

Village of Lumby
White Valley Community Centre
January 11, 2010
Public Input Meeting
On the Village of Lumby
Five Year Financial Plan 2010-2014

Members of Council Present: Mayor Kevin Acton
Councillor Janet Green
Councillor Lori Mindnich
Councillor Tracy Williamson
Councillor Ben Winters

Staff: Ken Klassen, Director of Finance
Roger Huston, Public Works & Parks Superintendent
Frank Kosa, Administrator

General Public in attendance - 58 persons were present

Mayor Acton called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Acton welcomed the general public and introduced Council and Staff and informed the people present that the meeting was not a public debated, but rather an information gathering session for Council to obtain the concerns and issues that the general public wished to present in relation to the 2010-2014 Financial Plan, and perhaps more particular the 2010 Village Operating and Capital budget.

Mayor Acton requested the Director of Finance, Ken Klassen, to offer a brief overview of the Open House that was held at the Village Office from 10 am to 4 pm.

In a brief overview the following items were discussed or brought up at the Open House which was attended by approximately 25 people, and Councillor Green and Williamson attended the entire period.

- the issue of the sewer treatment facility odor was discussed
- the reason for the 3% tax increase
- suggestion made that the Village hire students to attend the flower baskets as a cost savings
- inquiry as to the status of the road to Silver Star Ski Resort

- suggestion of increased pathways from Mountain View and Saddle View
- perhaps some of the anger being levied was due to Federal and Provincial Government issues and that the local government was the closest place to express concerns
- use the Village website more
- concern with the salary agreement

Councillor Williamson stated that some of the additional issues that she had noted were

- what is the status of the Community Forest, and what will it look like in the future
- discussion as to the efficiency of the budget
- what is the status of the Senior Housing Project

Councillor Green brought up the additional issues that she note were

- Council be more diligent
- there should be at least four public meetings or open houses during the year
- focus meetings on specific issues

The Director of Finance reviewed the Financial Plan and the Current year budget information, copy attached to the minutes.

Mayor Acton opened the floor to the general public attending the meeting.

Margaret Simons – 2230 Linea Cres.

The taxes plus the increase in water, sewer and garbage would be in the area of \$56 plus That the Village spends locally approximately \$310,000, and that some of the businesses are charging 100% to 150% more than in Vernon. She believe in supporting local businesses, however they must earn their customers, and she felt that the locals, and the elderly were being gouged. She suggested that the prices should be competitive, and that the Village do price comparisons, as it is the taxpayers dollars being spend. She felt that the cost of the hanging baskets at \$40,000 were too expensive for a three month period, as Lumby is more a through-way and she is opposed to the baskets. She questioned why the Village is working with Vernon for industrial development, she would like to see industry in Lumby, but not the noise and air pollution. She suggested that if industry was to locate to the Village, that public forms should be held. She was of the opinion that Highway # 6, is overloaded with logging trucks and that the Village should discuss the upgrading of the road with the MLA.

Dennis Patterson #4-2675 Pine Avenue

Mr. Patterson questioned if a vote was going to be taken this evening on the budget.

Clifford Wedgewood #17-2675 Pine Avenue

Mr. Wedgewood wished to assure Council that he is upset as to how Council is spending money from the taxpayers. The overall population of the Village has not changed, yet salaries have gone up over the years. Suggested that the Village get more people to live in Lumby. The well has run dry

Doug Brown – 2003 Mountain View Avenue

- it is his opinion that the material distributed is limited and could be more comprehensive
- the tax increase is 7.7% without assessments from other agencies
- the 3% increase is not accurate
- administration portion of the budget as increased from \$187,000 in 2005 to \$389,000 in 2010, where are we going with the increases
- Council is under no pressure to pass the budget

Dwayne Hackett 1945 Saddle View Avenue

Question if the 3% increase related to all properties within the Village or just residential

Ray Cameron 2331 Cedar Ridge Street

- questioned how many people are laid off in the Winter
- questioned the staff increase
- have the private properties water the flowers by their businesses

Nick Hodge 1881 Grandview Ave.

Mr. Hodge questioned a line item on the Financial Plan as the difference between the 2008 and 2009 deficit or surplus.

Joan McKort 2249 Cedar Ridge Street

- expressed concern of staff shopping and paying bills on Village time
- expressed concern as to the watermeter replacement fee of \$2/month, and questioned as to what it would rise to,

Norman Hannam 2378 Glencaird Street

- the Village should hire personnel to replace retiring person, as the over-time is not the way to proceed in response to a comment that the retiring position not be filled

Dave Otten 2553 Cedar Ridge Court

- opposed to tax increase – show restraint
- expressed that he paid \$2,400 on business and \$4,000 on residential taxes in 2009
- cut flowers and save \$40,000 which would mean no tax increase
- questioned the cost of the pool – if losing money why do we keep it open

- sidewalk was cleaned three times in a row
- show fiscal restraint
- concern as to wages
- need to attract young families and find ways to cut taxes

Doug Edwards - #30 -2675 Pine Avenue

- is opposed to the budget due to the tax increases
- take into consideration the benefits of job security in not only local governments, but Crown corporations
- administration budget has increased greatly over the last few years(5 years)
- local businesses struggle to operate in recession
- loggers working half-time
- seniors have pensions reduced due to economy
- does not hold Council responsible for other government institutions
- with the new HST coming into effect, additional costs to pensioners and all residents, such as heating
- pension income is not keeping up with increase in costs
- request that Council send the budget back to administration and have administration make choices in the view of what we want to what we need
- it would be an insult if the budget was passed without a review and the public process being held. It should not be window dressing but the concerns expressed taken seriously
- it does not do much for the community to attract businesses, but we should market the raw materials-labour-transportation and not be raising taxes when things get tough

Elinor Turrill 2252 Shuswap Avenue

- suggested that Council take another review of the budget as to the concerns expressed at the meeting this evening

Fred Peters 2290 Shuswap Avenue

- questioned if the Village could do its own building inspections and not have to pay RDNO for the service. Look at doing it in house versus contracting out the service

Dwayne Hackett – 1945 Saddle View Avenue

- question what is the benefit of the Community Policing Program

Gilbert Dyer #49 2675 Pine Avenue

- concern of the 4% increase to staff
- what happened to the promises made at the last election

- the area and Province is in a recession-suggested that the Village cut back or take funds out of reserves
- Provincial Assessment use to be 75 to 80% of property value, now the assessment is market value or 100% of property value
- concerned about the effect of the HST on residents
- listen to the people and reduce the tax increase

Gail Arnold #57-2675 Pine Avenue

- suggested not to cut the flowers, but seek ways to get around the \$40,000 cost

Mayor Acton declared the Public Input Session closed and thanked the people present for participating, and that Council will take into consideration the various concerns expressed and suggestions to assist in the Council in the budget deliberations.