

Present: Mayor Mitchell
Councillor Coe
Councillor Drumm
Councillor Emm
Councillor Glead
Councillor Leahy
Councillor Roy
Councillor Yamada (arrived at 7:02 p.m.)

Also Present: R. Petrie, Chief Administrative Officer
P. LeBel, Commissioner of Community & Marketing Services
K. Nix, Commissioner of Corporate Services/Treasurer
B. Rice, Acting Commissioner of Public Works
R. Short, Commissioner of Planning
D. Speed, Fire Chief
D. Wilcox, 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 pertaining to matters relating to the Town of Whitby Public Library and Iroquois Park Sports Centre, as he has family members who are employed at these locations. Councillor Drumm did not participate in the discussion or vote 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 a family member who sits on the Whitby Hydro Board. Councillor Emm did not participate in the discussion or vote on these matters.

Resolution # 103-15

Moved By Councillor Coe
Seconded By Councillor Drumm

That Council resolve itself into Committee of the Whole with Councillor Gleed, Chair of Finance, in the Chair.

Carried

2. Items for Consideration by Council in Committee of the Whole

2.1 Opening Remarks by Councillor Gleed, Chair of Finance

Councillor Gleed, Chair of Finance, made opening remarks regarding the 2015 Budget stating that the overall combined tax increase is lower than inflation and less than the prior year's overall tax increase. He further stated that this had been accomplished without incurring debt or taking money from reserves which demonstrates Whitby is living within its means. He acknowledged staff for their efforts in achieving the target set by Council.

3. Correspondence

3.1 There were no items of correspondence.

4. Delegations/Presentations

4.1 Vera Felgemacher, 209 John Street West, appeared before Council and questioned whether there were revenue generating opportunities through means such as home-based business licensing which could impact the tax rate. She stated that it was important that home-based businesses be assessed by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) to ensure that the floor space used for business is taxed at a commercial rate which would result in a equitable property tax burden in the community.

There were no further submissions from the public.

5. Consideration of the 2015 Current and Capital Budgets

5.1 Current and Capital Budgets Review

Discussion ensued with respect to several aspects of the budget documents including:

- special events, specifically the PanAm Games and whether there would be sufficient budget to cover the associated costs;

- property tax programs for low income seniors and disabled homeowners including the application criteria, number of participants, amount of the rebate in comparison to other municipalities who offer similar programs and public awareness of the program;
- the proposed staff position of Planner I in the Planning and Development Department for Downtown Heritage and that this position would need to be re-evaluated based on the current needs of the department which could result in the position being posted as a Planner II or Principal Planner;
- proposed expansion of the Operations Centre and the possibility of creating space in current Town facilities by moving a department to the Land Registry Office;
- the need to address office space needs for staff at Town Hall;
- the redevelopment and expansion of Cullen Central Park including the plans for the Park;
- the design and repair of the Pump House and the potential for private leasing of this building;
- the renovation and additions to Heydenshore Pavilion including improvements to the interior and exterior with enhanced accessibility features and how the renovation fits into the Waterfront Master Plan;
- the expansion of Town Hall including improvements in accessibility, enhanced security and access for staff and the need to look at other municipalities who have undertaken similar expansion projects;
- the replacement of the roof at 1710 Charles Street noting that the budget from 2014 had not been used and had been returned to the maintenance reserve fund and the item re-budgeted for 2015 at a lower amount;
- the proposed new Fire Hall for West Whitby and Brooklin and opportunities for joint collaboration with Emergency Medical Services (EMS);
- the re-purposing of the Old Fire Hall in Whitby and potential uses coming to Council for consideration;
- road reconstruction, sidewalk and sanitary sewer construction for Watson Street from the Harbour entrance to Charles Street and impacts of the construction on the Harbour Days Event; and,
- proposed sidewalks on the overpasses to the Highway 407 at Ashburn Road and Cochrane Street and lighting on the bridges.

6. Recommendation regarding the 2015 Current and Capital Budgets

6.1 Recommendation for the 2015 Current and Capital Budget

Detailed discussion ensued with respect to looking at opportunities to reduce budget items to establish a lower tax rate including deferring

\$200,000 of the reduced Whitby Hydro revenues to the 2016 Budget, reducing the contribution from the Operating Budget to the Capital Maintenance Reserve, eliminating the proposed new positions and using surpluses to decrease the tax impact. Discussion continued regarding the risks involved in deferring projects to future budgets as this creates a negative budget position before the budget process begins.

Discussion continued regarding the reduction of the contribution from the Operating Budget to the Capital Maintenance Reserve and the risks involved in not taking care of capital assets. Further discussion ensued with respect to the proposed new staff positions and how the list of positions had been determined. Discussion continued on the matter, noting that there have been very few staff hires over the last number of years and that the proposed positions in this year's budget were needed in order to meet existing workloads and demands.

Further discussion ensued with respect to increasing the property tax rebate for low income seniors and disabled homeowners and the impacts to the tax rate if the rebate amount was increased.

Moved By Councillor Roy

1. That the proposed 2015 Operating Budget in the amount of \$108,336,343 be approved;
2. That the proposed 2015 Capital Budget in the amount of \$26,428,106 be approved, and the multi-year forecast be received for information noting the \$1,770,000 in 2016 for LED Street Light Conversion has already been approved by Council;
3. That the Employee Related Benefits Reserve Fund be utilized to fund the cost of the benefits program for existing retiree's at December 31, 2013;
4. That the Long Term Finance Reserve Fund be utilized to fund the one-time costs outlined in the Operating and Capital Budgets totaling \$2,570,440;
5. That the Commissioner of Corporate Services/Treasurer be authorized to transfer from the Long Term Finance Reserve Fund to the Building Permit Revenue Reserve Fund any 2015 shortfall, which is to be recovered from Building Permit Fess in future years;
6. That the Commissioner of Corporate Services/Treasurer, if required, be authorized to transfer from the Contingency Reserve to the Operating Fund up to \$60,000 if fuel savings are not realized;
7. That the Commissioner of Corporate Services/Treasurer, if required, be authorized to transfer from the Winter Control Reserve to the Operating Fund up to \$50,000 if winter control supply savings are not realized;

8. That the Commissioner of Corporate Services/Treasurer, if required, be authorized to transfer from the Insurance Reserve Fund to the Operating Fund up to \$40,000 if insurance savings are not realized;
9. That the Commissioner of Corporate Services/Treasurer be directed to set the 2015 property tax levy at \$73,954,888 representing a 2.92% local tax levy increase and anticipated 1.45% total property tax levy; and,
10. That the requisite by-law be brought forward for Council approval.

Carried later in the meeting [See following motions]

Moved By Councillor Leahy

That Item 1 of the main motion be amended to reflect the following:

1. That \$200,000 of the reduced Whitby Hydro revenues be deferred to the 2016 Budget; and,
2. The 2015 tax rate be adjusted accordingly.

Motion Lost

Moved By Councillor Leahy

That Item 1 of the main motion be amended to reflect the following:

1. That the proposed new staff positions of Corporate Services Buyer, Fire and Emergency Services Conversion of Part Time Clerk to Full Time, Planning and Development Planner I - Downtown Heritage, Community and Marketing Services Summer Student - Parks Development, Public Works Summer Student - Parks/Horticulture, Parks Labourer Conversion from 9 to 12 months, Labourer/Equipment Operator Grade II and Part Time Road Patroller be removed from the 2015 Budget; and
2. That the 2015 tax rate be adjusted accordingly.

Motion Lost

Moved By Councillor Leahy

That Item 1 of the main motion be amended to reflect the following:

1. That the operational transfer to the Capital Maintenance Reserve be reduced by \$200,000 and deferred to the 2016 Budget; and,
2. That the 2015 tax rate be adjusted accordingly.

Motion Lost

Moved By Councillor Leahy

That Item 1 of the main motion be amended to reflect the following:

1. That the contribution to the one time reserves be reduced by \$200,000; and,
2. That the 2015 tax rate be adjusted accordingly.

Motion Lost

Moved By Councillor Roy

That Item 1 of the main motion be amended to reflect the following:

1. That the current Seniors Low Income and Disabled Tax Rebate be increased from \$250 to \$300 per annum, effective for the 2015 taxation year;
2. That the rebate program be reviewed once per term of Council; and,
3. That the 2015 tax rate be adjusted accordingly.

Carried

Based on the increase in the rebate program, staff confirmed that the impact to the 2015 Budget would be \$9,500.

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

Moved By Councillor Roy

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

Carried

Moved By Councillor Roy

That the budget items relating to Whitby Hydro be approved.

Carried

Mayor Mitchell resumed the Chair.

7. Rise from the Committee of the Whole

7.1 Rise from Committee of the Whole

Moved By Councillor Emm

That Council rise from the Committee of the Whole.

Carried

8. Ratify Recommendation from the Committee of the Whole

8.1 Ratify recommendations from the Committee of the Whole

Resolution # 104-15

Moved By Councillor Coe

Seconded By Councillor Emm

That Council ratify the recommendations from the Committee of the Whole.

Carried on a recorded vote as follows:

	For	Against	Abstained
Councillor Lorne Coe	x		
Councillor Joe Drumm	x		
Councillor Michael Emm	x		
Councillor Derrick Gleed	x		
Councillor Chris Leahy		x	
Councillor Elizabeth Roy	x		
Councillor Steve Yamada		x	
Mayor Don Mitchell	x		
	6	2	0

Based on the ratification, the following is the complete resolution adopted by Council:

Resolution # 105-15

Moved By Councillor

1. That the proposed 2015 Operating Budget in the amount of

- \$108,336,343 be approved as amended to increase the Seniors Low Income and Disabled Tax Rebate by \$9,500;
2. That the proposed 2015 Capital Budget in the amount of \$26,428,106 be approved, and the multi-year forecast be received for information noting the \$1,770,000 in 2016 for LED Street Light Conversion has already been approved by Council;
 3. That the Employee Related Benefits Reserve Fund be utilized to fund the cost of the benefits program for existing retiree's at December 31, 2013;
 4. That the Long Term Finance Reserve Fund be utilized to fund the one-time costs outlined in the Operating and Capital Budgets totaling \$2,570,440;
 5. That the Commissioner of Corporate Services/Treasurer be authorized to transfer from the Long Term Finance Reserve Fund to the Building Permit Revenue Reserve Fund any 2015 shortfall, which is to be recovered from Building Permit Fess in future years;
 6. That the Commissioner of Corporate Services/Treasurer, if required, be authorized to transfer from the Contingency Reserve to the Operating Fund up to \$60,000 if fuel savings are not realized;
 7. That the Commissioner of Corporate Services/Treasurer, if required, be authorized to transfer from the Winter Control Reserve to the Operating Fund up to \$50,000 if winter control supply savings are not realized;
 8. That the Commissioner of Corporate Services/Treasurer, if required, be authorized to transfer from the Insurance Reserve Fund to the Operating Fund up to \$40,000 if insurance savings are not realized;
 9. That the Commissioner of Corporate Services/Treasurer be directed to set the 2015 property tax levy at \$73,964,388 representing a 2.94% local tax levy increase and anticipated 1.46% total property tax levy; and,
 10. That the requisite by-law be brought forward for Council approval.

Carried

9. By-law to adopt the Budgets

- 9.1 By-law # 6958-15, being a by-law to adopt the 2015 Operating and Capital Budgets

Resolution # 106-15

Moved By Councillor Gleed
Seconded By Councillor Roy

That leave be granted to introduce By-law # 6958-15 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

10. Confirmatory By-law

10.1 Confirmatory By-law

Resolution # 107-15

Moved By Councillor Emm
Seconded By Councillor Coe

That leave be granted to introduce a by-law and to dispense with the reading of the by-law by the Clerk to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Town of Whitby at its special meeting held on February 26, 2015, and that the Mayor and the Clerk sign the same and the Seal of the Corporation be thereto affixed.

Carried

11. Adjournment

11.1 Motion to Adjourn

Resolution # 108-15

Moved By Councillor Emm
Seconded By Councillor Leahy

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

Debi A. Wilcox, Town Clerk

Don Mitchell, Mayor