

Town can't have storage compound until contaminated area is cleaned

Continued from pg. 1

Director of Engineering, Public Works and Building Services Rick Henry asked for the removal from the budget of an open area storage compound (\$110,000) at the public works central yard. The compound cannot be added until the Town complies with an order to clean up the current storage area that has been contaminated with leaking fuel. That will be done this year at a cost of \$386,000. The compound's construction will be moved to 2008 or 2009.

Henry also warned tenders for the Main St. Georgetown reconstruction project have come in over-budget and council will have to make a decision at an upcoming meeting to increase the \$1.4 million budget to do the project, which is listed as the number one capital works priority by the Engineering and Public Works department.

The total cost of Phase 3B of Trafalgar Rd. Sports Park has been increased to \$390,000 from \$315,000 to accommodate the decision to accept the \$100,000 Georgetown Slopitch League donation to build a baseball diamond, instead of soccer fields.

In a contentious move, the budget committee voted to add \$60,000 into the capital bud-



RICK HENRY

get for some trail development—no money had been set aside this year for trail development. The committee voted 6-5 to include the money, with Bonnette breaking the tie.

The 2008 to 2016 capital forecast was also tentatively approved, with big budget items included such as the \$8 million for new Georgetown branch library, road reconstruction on Queen St., Wallace St. and Wildwood Rd. and a master transportation study for Glen Williams—all in 2008.

However, staff also has a wish list for 2007 projects totaling \$57.7 million—all left unfunded. The wish list included the mundane from new office furniture and photocopier replacements to large ticket items such as road improvements, Back St. parking lot reconstruction (\$300,000), arena and pool repairs, park improvements and the purchase of land (\$1.6 million) for a new arena complex.

Review of the operating budget, with a projected 5.3 per cent increase, begins on Jan. 29. Final council approval of both operating and capital budgets is scheduled for the February 5 meeting.

(Cynthia Gamble can be reached at cgamble@independentfreepress.com)

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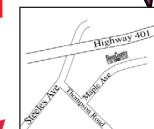
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