

Notes on discussions

# More on 1972 budget

Budget-cutting sessions occupied members of Milton Council for over seven hours in two meetings held during the past week. While the main highlights of the budget will be found elsewhere in today's paper, the following are some "notes" on the discussions that surrounded the final decision.

—Many of the cuts totalling \$27,982 which council made at last Tuesday's meeting originated from a "guideline" paper which Mayor Brian Best had prepared. He said he spent 15 hours that weekend going over all the figures and looking for possible savings.

—Council started off 1972 with a healthy surplus from last year of \$50,000 and estimated \$25,000 to come in supplementary taxes. Mayor Best said the revenue side on the ledger looked brighter this year because the Glen Eden and Mayfair apartments, Alliance Building Corporation industrial plaza, close to 150 homes in the Wimpey subdivision, a portion of the Milton Plaza addition all 30 Derrydown subdivision homes and Polymer Corporation's industrial plant will be added to the tax rolls, either wholly or partially, during 1972.

**Back taxes**  
—A get-tough policy on outstanding taxes was recommended, as there is \$96,020 unpaid from 1969, 1970 and 1971 on the books. The administration committee was urged to get busy right away on these collections.

—Library board member Robert Mackay and librarian Mrs. Shelagh Conway were present at last week's meeting and defended the reserve fund, saying it was necessary when a new building is approved, for initial architect's and engineering fees. Discussion swung around to the need and council's unsuccessful plans to acquire a property for a new public library building and the library representatives continued to press for a firm decision from council to go ahead with a new building. Mayor Best asked the administration committee to look into a site for a library and bring back a report "not later than the middle of May."

**Buy Tanker**  
—The fire area committee asked \$22,828 from Milton this year, an increase of \$2,342. Part of this money is to buy a tank truck and it was suggested \$2,110 from the capital levy fund be used toward this item, leaving only a \$230 increase in the town's

rate. Fire area committee expense of \$65,000 will be shared by Milton and the four surrounding municipalities.

—Council currently has \$117,751 in its capital levies fund, moneys paid by developers and builders to cover costs of necessary services. There is also \$4,524 in a parking levy, paid by builders in lieu of providing parking, and \$7,126 in the parks fund representing cash grants in lieu of parks. The fire area board has \$9,800 in a reserve fund but intends to use part of that to buy a new tank truck.

—Water accounts alone last year accounted for \$157,859 in revenue for the water account. Healthiest account on the town books, the water account ended 1971 with \$21,432 surplus and has an accumulated surplus of \$92,237. But these funds can only be spent on improving or expanding water service.

**Bonuses dropped**  
—Although council cut employees' Christmas bonuses from the list last week, Councillor Dr. Ivan Hunter tried to get them reinstated this week. An \$1,100 was proposed, while \$660 was actually spent last year. Mayor Best said salaries are high enough and Councillor Colin Smillie felt council should not be in the "give-away business" when many industrial and commercial firms have dropped the Christmas bonus system.

—Included in the arena board's budget was \$1,800 for more glass around the ice surface to protect spectators from flying sticks and pucks. \$600 for new plywood flooring, \$125 for new boards around the ice, \$300 for painting, \$600 for front wall repairs and \$750 for engine room roof repairs. The arena board also plans to purchase two rebuilt motors for stand-by units in case the present motors give up. New speakers and wiring for the sound system were also included at \$800.

**Industrial film**  
—The economic development committee's budget includes \$1,200 for an industrial film of the town, to be prepared by Jack Carpenter of Acton. That is the major expenditure in a budget totalling \$6,832.

—Labor is one of the largest expenditures in the town's spending this year. Practically every budget turned in showed higher labor costs. Some of the items in staff salaries were police at \$117,000; administration \$61,000; councillors \$12,800; streets and walks \$57,000; sewers

and sanitation \$24,500; waterworks \$20,000; committee of adjustment \$1,340; planning board \$6,000; properties and contingencies \$5,200; arena board \$34,500; economic development \$4,000; parks board \$900; library \$17,960; fire department \$38,000; recreation committee \$23,500. (Note, council shares fire costs with four neighboring municipalities; and the recreation figure includes a partial year's salary for a recreation director who will be hired this summer.)

# Georgetown asks comment extension

Georgetown's request of the Department of Municipal Affairs that the deadline for comments on Esqueging's Official Plan be extended to May 30 so they could have time to assess it, was greeted with disdain by Esqueging councillors at a special meeting recently.

"They can't have much to do," snapped the deputy reeve. Councillor Cox failed to see where the plan affected Georgetown.

Esqueging council countered the Georgetown request by writing to the minister objecting to any May 30 extension, noting

they want no more delays on the plan.

Another request from Georgetown for four copies of the township's official plan was accompanied by a \$100 deposit which the town wanted returned when they brought back the documents, was also greeted with little enthusiasm. The clerk was instructed to write Georgetown council and tell them they would have to buy copies if they wanted them, although Reeve Hill acknowledged the Georgetown request had been township policy were on hand in the office.

# Form industrial association

A new association, the Milton Industrial Association is underway in town. According to Mayor Brian Best a group representing industries in town have met and chosen a steering committee to bring in a slate of officers for the first official meeting of the group.

The steering committee includes Stan Edgar of North American Rockwell (Ontario Steel), Richard Johnston of P. L. Robertson and W. C. Rowney of Milton Machine Shop. The group will meet in the future to elect officers and get the association operative.

**Welcome industry**  
Mayor Best told Milton Council Monday the group could provide liaison with council along the same lines as Milton Chamber of Commerce does, except the association will be more industrially oriented than commercially.

The mayor indicated the association would be helpful in welcoming new industries to town and would provide an opportunity of employees of the various industries to meet one another and swap ideas.

"New industries coming to town often want to know what is

made, who are the executives and what type of industry is already in town," he said.

In case you were wondering why most after-dinner speakers are men, it's because women can't wait that long.

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