

**THE FORTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE PRIORITIES COMMITTEE
OF THE CITY OF GREATER SUDBURY**

**Council Chamber
Tom Davies Square**

**Wednesday, May 3, 2006
Commencement: 5:35 p.m.**

Chair

COUNCILLOR CALDARELLI, IN THE CHAIR

Present

Councillors Berthiaume; Bradley; Callaghan (D6:55pm); Craig; Dupuis; Kett; Rivest; Thompson

City Officials

M. Mieto, Chief Administrative Officer; C. Matheson, General Manager of Community Development; H. Mulc, Acting General Manager of Growth & Development; A. Stephen, General Manager of Infrastructure & Emergency Services; L. Hayes, CFO/Treasurer; G. Lamothe, Manager of Communications & French Language Service; R. Smith, EMS Deputy Chief; M. Leduc, Deputy Fire Chief; L. Fortin, Coordinator of Special Operations, Emergency Management; C. Marassato, Program Coordinator; D. Braney, Acting Director of Solid Waste; E. Stankiewicz, Coordinator of Current Budget; P. Demers, Community Relations & Policy Advisor; A. Haché, City Clerk; F. Bortolussi, Planning Committee Secretary; CJ Caporale, Council Secretary

C.U.P.E. Local 4705

W. MacKinnon, President

Others

P. Sajatovic, Planner & Community Relations Coordinator, Nickel District Conservation Authority; J. Sewell, Source Water Protection Project Coordinator; J. Salo, Source Water Protection Communications Specialist; R. Duval, Source Water Protection GIS Specialist; J. Khan, Source Water Protection Water Resources Engineer

News Media

Sudbury Star; MCTV; CIGM; Channel 10 News; Northern Life; Big Daddy

Declarations of
Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

Item 2 Source Water Protection - NDCA

Electronic presentation from the Nickel District Conservation Authority regarding Source Water Protection (SWP) Project was received for information only.

Councillor Ron Bradley, Chair, Nickel District Conservation Authority Board introduced Ms. Judy Sewell, Source Water Protection Project Coordinator for the Nickel District Conservation Authority.

Ms. Sewell advised that source water protection is one of several initiatives that originated from the Walkerton Report. She stated that the Walkerton Report makes approximately one hundred recommendations on how to protect drinking water which fall into two categories, water treatment and distribution systems, and source water protection which deals with the quality of the water as it enters the municipal treatment system. These two categories fall under three Provincial Acts, Safe Drinking Water Act, Sustainable Water and Sewage Systems Act, and Clean Water Act.

Ms. Sewell indicated that source water protection is a way of ensuring that our treatment plants have the best possible raw water to work with and that it is more effective and efficient to prevent water from becoming polluted in the first place than to try to clean it later.

She provided a map of the proposed Source Water Protection Area which is approximately 9,000 km² which encompasses three major watersheds, the Vermilion, the Wahnapiatae and the Whitefish River watersheds. She indicated that about 70% of Sudburians get their drinking water from surface water and about 20% of the population gets their drinking water from groundwater.

She provided a map of an area indicating a wellhead protection zone, which is an area adjacent to a river and lake intake and to a wellhead, and is referred to as a vulnerable area. A map indicating an intake protection zone, which is also a vulnerable area and is around a surface water intake, was also provided.

Ms. Sewell provided information with respect to threats to water quality which will be assessed based on how severe they are and on how close they are to a water source. She indicated that this risk assessment will also be part of the source protection planning process which will be integrated into a Watershed Assessment Report.

She provided an overview of where the Province is in the SWP development and planning process, issues to be considered during the planning process, and components of a Source Protection Plan

Item 2
Source Water
Protection - NDCA
(continued)

such as developing policies. She also indicated that the Source Protection Plan will be developed by a Committee made up of sixteen members from a cross-section of stakeholders (municipalities, First Nations, Public Health, etc.)

Ms. Sewell stated that the Ministry of Environment is the lead Ministry for the SWP and have identified three key partners for this process, the Ministry of Natural Resources, Conservation Authorities and the municipalities, which remains consistent with their current responsibilities. She also stated that the Conservation Authorities will coordinate the development of the SWP plan.

She provided information regarding funding and stated that the MOE will fund the preparation of the Plan and the technical studies required to develop the Plan.

Item 3
2006 Property Tax
Policy

Report dated 2006-04-27 from the CFO/Treasurer regarding 2006 Property Tax Policy was received.

Lorella Hayes, CFO/Treasurer and Ed Stankiewicz, Coordinator of Current Budget provided an electronic presentation entitled "*Tax Policy Decision for 2006*".

Ms. Hayes briefly outlined the recommendations in the report to Council. She indicated that MPAC conducted a reassessment of all properties to update the value of all assessments to reflect market value for the 2006 taxation year.

She also indicated that the total Current Value Assessment (CVA) of properties in the City of Greater Sudbury rose from \$7.6 billion in 2005 to \$8.1 billion in 2006 or an overall raw assessment increase of 6.6%. She provide a chart which reflected the impact of reassessment on assessment classes and stated that the residential and multi-residential classes experienced the largest valuation changes of 7.8% and 11.5% respectively.

She also provided a chart which reflected the municipal tax impact before the 2006 levy adjustment and stated that the residential and multi-residential classes are higher than the other classes and will be "picking up a greater portion of the tax pie".

Ms. Hayes advised that the province decreased the Residential Education Tax rate for 2006 as a result of the average increase of 11% in the CVAs in Ontario, reducing the Education Tax rate by 11% making it \$640,000 lower than in 2005. She provided a graph indicating these changes as well as showing the Committee an opportunity to see the effects on residential property tax payers before any municipal levy increases.

Item 3
2006 Property Tax
Policy
(continued)

Ms. Hayes advised that staff calculated options for new transition ratios to mitigate the effects of reassessment increases on the residential class which would shift taxation from the residential class to the commercial, industrial and pipeline classes. Graphs were provided, reflecting the tax distribution and effects of transition tax ratios on the classes.

If Council adopts the recommendations, to move the tax ratios of the Commercial, Industrial and Pipeline Classes to a revenue neutral position, approximately 37,000 properties (commercial, industrial) will see a tax increase and 18,000 (residential, multi-residential) will see a decrease.

Mr. Stankiewicz advised that since its inception in 1998, property tax capping has been a requirement that the municipality must follow for the business classes (multi-residential, commercial and industrial). The cap is the amount of taxes that the increasing properties are protected from and can be funded by two methods, from the municipal funds (reserves or increase in tax levy) and from withholding tax decreases, which should have been passed onto the decreasing property owners. Council has been consistent in their approach by clawing back tax decreases to fund the cap.

He provided the Committee with the recommended capping tax tools as outlined in the recommendation.

He provided charts reflecting properties affected by the mandatory 5% cap, an increase of the cap to 10% over the 2005 taxes and full options implemented to fast track properties to CVA taxes.

He provided options that would enable municipalities to have properties reach their true CVA taxes faster:

1. Increase taxes by at least 5% of CVA taxes.
2. Move capped properties with \$250 of CVA taxes directly to CVA taxes.
3. Move clawed back properties with \$250 of CVA taxes directly to CVA taxes.
4. Establish a minimum tax of 80% of CVA taxes for new construction.

Mr. Stankiewicz provided a summary of the recommendations in the report and also provided a chart reflecting the actual property taxes in career/urban (Sudbury), composite/commuter (Valley East), volunteer/commuter (Nickel Centre, Rayside-Balfour, Walden, Onaping Falls, Capreol) and volunteer (unorganized). A chart reflecting the valuation change from 2005 to 2006 that would be necessary to yield a 0% tax increase over 2005 total property taxes was also provided.

RECOMMENDATION 2006-108: Moved by Councillor Craig:

WHEREAS as a result of the property reassessment for 2006 taxation year, there has been an inter-class shifting of tax burdens;

AND WHEREAS the Ministry of Finance allows municipalities to request new transition tax ratios to mitigate the impact of tax shifts relative to the reassessment;

THEREFORE BE IF RESOLVED THAT the City of Greater Sudbury request the Minister of Finance to prescribe new transition tax ratios for the Commercial, Industrial and Pipeline property classes.

WHEREAS the City of Greater Sudbury continues the practice of having as many properties as possible pay their fair share of property taxes based on their Current Value Assessment (CVA);

AND WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has provided tax tools to achieve this outcome;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Greater Sudbury use these tax tools to the maximum, resulting in more properties paying true CVA taxes, and the tax tools are as follows:

- 1) Implement a 10% tax increase cap rather than the mandatory 5% minimum cap
- 2) Implement a minimum annual increase of 5% of CVA level taxes for capped properties
- 3) Move capped and clawed back properties within \$250 of CVA taxes directly to CVA taxes
- 4) Create a minimum CVA tax of 80% of CVA for newly constructed properties, and

THAT the City Solicitor prepare the necessary by-law.

WHEREAS the property tax ratios that the City of Greater Sudbury has requested the Ministry of Finance to prescribe are consistent with Council's decisions on property tax policy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve the following ratios:

Residential	1.000
New Multi-Residential	1.000
Multiple Residential	2.0591
Commercial	1.720574
Industrial Occupied	2.559614
Large Industrial	2.901185
Pipelines	1.475204
Managed Forests	.2500
Farmlands	.2500

Item 3
2006 Property Tax
Policy
(continued)

AND THAT the City Solicitor prepare the necessary by-law.

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario under Bill 140 has a maximum tax increase policy (capping) for business properties (Multi-Residential, Commercial and Industrial);

AND WHEREAS the City of Greater Sudbury, through past practice has funded this cap on taxes by clawing back from properties realizing reduced taxation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following clawback percentages, as calculated by the Online Property Taxation Analysis (OPTA) System, be adopted by the City of Greater Sudbury;

Multi-Residential	67.2724%
Commercial	53.6825%
Industrial	38.1402%

AND THAT the City Solicitor prepare the necessary by-law.

CARRIED

Item 3
Charity Property Tax
Rebates - Day Cares

Report dated 2006-04-26 from the CFO/Treasurer regarding Charity Property Tax Rebates - Non-profit Day Cares was received.

Motion for Deferral

Councillor Rivest did not receive the consensus of the Committee to defer Item 3 (Charity Property Tax Rebates) in order to receive additional information on providing a tax rebate to other charitable day cares that are located on residential property.

Main
Recommendation

RECOMMENDATION 2006-109: Moved by Councillor Dupuis:

WHEREAS registered charity non profit day cares have been requesting tax relief from property taxation;

AND WHEREAS day cares provide a valuable service which aligns with Council's Healthy Community Strategy;

HEREAS Council has supported providing relief to certain non profit day cares during 2006 budget deliberations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT to assist with the operational pressures that these non-profit day cares face;

AND THAT Council adopt Option 2 to provide a 100% charity property tax rebate to eligible non-profit day cares that are registered charities.

CARRIED

Item 3
Charity Property Tax
Rebates - Day Cares
(continued)

Option 2 reads as follows:

Provide a 100% rebate to non-profit day cares that are registered charities occupying residential property. This would impact the municipality by approximately \$35,000 and be treated as an unbudgeted expenditure for 2006.

Item 4
Update on Emergency
Services

Electronic presentation regarding an Update on Fire Services, Emergency Planning, and Emergency Medical Services was provided to the Committee for information only.

Mr. Rob Smith, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Deputy Chief, provided an update on current services provided to the City of Greater Sudbury. He stated that an advanced life support service is provided covering an area of approximately 5,000 km², 24 hours a day.

He provided a graph of the call volumes received and 90th percentile emergency response time indicating an improvement in services over the last five years.

Mr. Smith outlined various highlights of EMS from the last few years such as Advanced Care Paramedic Training Program, development of a System Status Plan, installation of an AVL/GPS tracking system, mobile computers installed into the EMS fleet, etc.

He also provided current and future challenges such as funding, control of dispatch, emergency call volume increase, cross border billing, etc.

Mr. Marc Leduc, Deputy Fire Chief, provided a brief background on the legislative responsibilities of the Fire Service.

He stated that there are currently twenty-five stations in the City of Greater Sudbury (four career, one composite, twenty volunteer) that provide fire and rescue response, ice-water rescue, auto extrication, and will be providing hazardous materials removal by the Fall.

He outlined the three lines of defense:

- Public Fire Safety Education
- Regulation & Code Enforcement
- Emergency Response

Mr. Leduc also provided the successes of Fire Services (Master Fire Plan, establishing and regulating by-law, ice-water program, etc.), and current/future challenges (capital funding envelope, increased demand for service, volunteer dependence, etc.).

Item 4
Update on Emergency
Services
(continued)

Ms. Lynn Fortin, Coordinator of Special Operations, Emergency Management, outlined the three levels to the Emergency Management Program (Essential Level, Enhanced Level and Comprehensive Level). She also provided information regarding program activities for 2005-2006 (Basic Emergency Management, Table Top Exercise, Canadian Emergency Preparedness College, etc.)

She outlined the various public awareness programs that will take place in 2006 and supporting plans such as Pandemic Influenza Plan.

Ms. Fortin provided the Committee with the various funding received under the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP) Funding. She stated that the challenge for 2006-2007 is Bill 56(21) which is currently waiting for third reading.

Proceed Past
8:00 p.m.

2006-110 Dupuis: THAT we proceed past the hour of 8:00 p.m.

CARRIED

ADDENDUM

Addendum to Agenda

RECOMMENDATION 2006-111 Moved by Councillor Bradley:

THAT the Addendum to the Agenda be dealt with at this time.

CARRIED

Declarations of
Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

Item AD-1
Clean Sweep 2006

Electronic presentation by the General Manager of Infrastructure & Emergency Services regarding Clean Sweep 2006 was provided for information only.

Ms. Carrie Anne Marassato, Program Coordinator, advised that the Roads and Transportation Division completed the preparatory work for street/sidewalk sweeping on April 15, 2006 and the contractor commenced work on April 24, 2006 and is expected to be completed by May 5, 2006.

She provided an brief description of various programs within the Solid Waste Division:

- Weekly Bulky Item Collection which will be collected within five working days

Item AD-1
Clean Sweep 2006
(continued)

- Household Hazardous Waste Disposal - the depot will be open every Saturday during the month of May.
- Leaf and Yard Trimming Collection - one week in May and one week in June has been designated for each area of the City. Starting in 2007, leaf and yard trimmings will be picked up with the regular garbage and blue box.
- Citywide Cleanup Blitz - being held May 13, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- Residential Tipping Fee Holiday - for one week, tipping fees for household items will be free, May 1-6, 2006.

Ms. Marassato advised that there have been two new items added to the Blue Box Program, plastic bags #4 (bread bags, grocery bags, milk bags, etc), and polystyrene foam #6 (take-out containers, foam meat trays, egg cartons, plates and cups).

Adjournment

RECOMMENDATION 2006-112: Moved by Councillor Dupuis:

THAT this meeting does now adjourn. Time: 8:25 p.m.

CARRIED

Councillor Caldarelli, Chair

Angie Haché, City Clerk