



Town of Aurora Budget Committee Meeting Report

Date: Monday, November 16, 2020
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Video Conference

Council Members: Mayor Mrakas
 Councillor Gaertner
 Councillor Gallo
 Councillor Gilliland
 Councillor Humfries
 Councillor Kim
 Councillor Thompson

Other Attendees: Doug Nadorozny, Chief Administrative Officer
 Robin McDougall, Director of Community Services
 Rachel Wainwright-van Kessel, Director of Finance
 Jason Gaertner, Manager, Financial Management
 Michael de Rond, Town Clerk
 Samantha Yew, Deputy Town Clerk
 Linda Bottos, Council/Committee Coordinator

1. Procedural Notes

This meeting was held electronically as per Section 19. i) of the Town's Procedure By-law No. 6228-19, as amended, due to the COVID-19 situation.

Mayor Mrakas in the Chair.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Budget Committee approved the agenda as circulated by Legislative Services.

3. **Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof**

Councillor Humfryes declared a pecuniary interest under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50* respecting item 5.1.1, Central York Fire Services 2021-2022 Operating Grant, as her spouse is employed by Central York Fire Services; therefore, she did not take part in the discussion of, or vote on, any question in respect of the matter.

4. **Delegations**

None.

5. **Consideration of Items**

5.1 **2021-2022 Operating Budget - Community Partner Presentations**

5.1.1 **Central York Fire Services 2021-2022 Operating Grant**

[\(Binder Tab 14\)](#)

Fire Chief Ian Laing introduced new Deputy Chief Jeremy Inglis who expressed appreciation for the welcome messages received. Chief Laing presented an overview of the 2021 budget submission for Central York Fire Services, noting aspects of the 2021 budget versus outlook, operating budget analysis, wages and benefits, other operating budget expenses, capital budget, budgeting in a COVID world, and the 2021 budget highlights.

Budget Committee recommends:

1. That the presentation from Central York Fire Services be received; and
2. That the request for the 2021-2022 operating grant to the Central York Fire Services in the amounts of \$12,194,100 and \$12,607,600, which includes an annual allocation of \$6,000 for snow clearing, for 2021 and 2022 respectively be tentatively approved.

Carried

5.1.2 **Aurora Public Library Board 2021-2022 Operating Grant**

[\(Binder Tab 15\)](#)

Tom Connor, Chair, Aurora Public Library Board, spoke about the Library's 2020 accomplishments, including its service delivery

response to the COVID-19 pandemic. He noted that no changes were being requested for the 2021 budget year, and any operating surplus for the 2020 budget year due to the COVID-19 pandemic was returned to the Town.

Bruce Gorman, Chief Executive Officer, presented an overview of the Library's activities and budget plan including key performance indicators, impacts of COVID-19, adapted services, online resources and virtual programs, community partnerships, health and safety procedures, COVID-19 operating pressures, and a financial summary. Julie Rocca, Business Manager, was also present to answer questions.

Budget Committee recommends:

1. That the presentation from the Aurora Public Library Board be received; and
2. That the request for the 2021-2022 operating grant to the Aurora Public Library Board in the amounts of \$3,896,100 and \$3,934,100 for 2021 and 2022 respectively be tentatively approved.

Carried

5.1.3 Aurora Historical Society Board 2021-2022 Operating Grant
[\(Binder Tab 15\)](#)

Patricia Wallace, President, Aurora Historical Society Board, presented a brief overview of the accomplishments and ongoing roles of the Society in serving the community of Aurora since 1963, noting its significant contributions to the restoration of the Church Street School, the heritage anchor for Library Square. She spoke about the preservation plans for the Hillary House National Historic Site and noted recent improvements including the installation of new street banners and enhanced nighttime lighting.

Kathleen Vahey, Curator, presented an overview of the 2020 programming and events highlights, 2020 COVID-19 impacts and 2021-2022 impact projections, 2020 community support, key performance indicators, 2021 goals and partnership goals, and storage of the Godfrey Collection.

Geoffrey Dawe, Treasurer, presented an overview of the 2020 funding supports and activities, emergency funding supports, key financial metrics, and 2021 steps moving forward.

Ms Wallace expressed appreciation for the Town's continued support and recognition of the Aurora Historical Society as an important cultural partner.

Budget Committee recommends:

1. That the presentation from the Aurora Historical Society Board be received; and
2. That the request for the 2021-2022 operating grant to the Aurora Historical Society Board in the amounts of \$82,800 and \$80,900 for 2021 and 2022 respectively be tentatively approved.

Carried

5.1.4 Aurora Sports Hall of Fame 2021-2022 Operating Grant
[\(Binder Tab 15\)](#)

Javed S. Khan, President, expressed appreciation for the Town's ongoing support and for the efforts of the Board of Governors. He presented background and key highlights of the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame activities and programming, COVID-19 impacts on 2020 operations, and new initiatives including "Hall-Star Tribute: A Night of Celebration and Conversation" and "Inside the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame". Mr. Khan reviewed the 2021 and 2022 funding requirements, noting the additional request of \$2,000 for a special project due to the COVID-19 situation. Brian Roberts, Treasurer, was also present to answer questions.

Budget Committee recommends:

1. That the presentation from the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame be received; and
2. That the request for the 2021-2022 operating grant to the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame in the amounts of \$29,300 and \$29,900 for 2021 and 2022 respectively be tentatively approved.

Carried

5.2 FIN20-025 - New Capital Budget Framework

Rachel Wainwright-van Kessel, Director of Finance, presented an overview of the capital budget framework and provided clarification regarding the capital plan, project groupings, proposed capital budget authority, reserve management and debt financing, prioritization, proposed capital programs and rules, capital approval process, and managing in-year changes and approvals.

Budget Committee recommends:

1. That Report No. FIN20-025 be received for information.

Carried

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.