

Minutes - Special Meeting of Council – Budget



MEETING DATE: December 16, 2011
LOCATION: Town Hall, Council Chamber
PREPARED BY: Corrina Giles, Town Clerk

A. Call to Order

- Mayor Anderson called the meeting to order with all members in attendance, save Councillor Ardiel and Councillor McKean absent due to previous commitments

Also in attendance was CAO Troy Speck, Director of Engineering & Public Works Reg Russwurm, Manager of Human Resources Tracey McKenna, Director of Recreation Shawn Everitt, Director of Finance and IT Robert Cummings, Director of Planning and Building David Finbow, Communications and Economic Development Coordinator Lisa Kidd, Manager of Revenue Ruth Prince, Capital Accountant Darcy Chapman, Deputy Fire Chief AJ Lake, Financial Analyst Debbie Brown, Administrative Assistant Serena Wilgress, Fire Chief Ron Doherty

- Approval of Agenda:

Moved by: R.J. Gamble Seconded by: D.R. McKinlay

THAT the Agenda of December 16, 2011 be adopted as circulated, including any revisions to be made, Carried.

No member declared a pecuniary interest with any matter as listed on the Agenda.

B. 2012 Budget

1. Follow up from December 9, 2011 Meeting
2. Current Status of 2012 Budget

Director of Finance and IT Robert Cummings reviewed the current proposed tax rate increase, being an overall increase of 3.2% with the Town portion being 5.7%.

3. Service Delivery Review, Planning & Building Committee

Director of Planning and Building David Finbow spoke regarding the Planning and Building Division service enhancement/change proposed noting capacity is currently being looked at within the Planning and Building Division.

David reviewed the Building Division and noted staffing costs are currently up by 21.2% due to a parental leave and the extra contract costs associated with a contract position to cover that parental leave. David noted it is anticipated that when the person goes on maternity leave, that the increase will be reduced.

David then reviewed the major projects, including source water protection requirements regarding on-site sewage and new energy efficiency provisions in the Ontario Building Code.

David reviewed By-Law Enforcement, Parking and Animal Control noting salary and benefits have increased due to greater allocation of the manager's salary.

David noted the animal control salary and benefits have increased and referenced parking enforcement revenues of \$50,000 in 2011.

David then noted the major project in By-Law Enforcement is short term accommodation.

Councillor Halos questioned who pays for maternity leaves, Rob replying that benefits are paid for through employment insurance, confirming that the Town does not have to pay this benefit to the employee.

Councillor Gamble spoke referencing the hiring of students for the GIS and Building departments and expressed a concern with a student in this role as the end result could be a concern, David noting he is not concerned with a student in the role of GIS, but may have a concern with the building position. David then noted these positions will come forward as an enhancement, as he is trying to mitigate longer term costs.

David then spoke regarding the Service Delivery Review of the Planning and Building Committee, referencing the Committee of Adjustment, training, workshops and overtime associated with Committee of Adjustment. David noted savings of \$6000 could be realized if the Planning and Building Committee assumes the duties of the Committee of Adjustment.

David noted there is some concern of removing the public from the Committee of Adjustment process, Councillor Martin spoke noting the disbandment of the Committee of Adjustment would set a bad precedent further noting an independent body has been established for effective decision making with the purpose of the Committee of Adjustment to get land division out of Council's hands.

David then spoke regarding the proposal to charge a \$250 fee to provide comments to the Niagara Escarpment Commission ("NEC") for Development Permit Applications noting a significant amount of work is involved in responding to an NEC application. David confirmed that currently no fee is charged by the Town. David noted that the only municipality that currently charges such a fee is the Town of Caledon. Deputy Mayor McKinlay spoke noting the proposed fee would not be unlike Grey Sauble Conservation Authority or Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority fees, further noting the services do not benefit the entire community, but is specific to a specific application. Duncan confirmed that the cost to comment on NEC permits should not be borne by the general ratepayer.

Councillor Halos spoke noting he is in support of charging a fee to comment on NEC development permit applications and questioned the number received in a year, David replying that currently the Town receives 10 – 12 applications per year.

Mayor Anderson spoke noting she too is in favour of charging this fee.

David then spoke regarding dog licencing and animal control, noting he is surprised at the number of calls received for enforcement of dog tags and dogs at large. Duncan noted the Planning and Building Committee felt no other body would assume the dog licencing and animal control if the Town did not do this, further noting progress is being made with microchipping. Duncan noted that dogs at large must be vaccinated for rabies before being released to the owner.

Bob then questioned if there is a fee charged for a dog without a dog tag, David replying that if a dog is caught that does not have a tag, the owner must purchase a tag. Bob noted he is in favour of maintaining this service to keep dogs from running at large.

Ellen confirmed she too is in favour of maintaining this service.

David then spoke regarding long grass and noxious weed enforcement and noted the Planning and Building Committee recommends maintaining the current service, subject to Council commenting on the appropriate length of long grass. David noted that the Town enforces the Weed Control Act in the urban areas only, noting 95 complaints were received last year. Duncan noted the Committee considered increasing the length of grass before enforcement proceedings commence.

Bob then questioned if there is a fee charged for the program, Duncan noted an administrative fee of 100% is charged to the owner. David noting the cost of cutting the weeds or long grass is a flow through charge to the owner, plus an administrative fee to the Town to process the complaint, further noting the administrative fee should be reviewed.

Bob then noted this service should continue and property owners should be encouraged to cut their grass. Bob is in support of enforcing an administrative fee when a complaint is received, but the owner eventually cuts the grass before enforcement proceedings commence. David noted he will explore this opportunity further.

Ellen spoke noting vacant lots neighbouring manicured lots should be maintained.

David then spoke regarding the start time of Planning and Building Committee meetings and noted the Committee has requested this be looked at comprehensively by the CAO. CAO Troy Speck spoke noting a draft report has been prepared and has been vetted by the Senior Management Team. Troy noted this report will be reviewed further and will be brought to Council in January.

David then spoke regarding the expected changes in the building department and building code programs noting the building reserve fund was not established until 2006, and noted a report is forthcoming to the Finance and Administration Committee as to how the outstanding deficit will be funded. David noted at the beginning of 2011, the Building Department was in a deficit position of \$200,000 and noted the revenues are down from 2004 to 2006 years.

Duncan then spoke noting the economy will improve at some point, and in the interim the Town needs to maintain capacity so when applications come in that the Town has the Staff to process them. David then spoke noting the Town has done well with insurance claims recently and has not been found at fault on any claim received in recent actions.

David then spoke regarding property standards enforcement and noted the Town enforces property standards in the urban areas and along the Highway #26 corridor. Duncan noted increased property standards enforcement would result in enhanced service outside the current service. Duncan noted that licencing of short term accommodation units may address any property standards issues at units rented by the public.

David then spoke referencing short term accommodation and property standards enforcement and noted property standards does not address the interior of a property, but the interior of a premises should be included when licencing short term accommodation premises to ensure the Fire Code is met and the premises is safe.

Moved by: D.R. McKinlay Seconded by: Joe Halos

THAT the final draft 2012 budget include the recommendation of the Planning and Building Committee to support a fee of \$250 for providing comments to the Niagara Escarpment Commission on their Development Permit Applications, for consideration by Council, Carried.

Duncan then referenced the long grass and noxious weed enforcement, David replying he will review the Municipal Act as it provides broad authority to municipalities. Duncan then questioned if the length of the grass should be increased to reduce complaints, David replying increasing the permitted length will not likely make a significant difference in the number of calls as By-Law Enforcement Officers will still have to respond.

Duncan then questioned if the Town can charge a fee for a complaint received and responded to if the property owner responds by cutting the grass, David replying that the Town likely has the authority.

Mayor Anderson then questioned the appointment of the Committee of Adjustment, Joe noting he concurs with Councillor Martin that this is a good Committee that takes some of the work from the Council table, and that its appointment should continue.

Mayor Anderson then spoke noting she too supports Councillor Martin's opinion, that she appreciates the Committee of Adjustment and public involvement.

4. Water & Wastewater Overview

Director of Finance and IT Services Rob Cummings spoke regarding the water and wastewater overview.

Rob reviewed the water and infrastructure deficit gap and confirmed Council authorized an increase of 8.2% in water rates in 2011. Rob reviewed the comparators to neighbouring municipalities with the average bill for The Blue Mountains being \$935 in 2012 for 180m³ of usage for water and wastewater rates. Rob noted this is an increase of \$70 per year for 2012.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay spoke noting the Town must maintain services even though The Blue Mountains is not the full-time residence for a number of households.

Duncan questioned if the rate by-law will be reviewed by Council, Rob replying yes.

Councillor Gamble spoke noting when the 20 year plan was before Council earlier this year, that the rates were subject to review by Council at budget time. Bob noted he has issue with putting money into reserves when we are using just 25% of the capacity of the water plant. Bob questioned why the current ratepayers have to pay for the needs of future ratepayers. Bob noted the Town needs to provide reasonable costs for business owners and is concerned with rates that are higher than inflationary rates.

Capital Accountant Darcy Chapman spoke noting the increase of 8.2% has been reduced to 7.7%, being .5% in savings in operational costs. Darcy confirmed this rate is not intended to put pressure on existing users for future users, it is to catch up from the past five years when a higher rate should have been charged to users. Darcy confirmed that every community in Ontario is in the same situation.

Duncan spoke noting he does not agree with Councillor Gamble, that we should not keep rates low now that may result in a crisis situation in the future. Duncan noted that infrastructure is critical and we need to prepare for its replacement and to take care of what we have and what is going to wear out in time. Duncan then questioned if this rate increase will cover 100% replacement, Darcy replying that the Town has young infrastructure and confirmed that currently there is more money going into reserves than is required at this time, but that in 2031 and 2032 there will be significant costs that will have to be covered by the Town that will require substantial reserves to be in place.

Bob spoke in response to Duncan and Darcy noting he disagrees with many of the comments made, and noted we do not know where the economy is heading and the Town needs to look after the current consumers. Bob expressed concern with putting 25% to 35% of the water bill into reserves for future use.

CAO Troy Speck spoke noting he encourages Council to look at the value of clean water and noted paying \$42 per month or \$995 per year for water is good value.

Councillor Martin spoke referencing the water infrastructure deficit gap and noted it is his opinion that the rate should be set at 6%, not 7.7% because it is not necessary to close the gap in 2014, that it should be moved out to 2020 because our infrastructure is so young, Rob confirming that the gap closes in 2018, not 2014.

Councillor Halos spoke noting he concurs with Councillor Martin that we are fortunate that our infrastructure is so young, and he too believes the infrastructure gap does not need to be closed so quickly.

Darcy then reviewed scenarios available to Council to close the infrastructure gap and noted that Council has done a good job in the past putting money away for reserves, confirming that \$1.3M per year is required for water and \$1.7M per year is required for wastewater replacement of services.

Moved by: D.R. McKinlay Seconded by: Michael Martin

THAT the final draft 2012 budget include a proposed water rate increase of 6.25%, for consideration by Council, Carried.

Rob then reviewed the wastewater rates, noting this is a similar process as the water rate, noting an increase of 8.4% is proposed.

Duncan then questioned if the proposed rate is for the five year plan, Darcy replying that the Town needs to reduce the gap and noted currently the Town has over \$1M per year of long term requirements.

Joe spoke noting the increases should be the same for both water and wastewater, Duncan replying that Darcy speculates that wastewater rates require an increase of over 10% and that the same level of detail is not required for wastewater as water at this time.

Bob then spoke noting it is difficult to justify current users paying for the facility and its replacement.

Moved by: D.R. McKinlay Seconded by: Ellen Anderson

THAT the final draft 2012 budget include a proposed water rate increase of 7.25%, for consideration by Council.

In speaking to the Motion, Councillor Halos questioned how much is currently in reserves, Darcy replying just over \$10M with the percentage collected varying year over year. Darcy confirmed that the consultant indicated that \$800,000 should be put into reserves annually.

Mayor Anderson then spoke noting as a homeowner we have to put money away for ongoing maintenance of our homes, confirming this is a difficult decision but Council needs to be responsible.

Council then voted on the Motion, Carried.

5. Capital Review

Rob then reviewed the total planned capital expenditures of \$6.61M in 2012.

Darcy spoke noting the major sources of debt in 2012 are the harbour dock replacement, Slabtown Bridge and Wensley Drive.

Rob noted the capital shortfall is \$2M annually to support future asset needs, but confirmed the Town is slowly getting back to an appropriate level. Bob spoke noting one factor is that money that should be used for capital is being sent to the County, further noting the Town needs to receive improvement in our share of the County levy, with no increase in taxation. Duncan spoke in response to Bob, noting this is a real issue with no quick and easy answer, noting when MPAC reassesses, that assessment could be reduced in The Blue Mountains. Duncan noted that the County needs to support services in The Blue Mountains, and perhaps assuming some of the municipal roads for maintenance to remove them from the responsibility of The Blue Mountains would assist The Blue Mountains.

Rob then spoke regarding the computer replacement program confirming computer replacement has increased to a four year cycle from three and noted IT has been experiencing emergency replacement of laptops between year three and four.

Rob then noted that fibre optic infrastructure is a consideration for Council in the future.

Rob then spoke regarding the Engineering and Public Works Ravenna Roads Works building expansion, Darcy noting the expansion is shown as a long term debt to be paid out over the long term through development charges. Bob expressed concern with the proposed expansion should not be financed beyond a five to seven year period and noted it is unfair to impose this on our future ratepayers. Rob spoke in response noting Staff ensure there is capacity for future growth and confirmed development charge projects are pulled back if development charges are low.

Bob then questioned if Wensley Drive improvements are proposed to be a rural design, Director of Engineering and Public Works Reg Russwurm replying the road is proposed to be a rural cross-section, but noted there may be an opportunity to reduce the road structure, further confirming there are no curbs or gutters proposed at Wensley. Duncan then spoke noting Peaks Road is an urban design, but confirmed it is fully funded by the developer.

Reg then spoke regarding Councillor Gamble's concern with the proposed expansion at the Ravenna Roads Department and the budgeted amount of \$473,750 noting we need to move forward with this expansion and confirmed phasing of the project is an option. Reg noted he is not convinced that the current plan will proceed, but noted this money is earmarked for improvements at the Ravenna Works yard.

Duncan then questioned if the proposed projects will come back before Council before the tender process, Rob replying yes that the Committees will be well advised before the commencement of any project. Reg then spoke noting that Council will provide Staff with the authority to proceed to the tender process and then to proceed through the purchasing process. Reg confirmed that Council will have the final say on a project and confirmed the process will keep moving forward unless Council advises Staff not to proceed.

Duncan then spoke noting he looks forward to receipt of further information on the proposed Ravenna Works Yard expansion and noted Council should move forward with this expansion, but should do so carefully.

Reg then spoke regarding the proposed work on the Clendenan Bridge and noted the required environmental assessment will cost \$70,000.

Darcy then noted there are multiple opportunities for Council to stop a project, if that is Council's wish, before the project proceeds, further noting now is the time for Council to pull any project Council does not wish to proceed with.

Joe then spoke regarding the proposed Ravenna Works Yard expansion and his concern with the expansion at this time, Reg spoke noting phasing of the project may allow a small building to be put in place, with no effect on taxation. Duncan then spoke noting he is in favour of leaving the proposed figures in the budget for the expansion and to look at phasing options and review the development charges rules and give Staff the time to get a plan together. Duncan confirmed that the Town is contracting out snowplows, and confirmed fewer snowplows will require less storage.

Ellen then spoke regarding the \$70,000 required to complete an environmental assessment on the Clendenan Bridge and noted she is favour of pulling this from the draft budget. Joe questioned if there have been complaints from the public regarding the bridge closure, Reg replying that the last message to the public indicated that an environmental assessment would be completed in December or January, but confirmed the Town has not received much public comment on the closure.

Bob then referenced the cost of the Slabtown Bridge and questioned if the funds required to improve Aspen Way and Clark Street could be applied to the cost of the Slabtown Bridge.

Ellen then questioned if Council would be agreeable to pulling \$70,000 for the Clendenan Bridge environmental assessment from the budget, Bob replying he has is in favour of pulling this from the budget, Michael concurring, and requested that extra signage be placed at the Clendenan Bridge as the Town is at risk.

Duncan then questioned if there is a concern with pedestrian traffic on the Clendenan Bridge, Reg replying there is no imminent danger and noted that the environmental assessment should be dealt with sooner than later and confirmed the funds are coming from reserves. Reg confirmed the Town has not entered into a contract with a consultant to complete the work.

Moved by: Joe Halos

Seconded by: R.J. Gamble

THAT the proposed repairs to the Clendenan Bridge valued at \$70,000 be removed from the final draft 2012 budget for consideration by Council, Carried.

D. Lunch Break – 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m

Council then adjourned for lunch, to resume at 1:00 p.m.

Councillor Martin then vacated the meeting.

Councillor McKean then joined the meeting.

Council then reconvened at 1:05 p.m.

Councillor Gamble then spoke expressing concern with the Clark Street and Aspen Way projects and noted the Fire Service portion of the budget should be deferred until the service review has been completed. Bob expressed concern with the duplication of equipment at the Fire Halls, further noting taxpayer money needs to be better utilized. Ellen spoke noting she disagrees with respect to Fire Services and noted it is a matter of timing in responding to calls.

Fire Chief Ron Doherty spoke referencing the age of the fire trucks, the distance between the two Fire Stations and noted one truck carrying water is not proper fire management. Bob spoke in response noting 80% of the Craighleith area is covered by fire hydrant access with the areas requiring a water truck being further out.

Troy then spoke noting he is in support of Fire Chief Ron Doherty's comments and noted Council should not engage in discussions regarding the levels of services at this budget meeting.

Moved by: R.J. Gamble

Seconded by: Joe Halos

THAT the proposed Fire Services Capital Expenditures included in the final draft 2012 budget be deferred until completion of the Fire Services Service Delivery Review in January 2012.

In speaking to the Motion, Councillor McKean noted Council will have ample time to revisit the Fire Services Capital Expenditures and noted he is in favour of including the Fire Services Capital Expenditures in the budget at this time.

Council then voted on the Motion, Lost.

Bob then spoke noting Aspen Way and Clark Street capital expenditures should be pulled to apply those funds to the costs of the Slabtown Bridge costs.

Rob then spoke noting Staff are constantly watching debt loads and noted pulling Aspen Way and Clark Street will put extra pressure on capital.

Darcy then spoke noting the Roads Needs Study indicated that Aspen Way and Clark Street should be improved, further noting there are 14 projects listed after these two roads, Reg spoke noting the Aspen Way repair will include re-shouldering the road.

Moved by: D.R. McKinlay Seconded by: John McKean

THAT the Engineering and Roads Capital Program be brought forward, as amended, for consideration by Council, as follows:

- i) Clendenan Bridge Environmental Assessment in the amount of \$70,000 be removed from the 2012 Budget;
- ii) Ravenna Roads Depot Expansion, subject to further study;
- iii) Scope of the Aspen Way Resurfacing and Clark Street Resurfacing Improvements be revisited prior to tendering, Carried.

Darcy then reviewed the user fee groups, referencing the harbour dock reconstruction and installation and replacement of dock hydro.

Moved by: D.R. McKinlay Seconded by: Joe Halos

THAT the Water and Wastewater Capital Programs be brought forward in the final draft 2012 budget as presented, for consideration by Council, Carried.

Moved by: D.R. McKinlay Seconded by: Joe Halos

THAT the Recreation and Cemetery Capital Program be brought forward in the final draft 2012 budget as presented, for consideration by Council.

Bob then referenced \$31,000 budgeted for software for the cemetery, Rob replying this is a rollover from last year.

Bob then questioned \$20,000 budgeted for waterfront vistas, Director of Recreation Shawn Everitt replying this work is being completed in house.

Council then voted on the Motion, Carried.

Moved by: Joe Halos Seconded by: John McKean

THAT the Administration, Planning, IT Services, and Fire Capital Budgets be brought forward in the final draft 2012 budget, for consideration by Council, Carried.

6. Economic Development

Communications and Economic Development Coordinator Lisa Kidd spoke regarding the Economic Development 2012 Base Budget and 2012 Base Budget Plus Enhancements.

Lisa confirmed that \$30,000 for community grants has been preapproved by Council.

Lisa then referenced \$119,000 in enhancements, including the ask of Georgian College, Blue Mountain Village Association, Blue Mountain Chamber of Commerce, Thornbury BIA, Clarksburg Business Group and the Small Business Enterprise Centre.

CAO Troy Speck spoke regarding the request of Georgian College noting the original ask of \$75,000 each year for four years was too much for a total request of \$300,000, and confirmed Georgian College will accept \$30,000 per year for 10 years for a total request of \$300,000.

Councillor Halos spoke referencing the core services of The Blue Mountains and noted he is not comfortable with the \$30,000 ask of Georgian College.

Councillor Gamble spoke questioning how neighbouring municipalities have supported Georgian College.

Moved by: D.R. McKinlay Seconded by: Joe Halos

THAT Lynn Hynd, Campus Manager, South Georgian Bay Campus of Georgian College be invited to address Council with respect to the ask of Georgian College, Carried.

Lynn then spoke noting support was requested from the four municipalities and confirmed that Wasaga Beach, Collingwood, and Clearview, through Simcoe County, provided support of \$500,000 annually for four years for a total of \$2M on behalf of Collingwood, Wasaga Beach and Clearview.

Councillor McKean spoke noting this request should be taken to Grey County for discussion, Mayor Anderson noting she would like to take this matter back to Grey County for further discussion, further noting the County's budget is set for adoption on January 3, 2012. Duncan spoke noting there would be challenges in bringing a matter of this magnitude forward at the County at this point.

Duncan then questioned if a representative of Georgian College could be available to provide information to Grey County, Lynn replying yes.

Moved by: John McKean Seconded by: R.J. Gamble

THAT the Georgian College request for support in the amount of \$30,000 be referred to Grey County, Carried.

Lisa then spoke regarding the request of Blue Mountain Village Association for support in the amount of \$20,000 for Centurion and \$5000 for Apple Pie Trail and confirmed in-kind support is offered to Centurion in the form of volunteer coordination and assistance with permit applications.

John then spoke regarding Centurion noting it is a good event, but confirmed Centurion has a for-profit component to it and Council needs to take a hard look at supporting this event. John confirmed he is in favour of the municipality supporting the Apple Pie Trail.

Joe then questioned if the Town is committed to supporting Centurion in 2012, and concurred with Councillor McKean that Council should not be financially supporting for-profit associations, and noted he has no problem with in-kind assistance.

Duncan then spoke regarding Centurion and noted it is appropriate for Council to discuss the \$20,000 request, and noted many municipalities would welcome an event of this magnitude to their municipality for economic development. Duncan noted he would appreciate if Centurion did not need the Town's support, but this may be achieved in time.

Moved by: D.R. McKinlay Seconded by: Joe Halos

THAT Don Braden, President, Blue Mountain Village Association be invited to address Council regarding the budget enhancement for the Centurion event, Carried.

Don Braden then spoke noting the 2011 Centurion event attracted 3000 riders with an average of three extra people per rider being brought to the area. Don noted the economic impact to the area is significant and noted the attendance in the event doubled from 2010 to 2011. Don noted that a three year agreement has been entered into between Centurion and Blue Mountain Village Association and noted that approximately 40% of participants stayed at the Village with the balance staying in other communities.

Duncan then questioned if Centurion has any other promotional partners, Don replying Blue Mountain Village Association, Blue Mountain Resort and the Westin and confirmed integrating the entire area in the event is key.

Don then noted that RTO7 cannot providing funding for the Centurion Event and further noting this is an investment in The Blue Mountains and sees this event as being sustainable in the future. Duncan then noted Centurion is still in the growth stages.

Bob then spoke questioning if Grey County can assist The Blue Mountains with funding the Centurion event, Don replying that the Mayor facilitated a meeting with the County, but Centurion has not sought funding from the County. Mayor Anderson spoke noting the County does not financially support community events. Don then spoke noting the Town received \$300,000 in advertising for the Town's \$20,000 investment.

Duncan then spoke in response to Bob and noted the County works at the next level above municipalities and does not support individual events.

Joe then spoke noting the Blue Mountain Village Association is a great community partner and confirmed that he believes in economic development in the area, but noted financial funding to Centurion will be reduced in the future.

Ellen then spoke noting she is in favour of the Town supporting the Centurion event, and believes the Town receives good value for the \$20,000 investment. Ellen confirmed that she too would like to see Centurion as being sustainable in the future, but noted at this time, the advertising the Town receives during the event, is staggering.

Councillor Ardiel then joined the meeting.

Bob then noted he is in favour of providing \$20,000 to Centurion provided the TSN advertising is included, then referenced the high cost of local advertising.

Lisa then spoke regarding the request of the Blue Mountain Chamber of Commerce of \$12,500 and referenced the specific projects to be funded by the Chamber with the funding. John spoke noting the Town should choose 2 or three of the 5 projects to support.

Gail spoke noting she is the Council representative for the Blue Mountain Chamber of Commerce and noted she did not participate in preparation of the ask to The Blue Mountains.

Duncan then questioned if Marg Fairly of Blue Mountain Chamber of Commerce could come to Council so that Council may understand the ask.

Lisa then reviewed the ask of the Thornbury BIA noting this is a new ask.

Director of Recreation Shawn Everitt spoke regarding the watering of the flower pots noting the Town hires a contract person to water the flowers seven days per week, with the BIA then paying for the watering. Shawn noted the BIA is requesting that Parks assume the cost of watering.

Joe then spoke noting the Thornbury BIA request is to be funded from tax dollars, Bob concurring and noted this is excessive.

Ellen then spoke noting she is in favour of assisting with events coordination and in-kind services, but noted she cannot support this request.

Lisa then reviewed the ask of the Clarksburg Business Group of \$2000, Joe noting this request is reasonable and the group seems to achieve a lot with a small amount of money.

Lisa then reviewed the ask of the Small Business Enterprise Centre noting they are located in Collingwood and provide services to residents of Collingwood, The Blue Mountains, Wasaga Beach and Clearview.

Joe noted he is not in support of supporting operational costs, though the Small Business Enterprise Centre is unique in the hosting the Dragon's Den type event known as the SPARC event.

Troy then spoke noting that because a small amount of staff time is allocated to economic development that it is beneficial to the Town to partner with organizations that support business start-ups and confirmed over a 3 year period, that 17 businesses were started in The Blue Mountains.

Duncan then questioned if this organization works to assist to retain businesses, Lisa replying yes, they will mentor businesses and help to facilitate businesses. Lisa confirmed the Small Business Enterprise Centre does not loan money.

Moved by: Joe Halos Seconded by: Gail Ardiel

THAT George Matamoros, Chair of the Thornbury BIA be invited to address Council with respect to the ask of the Thornbury BIA, Carried.

George thanked Council for allowing him to speak and noted the BIA is seeking \$20,000 over last year's request, being \$15,000 for in-kind services and \$10,000 in a cash grant, noting the funds are to assist in planting and watering flowers and for the banners. George noted that on average the annual cost of watering and the banners is \$13,000. George noted that the \$10,000 would be to enhance events, replace banners and for Christmas decorations.

George confirmed the BIA is requesting that the Town take over the cost of watering and placing flowers and banners.

Bob spoke noting he can support the ask of \$5000 to \$10,000, but is not in support of the Town assuming the cost of the watering.

Shawn then spoke noting the chargeback to the BIA is for the cost of a truck and staff person to perform watering. Shawn noted that the cost of the fuel is not charged to the BIA, and noted the 118 flower pots are watered seven days per week in Thornbury and Clarksburg. Shawn then noted the 10 flowerboxes on the Clarksburg bridge are watered with no charge to Clarksburg businesses as there is no Clarksburg BIA in place. Shawn confirmed the Town does not water in any other area of the municipality.

George then spoke noting the Thornbury BIA should be treated the same as Clarksburg and not charged for watering, Bob noted that other communities provide summer maintenance of flowers, not just Thornbury and Clarksburg.

John then spoke noting that perhaps there could be another area that the costs of the Clarksburg watering could be collected from. Shawn spoke in response noting timesheets are kept and Clarksburg Bridge flower box watering is identified, further noting Staff would like to receive Council direction on this.

Mayor Anderson thanked George for speaking to Council.

Moved by: John McKean Seconded by: Joe Halos

THAT the Georgian College request for support in the amount of \$30,000 be referred to Grey County;

THAT Blue Mountain Village Association, in support of the 2012 Centurion Cycling Event, be provided with funding in the amount of \$10,000, subject to an agreement being approved by the Town's solicitor;

THAT Blue Mountain Village Association, in support of the Apple Pie Trail, be provided with funding in the amount of \$5000;

THAT the Blue Mountains Chamber of Commerce be provided with support in the amount of \$6500, to be used as follows:

- i) \$2000 investment in a community promotional brochure;
- ii) \$2500 investment in business and community excellence awards;
- iii) \$2000 investment in a community and business resource guide;

THAT the Thornbury BIA be supported in the amount of \$10,000;

THAT the Clarksburg Business Group be supported in the amount of \$2000; and

THAT the Small Business Enterprise Centre be supported in the amount of \$2000 for the Regional Entrepreneurs Competition (SPARC).

In speaking to the Motion, Councillor Gamble noted that savings should be realized from local newspaper advertising costs that could increase support for the Centurion event by \$10,000 to \$20,000.

Gail noted she supports the Motion, but noted support for the BIA should be increased to \$10,000, the mover and seconder concurring.

Council then dealt with the following amending Motion:

Moved by: R.J. Gamble Seconded by: D.R. McKinlay

THAT support for the 2012 Centurion Cycling Event and the Apple Pie Trail, through the Blue Mountain Village Association, be increased to \$25,000 subject to savings being realized in local advertising costs, Carried.

Council then dealt with the following original Motion, as amended:

Moved by: John McKean Seconded by: Joe Halos

THAT the Georgian College request for support in the amount of \$30,000 be referred to Grey County;

THAT Blue Mountain Village Association, in support of the 2012 Centurion Cycling Event, be provided with funding in the amount of \$20,000, subject to an agreement being approved by the Town's solicitor;

THAT Blue Mountain Village Association, in support of the Apple Pie Trail, be provided with funding in the amount of \$5,000;

THAT the Blue Mountains Chamber of Commerce be provided with support in the amount of \$6500, to be used as follows:

- i) \$2000 investment in a community promotional brochure;
- ii) \$2500 investment in business and community excellence awards;
- iii) \$2000 investment in a community and business resource guide;

THAT the Thornbury BIA be supported in the amount of \$10,000;

THAT the Clarksburg Business Group be supported in the amount of \$2000; and

THAT the Small Business Enterprise Centre be supported in the amount of \$2000 for the Regional Entrepreneurs Competition (SPARC), Carried.

**8. The Blue Mountains Police Services Board
Re: Proposed Satellite Police Office, Blue Mountain Village**

Rob reviewed the enhancement of the proposed satellite Police Office at Blue Mountain Village, noting it will not have an impact on taxation at this time.

Mayor Anderson welcomed OPP Inspector John Trude to the meeting.

Councillor McKean spoke questioning if a satellite Police Office at Blue Mountain Village will assist with the short term accommodation issues at Blue Mountain, Inspector Trude replying that having a presence or appearance in the area should assist and noted a large number of people attend the Village each year and some issues originate at the Village. Inspector Trude noted that appearance is a good deterrence.

Inspector Trude noted if Blue Mountain Resort requires an increased presence, that Blue Mountain Resort will pay officers directly. Inspector Trude noted that the subject concept is that the OPP would undertake to provide signage and that the \$20,000 ask is for renovation costs to a space and that all other costs would be borne by Blue Mountain Village Association, not the Town.

Duncan then questioned if the pay-duty officers would use this space as a base of operations, Inspector Trude replying yes, and that it could also be used as a calming centre, and confirmed this office would be separate from the security officer's office.

Bob then questioned if \$20,000 is the total cost of the renovation, Inspector Trude replying that the renovation is being shared on an equal basis with the Blue Mountain Village Association.

Councillor Ardiel spoke in support of the enhancement and believes this to be good value for \$20,000.

Moved by: R.J. Gamble Seconded by: Gail Ardiel

THAT Council supports the enhancement of the proposed Satellite Police Office at Blue Mountain Village, in the final draft 2012 budget, for consideration by Council, unanimously Carried.

Duncan then spoke noting agreements should be prepared as soon as possible so that work can commence.

C. Staff Reports as circulated

2012 Draft Budget as previously circulated

E. Closed Session (if required)

Not required

F. Adjournment

Moved by: Gail Ardiel Seconded by: John McKean

THAT this meeting does now adjourn at 3:35 p.m, Carried.

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Ellen Anderson, Mayor

.....
Corrina Giles, Town Clerk