

**Minutes of the *SPECIAL BOARD BUDGET MEETING* of the Regional District of Central Okanagan held at Regional District Offices, 1450 KLO Road, Kelowna, B.C. on Friday, March 18, 2005**

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Directors: R. Cannan (City of Kelowna)  
C. Day (City of Kelowna)  
P. Wannop, alternate for A. Dinwoodie (Westside Elect. Area)  
B. Given, alternate for W. Gray (City of Kelowna)  
G. Lees, alternate for P. Hanson (Ellison/Joe Rich Elect. Area)  
B. Harriman (District of Peachland)  
R. Hein (District of Lake Country)  
R. Hobson (City of Kelowna)  
D. Knowles (Westside Elect. Area)  
L. Novakowski (Westside Elect. Area)  
S. Shepherd (City of Kelowna)

Staff: W. d'Easum, Chief Administrative Officer  
K. Arcuri, Director of Planning Services  
H. Hettinga, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
M. Kopp, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation Services  
G. Leier, Director of Human Resources  
H. Reay, Director of Financial Services  
M. Rilkoff, Deputy Director of Financial Services  
K. Roth, Director of Inspection Services  
M. Drouin, Administrative Assistant (recording secretary)

Chair Hobson brought the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. following the Hospital District budget meeting.

1. Public Comment

There was no public in attendance.

2. Business Arising

No business arising.

3. Review of 2005-2009 Financial Plan

Staff presented the 2005-2009 Financial Plan highlighting the general increases over 2004:

- Salaries increased by 2.25% as per the collective agreement
- Other expenditures based on projected and actual expenditures to the end of 2004, and increased by 2% for inflation
- New services added include
  - o Westside Land & Property Management
  - o Electoral Area Fire Prevention

**ACTION:** Westside Issues Committee to continue policy discussion regarding fire prevention in the Westside Electoral Area

- Lakeshore Road Fire Protection
- Lakeshore Road Improvements
- Consolidated Westside Street Lights
- Sunnyside Water System
- Alarm control added to Crime Prevention
- Major capital expenditures include
  - Sewer projects – treatment plant expansion, Glenrosa sewer, Casa Loma/Lakeview sewer
  - Westside Land & Property Management
  - Mount Boucherie Arena
  - Water Systems: West Kelowna Estates Water Reservoir, Green Bay Water

The 2005 tax requisitions were reviewed:

- City of Kelowna – increase of \$157,584 (2.37%)
- District of Peachland – increase of \$26,774 (8.11%)
- District of Lake Country – increase of \$22,782 (4.38%)
- Westside Electoral Area (North) – increase of \$438,175 (8.92%)
- Westside Electoral Area (South) – increase of \$816,319 (10.96%)
- Central Okanagan East Electoral Area – increase of \$32,501 (6.76%)

The residential tax rate (based on a \$275,000 home which was assessed at \$220,000 in 2004) was highlighted:

- City of Kelowna – \$3.71
- District of Peachland – \$3.27
- District of Lake Country – \$3.99
- Westside Electoral Area (North) – \$29.51
- Westside Electoral Area (South) – \$62.83
- Central Okanagan East Electoral Area – \$17.39

Outstanding Issues:

Regional grants in aid – KADAC (\$16,000 request)

In follow up to the February 15<sup>th</sup> Governance & Services Committee meeting, the City of Kelowna deferred the decision regarding a regional grant in aid to the Kelowna & District Arts Council pending discussion with City staff. There was no support from the other regional members for 2005.

City staff have recommended that more work is needed to identify a clear role and provision of services to artists and art organizations. The City of Kelowna's Cultural Services will pursue further dialogue and play a strong role with KADAC in a strategic planning process over the next year.

It was noted that KADAC, as well as all other organizations, when applying for regional grant in aid funding must identify what services/roles they play in the various municipalities and electoral areas of the regional district

**#123/04**      GIVEN/DAY

THAT the City of Kelowna directors approve a regional grant in aid in the amount of \$12,823 to the Kelowna & District Arts Council (KADAC) for 2005.

AND FURTHER THAT KADAC work with the City of Kelowna's Cultural Services Division to pursue further dialogue and play a strong role with KADAC in developing a strategic planning process over the next year.

CARRIED

4. Regional District of Central Okanagan 2005-2009 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 1101, 2005, **1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> readings and Adoption** (All Directors - Weighted Vote)

**#124/05**      DAY/KNOWLES

THAT Regional District of Central Okanagan 2005-2009 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 1101, 2005 be given first, second and third readings, reconsidered and adopted this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 2005.

CARRIED

*Discussion:*

Concern was raised regarding the increase in property assessments and how the increase is affecting property owners on fixed incomes. The question was raised whether the Province could change the tax provisions whereby fixed income owners could have their property taxes indexed to an annual amount and that when the property is sold the current year assessment would apply to the property. It was suggested that the Assessment Authority be invited to a future Governance & Services Committee meeting to discuss their role and possible options available.

The Board was reminded that the Province of B.C. has a Property Tax Deferral Program in place whereby qualified homeowners can defer property taxes under the program. It was noted that City staff have researched various options available (California model) and that this information is available for review.

**#125/05**      HEIN/SHEPHERD

THAT the tax assessment and deferral discussion be moved to a future Governance and Services Committee meeting.

CARRIED

**ACTION:** Staff to acquire tax assessment deferral information from the City of Kelowna for distribution at a future Governance & Services Committee meeting.

**ACTION:** Staff were requested review options to reduce the amount of meeting material for the final budget meeting.

5. Adjourn

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

**CERTIFIED TO BE TRUE AND CORRECT**

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**R. Hobson (Chair)**

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**W. B. d'Easum (Chief Administrative Officer)**