

February 8, 2005

A Finance & Administration Committee meeting of Council was held this evening with Chair Deputy-Mayor Scott presiding and all members of the Committee in attendance with the exception of Councillors Henderson, Levasseur and Lowe. Staff member present was R. Spadoni, Treasurer.

MINUTES:

On motion of Councillor White, seconded by Councillor Lafreniere, the regular minutes of the Finance & Administration Committee meeting of January 11, 2005 were approved, as presented. CARRIED.

1. FIRE DEPARTMENT

(a) January Monthly Report

Councillor Lafreniere asked the Chief to include the dollar figure recovered for false alarm fines in the monthly reports.

Responding to Mayor Jacyno, Chief Boucher advised that 29 invoices have been sent out since the inception of the False Alarm By-law. As of this date, he advised, most have been paid. There are only a few left outstanding. He noted that he is in negotiations with a couple of the firms regarding whether they should be required to pay the fine; their argument being that the money would be better spent on fixing the alarm system.

Responding to Councillor Lafreniere's question, Chief Boucher advised that in 2004 the average call-out cost for a false alarm was approximately \$800. Of course, with the increase in salaries just arbitrated, that cost has gone up. He noted that the Chief Administrative Officer is reviewing the False Alarms By-law in view of that increase and will determine if the by-law should be amended and the fines increased.

(b) Award of Uniform Tender

Councillor Lafreniere questioned whether the City had ever established a 'percentage difference' in awarding a contract to an out-of-town company versus an in-town company. Councillor White responded that the City had looked at the matter on several occasions, however, Council, in the end, had determined that it would not be prudent to do so as it would limit the number of companies who bid on a project or tender if they realized they could lose it even if they were the lowest

bidder.

MOTION: Moved by Councillor O'Neill,
Seconded by Councillor Lafreniere,
THAT the recommendations of the Fire Chief regarding
the awarding of the Uniform Tender be accepted as
presented. CARRIED.

2. 2005 BUDGET

The Treasurer advised that staff had been asked to submit their proposed budgets for 2005 by the end of the month. He suggested that the first budget meeting could be scheduled early in March.

The Committee agreed to tentatively set the first meeting date for Wednesday, March 9, 2005 at 4:00 p.m.

Regarding the setting of tax policy, the Treasurer advised that the Province has made changes to the way municipalities can set their tax policy, allowing for more flexibility in the options the municipality has available to it. He advised that the City's tax consultant, Municipal Tax Equity Consultants Inc., have been tentatively booked to attend an upcoming meeting to explain the options to Council. The Committee agreed to meet, in Caucus, on Thursday, March 3, 2005 at 2:00 p.m.

CAUCUS MEETING:

On motion of Councillor O'Neill, seconded by Councillor White, the meeting moved to an in-camera session to discuss certain matters pertaining to policy and finance. CARRIED.

The meeting then adjourned on motion of Councillor Lafreniere, seconded by Councillor Severin.