



**UNITED COUNTIES OF LEEDS AND GRENVILLE**  
**AD HOC 2010 BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES**

**January 21, 2010**

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The Ad Hoc 2010 Budget Committee met on January 21, 2010 at 10:30 a.m. in the Bill Thake Boardroom, 25 Central Avenue West, Brockville.

**Members Present:** Frank Kinsella, Chair  
Bill Thake, Warden  
Mel Campbell, John Conley, Larry Dishaw, Bill Gooch,  
Roger Haley, Ron Holman, Jim Pickard, Doug Struthers

**Staff Present:** Steven Silver, Chief Administrative Officer  
Nigel White, Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer  
Les Shepherd, Director, Works, Planning Services and Asset  
Management  
Dorothy Theobald, Director of Human Services  
Deborah Gill, Manager, Program Planning and Integrity  
Lesley Todd, Clerk

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**1.0 Opening Remarks**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Mr. White noted that Item 5.0.4 on the agenda will be delayed until the next meeting due to the illness of the Deputy Treasurer.

**2.0 Adoption of Agenda**

The Committee agreed to the adoption of the agenda.

### **3.0 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof - Nil**

### **4.0 Adoption of the Meeting Notes of the Previous Committee Meeting**

The meeting notes from the December 8, 2009 meeting were not available.

### **5.0 Items for Discussion**

#### **5.0.1 2009 Year End Projections**

Mr. White noted that staff have provided a different layout for the Consolidated Budget sheets. He stated that the 2009 actuals were still a “work in progress” as staff are still working on year end reconciliations, journal entries and the payment of year end invoices. At this point in time the surplus/deficit position is at a surplus of \$36,175. POA revenues are still expected to be under budget by approximately \$400,000 but the Roads Department, which at the time of projections, were looking at costs related to a full winter, have now come in under budget. Mr. White hoped that this would result in a break even position.

In response to a question concerning the year end levy reconciliations, Mr. White responded that he was still waiting on receiving information from a few municipalities.

#### **5.0.2 2010 Capital Projects and Capital Financing**

Mr. White noted that the capital amounts on the Consolidated Budget sheet do not match the amounts that are on the Capital Projects sheets handed out at the previous meetings. Staff have reviewed the capital sheets as per the Committee’s instructions and the changes are reflected on the Consolidated Budget.

#### **5.0.3 2010 Draft Consolidated Budget**

In addition to handing out the 2010 Draft Consolidated Budget, Mr. White provided the Committee with a listing of Know/Potential Budget Impacts. He noted that the list does not include anticipated increases from the Health Unit and St. Lawrence Lodge and that all JSC related budgets are allocated based on the 2009 costs sharing percentages. Mr. White noted that there will be an increase in the Counties JSC cost sharing percentages since the majority of the formulas are based on weighted assessment.

In response to a question concerning the Counties labour costs, Mr. White responded that approximately 60% of our budget is labour costs, a number of union agreements have already been signed, and that a 3% increase has been budgeted across the board.

The listing of Know/Potential Budget Impacts amounts to a \$1,502,350. The total increase in spending is \$3,476,700, which is offset by an anticipated decrease of \$1.5M in ODSP costs, which equates to a net increase in spending of \$5,049,150.

In response to a question concerning Fire Dispatch costs, Mr. White clarified that this is the cost of the fire dispatch system (based on an agreed to formula) which is paid to the City of Brockville and not costs related to the proposed change of the Fire Communications System from analog to digital. Mr. Silver added that notice has been given to Brockville that we wish to renegotiate the agreement for 2011.

In response to an additional question related to the Fire Communications System and where the cost of it appears in the Counties Budget, Mr. White is recommending that the infrastructure costs be the Counties responsibility and that the Counties would probably have to borrow the money. The operational costs would be the responsibility of the individual municipalities.

Mr. White explained to the Committee that when reviewing the Departmental budgets, they need to keep in mind that most budgets include chargebacks for Corporate Services, Health and Safety and Building (for those occupying 25 Central). The recovery of the chargebacks appears as a revenue line item in the bottom section of the consolidated budget.

A suggestion was made to look at the ability to increase areas where the Counties has fees and charges (e.g. planning, culverts, Maple View Lodge). Mr. Silver explained that residents fees at Maple View Lodge are set by the Province, but other areas could be looked at.

The Committee discussed what they felt was an appropriate increase to the budget. They instructed Mr. White to calculate the "revenue neutral position, add assessment growth and a 3% spending increase and provide the Committee with a listing of what would have to be cut from the budget to achieve that.

#### **5.0.4 Revenue Neutral Tax Rates**

Mr. White informed the Committee that in determining the revenue neutral tax rates, staff noted that an increase in assessment will be realized due to assessment growth and the effect of Year 2 of the assessment update phase in.

The phase in will represent the second 25% assessment phase in. In 2009, the first 25% phase in was offset by 100% of assessment reductions.

**6.0 Unfinished Business - Nil**

**7.0 Media Questions**

No members of the media were present.

**8.0 Questions from the Public**

No members of the public were present.

**9.0 Closed Meeting - Nil**

**10.0 Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 .a.m.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, February 1, at 9:00 a.m. in the Bill Thake Boardroom.