



Gary then noted it was hoped to have a Council commitment to present financial information on an ongoing basis. Gary then presented and reviewed a financial reporting template to present the financial information for the benefit of residents.

Gary noted the template included a financial comparison with other municipalities, recognizing there were all kinds of variances in comparing with other municipalities.

Gary then noted the template could be considered as a financial orientation for the general public.

Gary then recounted conversations with individual members of Council which seemed positive, noting Councillors Martin and McKean had agreed to work with he and Terry toward organizing a Town Hall meeting.

Gary then noted it was hoped the document would be relevant and of benefit to the community and requested some sort of authorization by Council for some Staff assistance on the project.

Councillor McKean then clarified the proposal was really just getting started and Gary and Terry are requesting to meet with Financial Staff, Gary replying yes, adding it was important that Council approve the project.

Councillor Halos then noted he thought the project was a good idea and the Town does not really prepare such information at present, Councillor McKean adding the proposal would be like a residents audit report.

Councillor Ardiel then stated the proposal sounds like what ratepayers wanted and she looked forward to moving ahead with it.

Councillor Martin then noted the project would need a Recommendation that Gary and Terry be permitted to utilize municipal financial information with the assistance of Staff.

Chair Gamble then noted that any information that has been before Council is in the public domain, then questioning what Staff requirements would be.

Gary then noted the project could start in late May or early June for completion by perhaps early fall depending on Staff workload and availability, adding there was no real urgency.

Chair Gamble then noted the matter could be left with Staff to discuss with Financial and Information Services Director Rob Cummings on his return from vacation.

The Committee then dealt with the following Recommendation:

Moved by: Gail Ardiel

Seconded by: John McKean

THAT Council authorize preparation of Town financial strategies and performance comparison information in conjunction with Gary Adams and Terry Hughes and that a ratepayer forum move forward.

In speaking to the Recommendation, Councillor Ardiel noted Council is still working on the 2011 Budget then will be moving to the new Town Hall and time in April and May may be tight, Gary noting project completion by fall would be fine, adding they will attempt to have a full audience and this might be more difficult during summer.

Councillor Halos then noted it will be important to attract ratepayers to the meeting to hear the information.

Chair Gamble then noted Staff is also working on 2010 year end and perhaps Rob could meet with Gary to determine what information will be required before proceeding with the project.

Liz then noted she had reviewed the proposal with Rob and he believes it is a good thing to bring forward to the public but he would wait for Council's endorsement.

The Committee then voted on the Recommendation, unanimously Carried.

**B.2** Larry Hall – Community Policing Committee - Rural Community Watch program request for funding

Larry Hall and OPP Sgt. Charles Watts were then in attendance.

Larry introduced himself as Chair of the Community Policing Committee (CPC), noting funding for the CPC had been previously considered by Council in 2010.

Larry then reviewed the four components of Community Watch, being Neighbourhood Watch, up and operating in the Craigleith and Lora Bay areas, mainly used in urban areas, Rural Watch, which is now being introduced in the rural and southern village areas, Business Watch, operating in the Craigleith area and Traffic Watch, highway signage having been installed.

Larry then noted the CPC needs funds to make the Watch programs work, adding a comprehensive website will be launched on March 16 to provide information to the public.

Larry then recounted a CPC request to the Town for \$10,000 in funding in 2010 over an 18 month period plus \$5,000 for administration. Larry then noted funding was also received from the Rotary Club and Huronia Alarm, \$4,650 spent to date.

Larry then noted the CPC will require between \$7,000 to \$10,000 on an annual basis from the Town to have the program move forward, primarily to maintain the website and advertising.

Larry then noted the CPC is now requesting \$7,500 from the Police Reserve Fund and is considering a three year Operating Budget in the amount of \$7,500 for program implementation and progress.

Charlie then noted Neighbourhood Watch is usually organized in response to high crime rates but in this instance is a preventative measure for the most part, up and running in Craigeith and Lora Bay.

Larry then noted the CPC has worked with the Town and OPP to implement the Security Alarm By-law and false dispatches have now fallen by 40%. Larry further noted the CPC is seeking to eliminate crime problems before they occur, including fraud.

Councillor Halos then questioned if the CPC anticipated any fundraising efforts, Larry replying the initial direction was to find community partners for support, such as the Rotary Club and Huronia Alarm, who provide approximately 50% of alarm systems in the community.

Larry then noted the CPC is a volunteer organization and it is difficult to maintain membership, let alone participate in fundraising.

Councillor McKean then noted the Watch program is now community-wide and questioned if financial support could be considered in the Policing Budget.

Councillor Ardiel noted the Budget review is ongoing and a three year commitment is difficult but the request could be reviewed as part of the Policing Budget.

Chair Gamble then questioned if there were any funds in the 2011 Budget at present for the CPC, Liz replying no. Liz further noted there was a CPC Budget surplus in 2010 and the intention was to fund approved projects.

Bob then questioned if the Committee wished to support the CPC request, Councillor McKean asking the deputation what they thought of making CPC funding a line in the Police Budget, Larry replying the CPC was a volunteer organization which does not involve itself in Town Budget matters.

Charlie then noted actual policing costs are set by contract, adding OPP Crime Prevention in Orillia is monitoring this particular closely as a pilot project.

Charlie then clarified the Police Budget included contract policing as well as some other funding.



Councillor Martin then questioned if interest is charged on arrears, Liz replying yes, Joe then questioning if the indicated arrears amount included the interest, Liz replying yes.

Liz then reviewed the Accumulated Surplus, including consideration of Tangible Capital Assets.

Councillor McKean then, noted total assets of \$159 million in 2009 and depreciation of \$5 million seems high at 3%, the figure almost a Budget consideration to maintain the status quo.

Councillor Halos then questioned if this was the first time total assets were considered, Liz replying yes.

Joe then questioned if there was any flexibility on amortization, Liz replying there can be if it is determined an asset will in fact last longer.

Liz then reviewed the unfunded projects line, essentially studies that were not complete in 2009 and would be transferred to Operating once complete.

Liz then noted the unfunded landfill closure line would remain until the site was closed, Councillor McKean noting mining of the site may significantly extend the life of the site.

Regarding the Building Department deficit, Liz noted it could be funded through working capital, paid through a loan or remain status quo until revenue increased.

Chair Gamble then noted the deficit could only be addressed through taxation if not from Building revenue, adding Council could consider the level of interdepartmental transfers, perhaps during the upcoming Budget deliberations, as well as the cemetery deficit.

Liz then reviewed Obligatory and Discretionary Reserve Funds, including negative funds Development Charges which were reviewed during the Budget process.

Liz then clarified unfinanced capital costs were addressed by placing the Development Charge fund in a negative situation.

Chair Gamble then stated project funding should be 60% in hand before proceeding.

Chair Gamble then questioned if certain items would be further reported on to the Committee, Liz replying a separate Report on Internal Controls will come to a future Committee meeting, Bob also requesting a Report on Development

Charge funds and perhaps a quarterly Report on Internal Financial Statements and Amortization Capital.

Bob further noted the Committee could also address unfunded operating projects that are not proceeding and fund them against a reserve.

### **C.2 Annual Report – Building Fees, FIS.11.08**

Greg then reviewed the Report, noting it was legislated for report annually.

Greg then noted revenue has increased and expenses decreased in 2010 versus 2009.

Councillor Halos then noted it was good to see expenses decreasing and questioned overhead costs, Greg replying for example a portion of office space, Liz adding a portion of payroll and human resources costs as well, Greg noting overhead costs could be direct or indirect.

Greg then noted the outlook appeared good for 2011.

The Committee then dealt with the following Recommendation:

Moved by: Gail Ardiel                      Seconded by: John McKean

THAT Council receive Staff Report FIS.11.08 “Annual Report – Building Fees” being a report of the Town of The Blue Mountains’ 2009 and 2010 direct and indirect costs of delivering services related to the administration and enforcement of the *Building Code Act*, unanimously Carried.

### **C.3 2010 Statement of Remuneration and Expenses, FIS.11.09**

Liz then reviewed the Report, noting it was legislated for report annually.

Councillor Ardiel then questioned when per diems were paid, Debbie noting they were \$110 for a full day and \$75 for a half day for meetings and events outside of Town.

Debbie further noted a half day was less than 3.5 hours and per diems were paid together with salary, with a separate monthly travel and computer allowance.

The Committee then dealt with the following Recommendation:

Moved by Gail Ardiel                      Seconded by: Joe Halos

THAT Council receive Staff Report FIS.11.09, “2010 Statement of Remuneration and



THAT this meeting does now adjourn to meet again on April 19, 2011 at 2:00 pm,  
or at the call of the Chair, Carried.