

**Present:** Mayor Mitchell  
Councillor Coe  
Councillor Drumm (arrived at 6:05 p.m.)  
Councillor Emm  
Councillor Gleed  
Councillor Leahy (arrived at 6:19 p.m.)  
Councillor Roy  
Councillor Yamada

**Also Present:** R. Petrie, Chief Administrative Officer  
P. LeBel, Commissioner of Community & Marketing Services  
K. Nix, Commissioner of Corporate Services/Treasurer  
S. Pohjola, Town Solicitor  
B. Rice, Director of Operational Services  
R. Short, Commissioner of Planning  
D. Speed, Fire Chief  
D. Wilcox, Town Clerk  
S. Cassel, Deputy Clerk

**Regrets:** None noted

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1. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

**1.1** Councillor Drumm made a declaration of pecuniary interest under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act pertaining to matters relating to the Whitby Public Library as he has a family member who is employed by the Whitby Public Library. Councillor Drumm did not participate in the discussion on these matters.

**1.2** Councillor Emm made a declaration of pecuniary interest under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act pertaining to matters relating to Whitby Hydro, as he has family member who sits on the Whitby Hydro Board. Councillor Emm did not participate in the discussion on these matters.

2. Presentations

**2.1** Presentation by the Chief Administrative Officer and the Commissioner

of Corporate Services/Treasurer providing Corporate Financial background information.

R. Petrie, Chief Administrative Officer, advised Members of Council that the purpose of the presentation was to provide a detailed overview of the 2015 budget process. He indicated that the intent of the meeting was for education and training purposes. Council was provided with a copy of the PowerPoint presentation.

K. Nix, Commissioner of Corporate Services/Treasurer appeared before Council to provide a PowerPoint presentation on the Proposed 2015 Budget.

Key highlights of the presentation included:

- The budget strives to address community needs, provide competitive taxes and living within our means;
- Comparison of Whitby to neighbouring municipalities with respect to providing competitive taxes;
- Breakdown and distribution of taxes collected with 32% of taxes going to the Town, 53% to the Region and 15% to Education;
- None of the current debt is funded from our existing tax base;
- At the end of 2014, the total actual debt is \$7.2M which is internal debt;
- \$5.1M of the debt is related to the Downtown Whitby Library and \$2.1M is related to the Soccer Dome and Marina improvements;
- Debt for the Soccer Dome and Marina will be repaid through user fees;
- The Town remains in a healthy financial position and this position can only be maintained if the Town continues to finance ongoing expenses with ongoing revenues and use of reserves is limited to one-time projects;
- Whitby continues to grow and it is anticipated that the population will increase 48% over the next 16 years;
- Challenges for 2015 include maintaining existing services, new initiatives and legislative requirements;
- Although the economy is recovering from previous economic challenges, global uncertainties and record levels of household debt are all factors that need to be considered;
- The budget strategy for 2015 is to maintain core services, take care of assets and plan for growth;
- Current budget of \$108M focuses on funding for day to day costs of delivering programs and services;
- Capital budget of \$25M focuses on developing and maintaining important infrastructure, major projects and providing for growth;
- Consumer Price Index (CPI) is forecasted to be 2.0% for 2015;

- Municipalities have a higher Municipal Price Index (MPI) due to their reliance on labour and energy costs;
- Budget impacts include prior year decisions of \$619K, deferred \$400K of the reduced Whitby Hydro revenues to 2015, new staff positions in 2014, deferred AVL costs of \$44K to 2015 using the insurance reserve fund and growth related pressures of \$115K;
- Operating budget reductions totalling \$301K, user fee increases and other revenue adjustments totalling \$283K;
- Revenues from building permit fees have been affected by the poor economy and due to ROPA 128 it is anticipated they will be low again in 2015;
- Any future growth related long term debt will be repaid entirely from Development Charges and Assessment Growth resulting in no tax impact from the Capital Budget;
- Breakdown of what taxpayers receive for their taxes;
- The overall tax impact is estimated at 1.6%.

Future budget meeting dates are set for:

- Monday, January 26, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. - Budget Target Meeting
- Thursday, February 12, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. - Overview and Public Input
- Thursday, February 26, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. - Deputations and Deliberations to Set the Budget

A detailed question and answer period ensued with respect to the 2015 Operating and Capital Budget.

In summary, the Chief Administrative Officer stated that the next presentation would be scaled down for the public so that the information could be easily understood.

### 3. Adjournment

#### 3.1 Motion to Adjourn

#### **Resolution # 55-15**

Moved By Councillor Leahy  
Seconded By Councillor Emm

That the meeting be adjourned.

**Carried**

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

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Debi A. Wilcox, Town Clerk

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Don Mitchell, Mayor