

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL
2016-2020 FIVE YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN
HELD TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2016 AT 2:00 PM
IN THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

PRESENT: Mayor Ruttan, Councillors Alemany, McLeman, Minions, Paulson, Sauve and Washington

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved and seconded:

That the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED

B. DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

****NOTE: ALL PRESENTATIONS ARE INCLUDED ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE AT
www.portalberni.ca***

Departmental Budget Presentations were provided by the following.

1. SPCA – Irene Towell, SPCA Branch Manager

Ms. Towell provided information regarding the Animal Control Contract with the City of Port Alberni, noting a 2% budget increase is proposed for 2016 to support their spay/neuter assistance program. The contract for 2015 was valued at \$147,539.

In 2015 the SPCA admitted 634 animals from the Port Alberni region with 332 of those being cats and kittens. Ms. Towell outlined the positive outcomes from their 2013-2015 spay/neuter program that was primarily supported by a \$110,920 grant from PetSmart Charities of Canada.

In response to questions from Council, Ms. Towell confirmed the following:

- The Animal Control Officer does perform self-generated patrols.
- Dangerous dog issues are now dealt with solely by the SPCA.
- Calls for service after hours and on Sundays are handled by the RCMP.
- The SPCA has shelters at their facility that can accommodate larger animals such as cows and horses.

2. Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce – Bill Collette, Executive Director

Mr. Collette reviewed the operation of the Alberni Valley Visitor Centre. He detailed the 118% increase in their reach in 2015 with 49,000 visitors logged.

It was confirmed by Mr. Collette that the Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce (AVCOC) is not seeking an increase to their fee for service contract for the Visitor Centre with a proposed budget of \$84,000 from the City of Port Alberni.

The AVCOC's various services and events were outlined, including the Ambassador Program, Mobile Visitor Centre, Sunset Market, FAM tours, trade shows and wayfinding and adventure maps.

Mr. Collette proposed a separate \$25,000 contract for external marketing that would allow them to attend more trade shows and provide other external marketing services.

In response to questions from Council, Mr. Collette confirmed the following:

- Improvements to the Mobile Visitor Centre are a challenge due the limited funds they have available.
- The Chamber's attendance at a trade show in Abbotsford was deemed a success as they connected with over 600 people. They have a strong interest in attending more trade shows.
- The increase in visitors in 2015 is attributed to many things, including good weather, exchange rates, increased online marketing, and the low cost of living/visiting Port Alberni.
- The Chamber has two tradeshow displays, or 'skins', for use at these events.

3. Vancouver Island Regional Library – Rosemary Bonanno, Executive Director and Steve Hurcombe, Divisional Manager, Finance

Rosemary Bonanno, Executive Director and Steve Hurcombe, Divisional Manager, attended to provide information with regards to VIRL and Port Alberni's library outlining their 2016 budget which has been adopted by the board.

It was confirmed that there were 180,000 items circulated, 24,000 computer sessions and 274 programs delivered out of the Port Alberni Library in 2015.

Mr. Hurcombe outlined the 3.66% increase in the total levy for 2016 that has resulted in a 1.97% increase for Port Alberni based on their tax levy distribution model.

In response to questions from Council, Mr. Hurcombe confirmed the following:

- The VIRL budget for 2016 was adopted by the board in September with 90% approval.
- The Port Alberni Library branch costs approximately \$600,000-\$700,000 annually to operate.
- Due to the community hub nature of libraries each customer that enters is not tracked as far as their activities but computer use and book circulation are.
- No staffing increases are included in the 2016 budget.
- Programs offered at the library are focused on various groups, including preschool children, adult reading clubs, and technology workshops.

Mayor Ruttan expressed concern regarding the impacts of continuing tax levy increases and the overall cost of the library service.

C. COUNCIL REVIEW

Councillor McLeman requested further discussion regarding RCMP staffing levels. He requested clarification regarding budgeted amounts for paving and road construction from operating and the server replacement identified from the Equipment Replacement Reserve Fund (ERRF). Clarification was also sought for the water works budget which is also identified on the operating budget and not from reserves.

Councillor McLeman also requested further information regarding the \$60,000 budgeted under Administration and questioned if this was for a vehicle replacement. He also requested confirmation on when the consulting budget would be presented to Council for consideration.

Mayor Ruttan requested clarification regarding the full traffic light service at Helen and Johnston Road which is identified as being moved from 2016.

D. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded:

That the meeting be adjourned at 3:20 p.m

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT

Mayor

Clerk

