested at \$8,150,911 for an increase of \$546,221 over the 2002 budget. The majority of costs are as a result of increases in salaries in the amount of \$268,878. And "west Nile virus" in the amount of \$162,000.

The municipal percentage breakdown was indicated at Cornwall 24.90%, Counties of S.D. & G. at 34.13% and Prescott-Russell at 40.97%

At 7:30 p.m., Mayor Brian Sylvester resumed the Chair.

## **3. Cornwall Public Library**

Mr. Alex McDougall, and Mr. Bill Manson, Chief Librarian, sat before council this evening to present the Cornwall Public Library's 2003 budget. Mr. McDougall indicated that the Board were presenting a budget that, due to its major impacts to the community, did not recommend nor support. The present budget is submitted with an overall requirement of \$1,261,099. It was pointed out that should the Board's budget be implemented by the council, it would have a tremendous negative impact both on the library and the community. In following Council's request of a 4% reduction from their 2002 requirements, would reduce their present budget by \$52,545, coupled with a 2.4% increase of \$31,862 that is needed to provide the same level of service the library community enjoyed in 2002 and would result with an end shortfall of \$84,408.00.

Mr. McDougall implied, that in order to meet the Council's requirements, there would have to be staff layoffs, as well as a drastic reduction in the hours of operation. Staff complement would be reduced from 24 to 20. Hours of operation would be reduced from seven days per week to five days per week, which in turn means fewer programs for children, loss of study venue and access to valuable resources for the students in the community, loss of internet availability, community's access to research material and reference service and decreased outreach programs. In conclusion to his presentation, Mr. McDougall emphasized that the No. 1 strategy in the City's Economic Development strategic plan is "People First" and that the Library could play a key role in "improving the school to work transition, including literacy remediation, human resources development, adult workforce and finally the support and promotion in community pride.

Insurance premium	increase of	\$ 66,000.
Purchase of goods	increase of	\$34,000
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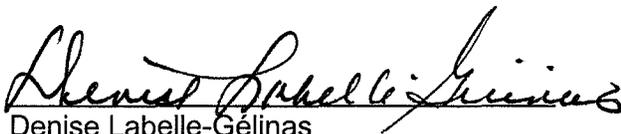
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Relative Tax Increases between the year 1999 and 2002 have not risen to a level where they met the basic cost of living nor the increase of doing business. Furthermore, the revenues and expenditures have not been equalized when providing the downloaded services of Social Services, Social Housing, Land Ambulance and the Eastern Ontario Health Unit .

The increase in costs of protective services relative to supplementary taxes have indicated a net increase of \$4,267 million compared to supplementary taxes at a total amount of \$2,597 million. In providing a breakdown and analysis within the protective services branch would be the Fire Services that have seen increases in salaries over the 1999 base year from \$244,000 to \$1,047 in 2003; Land ambulance have seen an increase of minus \$31,000 in 1999 to \$1,022 million in 2003; Police Services have experienced an increase over base year 1999 of \$235,000 to \$2,198 million in 2003.

In closing his presentation, Mr. Dick reviewed the City's position relative to the progress fund and its commitment to contributions to capital improvements of existing recreation and cultural facilities that qualify under the progress fund criteria such as the pool and St. Lawrence River Institute of Environmental Sciences.

Adjournment: 10:00 p.m.



Denise Labelle-Gélinas  
City Clerk



Brian Sylvester  
Mayor