

Present: Mayor Mitchell
Councillor Drumm
Councillor Emm
Councillor Gleed
Councillor Leahy
Councillor Mulcahy
Councillor Roy
Councillor Yamada

Also Present: S. Beale, Commissioner of Public Works
P. LeBel, Commissioner of Community & Marketing Services
W. Mar, Commissioner of Legal and By-law Services/Town Solicitor
K. Nix, Commissioner of Corporate Services/Treasurer
R. Short, Commissioner of Planning
M. Perini, Deputy Fire Chief
C. Harris, Town Clerk
S. Cassel, Deputy Clerk

Regrets: None noted

1. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

- 1.1 Councillor Drumm made a declaration of pecuniary interest under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act regarding Item 4.3, Recommended 2017 Operating and Capital Budgets, with respect to matters relating to the Whitby Public Library and Iroquois Park Sports Centre as he has family members who are employed at these facilities. Councillor Drumm did not participate in the discussion or vote on these matters.

Resolution # 217-17

Moved By Councillor Emm
Seconded By Councillor Yamada

That council resolve itself into Committee of the Whole with Councillor Leahy, Chair of Finance, in the Chair.

Carried

2. Presentations

2.1 Opening remarks by Councillor Leahy, Chair of Finance

Councillor Leahy, Chair of Finance, provided opening remarks regarding the 2017 Budget acknowledging the public for their input into the process and Town Staff for their efforts.

3. Delegations

3.1 Kevin Clark

Re: Corporate Services Department Report, CS 43-17
Recommended 2017 Operating and Capital Budgets

Kevin Clark, 173 Melissa Crescent, appeared before Council and raised concerns regarding the budget target rate, commenting that it was higher than inflation and that wages were not increasing accordingly. Mr. Clark stated that he had gone through the budget documents and focused on the fire budget and associated impacts and increased costs to accommodate fire responses to the areas around Highways 412 and 407. He commented that although the number of incidents were not specified, the proposed increases in services did not seem justified. He inquired whether these expenses could be delayed until such time as the Highway is completely built out. Mr. Clark further inquired about the budget impacts related to staffing costs, specifically the increase of part-time staff converting to full-time.

A question and answer period ensued between Members of Council and Staff and clarification was provided to Mr. Clark regarding:

- the need for increased fire services to avoid having to rely on neighbouring municipalities to assist with fire calls;
- the impact to fire services and time spent in travel to access and return from areas along Highways 407 and 412;
- the need for a firehall to serve the projected growth in Whitby as well as the need for training facilities to expand on training programs for firefighters; and,
- the staffing costs in the budget being a translation of hours worked by part-time staff in relation to full-time equivalents rather than the conversion of part-time to full-time staff.

4. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of the 2017 Operating and Capital Budgets

4.1 Corporate Services Department Report, CS 43-17
Re: Recommended 2017 Operating and Capital Budget

Having previously declared a conflict of interest, Councillor Drumm did not take part in the discussion or vote on matters pertaining to the Whitby Public Library or Iroquois Park Sports Centre.

A detailed question and answer period ensued between Members of Council and Staff regarding:

- identified efficiencies found within each department, including the Whitby Public Library, and how such efficiencies will be carried forward into future years;
- Whitby Hydro revenues and the future impacts associated with the Ontario Energy Board's review of hydro rates;
- upcoming pressures and the needed increases to meet the demands of growth in the community;
- the ability to review policies pertaining to procurement of goods as it relates to inflation of the original cost estimation when there is a significant time delay in the purchase;
- projected debt, long term debentures and estimated interest rates;
- estimated timelines for land servicing needs in West Whitby;
- existing inventory and the possibility of purchasing equipment early to benefit from low interest rates; and,
- the need to balance out communities along the Highway 407 and 412 corridors with a mix of residential and employment opportunities.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- opportunities to provide further tax relief for residents through reducing contributions to one-time reserves and the associated impacts;
- the need to conduct an analysis of the policies pertaining to contributions to reserves to determine if they are being properly capitalized;
- the original targets proposed by Staff and the significantly reduced targets being presented in the budget;
- challenging departments to continue to find efficiencies and understand pressures for taxpayers;
- the dangers of using future reserve funds to cover immediate costs and the associated implications;
- the need to strike a balance with contributions to reserves to provide opportunities to relieve some of the burden from taxpayers; and,
- the impacts of the pressures carried over into the 2017 budget

from the 2016 budget approvals for Fire.

Moved By Councillor Emm

1. That report CS 43-17 from the Commissioner of Corporate Services/Treasurer be received for information;
2. That the proposed 2017 Operating Budget in the amount of \$117,918,327 be approved;
3. That the proposed 2017 Capital Budget in the amount of \$78,248,312 be approved, and the multi-year forecast be received for information;
4. That the Commissioner of Corporate Services/Treasurer be authorized to transfer the reserve and reserve fund budgeted transfers as summarized on pages 101 and 102; and,
5. That the budgetary increase of \$3,151,697 be approved.

Carried later in the meeting [See following motion]

Moved By Councillor Yamada

That the Commissioner of Corporate Services/Treasurer be authorized to transfer \$788,000 from one-time reserves to reduce the overall budgetary increase to \$2,363,697.

Motion Withdrawn

The main motion was then carried, save and except items relating to the Whitby Public Library and Iroquois Park Sports Centre. (Due to the conflict of interest noted earlier.)

Moved By Councillor Emm

That the budget items relating to Whitby Public Library and Iroquois Park Sports Centre be approved.

Carried

Mayor Mitchell resumed the Chair.

5. Rise and Ratify the Recommendations from Committee of the Whole

- 5.1 Rise from Committee of the Whole

Moved By Councillor Leahy

That Council rise from Committee of the Whole.

Carried

5.2 Ratify the Recommendations from Committee of the Whole

Resolution # 218-17

Moved By Councillor Leahy

Seconded By Councillor Emm

That Council ratify the recommendations from Committee of the Whole save and except the items pertaining to the Whitby Public Library and Iroquois Park Sports Centre.

Carried on a recorded vote as follows:

	For	Against	Abstained
Councillor Joe Drumm	x		
Councillor Michael Emm	x		
Councillor Derrick Gleed		x	
Councillor Chris Leahy	x		
Councillor Rhonda Mulcahy	x		
Councillor Elizabeth Roy		x	
Councillor Steve Yamada		x	
Mayor Don Mitchell	x		
	5	3	0

Resolution # 219-17

Moved By Councillor Leahy

Seconded By Councillor Emm

That Council ratify the recommendations from Committee of the Whole pertaining to the Whitby Public Library and Iroquois Park Sports Centre.

Carried on a recorded vote as follows:

	For	Against	Abstained
Councillor Michael Emm	x		
Councillor Derrick Gleed		x	
Councillor Chris Leahy	x		
Councillor Rhonda Mulcahy	x		
Councillor Elizabeth Roy		x	
Councillor Steve Yamada		x	
Mayor Don Mitchell	x		
	4	3	0

6. By-law to adopt the Budgets

6.1 By-law # 7276-17, being a by-law to adopt the 2017 Operating and Capital Budgets.

Resolution # 220-17

Moved By Councillor Emm
Seconded By Councillor Leahy

That leave be granted to introduce By-law # 7276-17 and to dispense with the reading of the by-law by the Clerk and that the same be considered read and passed and that the Mayor and the Clerk sign the same and the Seal of the Corporation be thereto affixed.

Carried

7. Adjournment

7.1 Motion to Adjourn

Resolution # 221-17

Moved By Councillor Drumm
Seconded by Councillor Leahy

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Christopher Harris, Town Clerk

Don Mitchell, Mayor