Region Rejects Proposed Cuts "Bare Bones Budget"

(Continued from Page 1) ing rentals, light and water and

insurances. The cuts in the police budget would all be reflected in local taxes, as would proposed reductions in convention expenses, receptions and information services. There are no provincial subsidies

in these areas. Revised estimates would reduce administration costs included in the first draft of 1972 estimates. Plans to hire a personnel coordinator at an estimated annual salary of \$7,200 would be shelved. The revised estimates also cut back on \$19,140 earmarked for hiring of a purchasing agent and stenographer for the clerk's department and \$8,740 for additional staff for the legal department.

Further possible revisions included a cut back of \$8,670 in estimates for renovations to the regional administration building in Newmarket and postponement of demolition of the old York Manor building at an estimated cost of \$23,300. When the 90-year-old building was inspected recently it was estimated it would cost about \$47,000 to make the building safe

Mayor Roman was unhappy about some of the cuts, particularly in the engineering department. Since provincial subsidies were conditional on regional spending, he said, "If we do not use all the money in the provincial subsidy,

it may be cut back next year." It was at this point that Mayor Illingworth move the budget estimates be tabled until after a meet-

ing with the Minister. "We have to pass a bylaw on roads," said Chairman Wright. "Who says so?" asked Mayor

"The province," the chairman replied.

It was rediculous for the province to demand roads needs and budget estimates at this point, said Illingworth. In Aurora the home owner had to pick up \$250,000 in added taxes because of the reduction in industrial assessments. If the towns of Aurora, Newmarket, Richmond Hill are going to have to pick up another \$1 million because of changes in farm assessments the province should do something about it, Illingworth said. "How many people can

afford to pay \$100 more in taxes?" Speaking in support of a meeting with the Minister before approving revised estimates, Mayor Roman urged, "Let's not panic. We have a responsibility to provide a reasonable level of service. I know it is an election year and people get nervous, but we do have to provide services."

Mayor Forhan agreed. "The meeting Wednesday (with Mc-Keough) should include the nine mayors. They are the ones that get the stuff thrown at them." At this point Chairman Wright backtracked. The meeting Wednesday, he said, had been set up as a result of a letter from the region concerning the impact of the proposed regional airport. "This meeting," said Wright, "is not going to solve our financial

problems. Councillor Plaxton protested, "We do not expect one meeting with the minister to solve anything." In the first two years of regional government, he said, the cost of police service has escalated the police budget in Richmond Hill by 20 percent and it is not getting as good services as it had under its own municipal force. Now, he said, the province has assumed responsibility for assessment and it expects the region to set a \$24 million budget without even knowing what assessment it is working with or how it is to be shared.

"I expect that some rural municipalities will experience tax reductions at the expense of the urban areas," said Plaxton. There are three hands in the pocket of the regional property owner, he said - the board of education, the region and the local municipality.

Chairman Wright, a former reeve of the old Township of East. Gwillimbury and former County Warden, protested, "It is most unfair to try to convince people these things came to haunt us because the county is changed to a region. This has come about because of John Public's demands for services, roads, school buses, snow plowing." Everyone in the region wants the same quality of service, no matter where they live, said Wright, and this is the reason for the added cost of regional, municipal and educational services.

Rural municipalities will also be adversly affected by the new formula for assessing farms, said East Gwillimbury Mayor Gladys Rolling. When the region was formed, she reminded council, East Gwillimbury lost a large chunk of urban development to the Town of Newmarket. Now with the reduced assessment on farms, "We have a great deal less assessment to base our tax on."

Mayor Illingworth was reminded of his earlier motion to table the budget estimates and adjourn the meeting. A protest that the motion had not been seconded brought a reminder from Georgina Councillor Robert Pollock that council was in committee, "We don't need a seconder." At the same time several members of council offered to second the motion. The only dissenting votes were from Mayor Rolling and Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Kenneth Laushway who was vacationing in Florida the previous week when the first draft estimates were discussed.

Council meets again today (Thursday), hopefully to approve a budget.

TOWN OF RICHMOND HILL



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Recommends More Planning

(Continued from Page 1) | part, during the period between increased from 11/2 to 23/4 per-June to December, with a sons by hiring a planning direc- way (including a major shopchange in the structure of appli- tor in April, The planning ad- ping centre) will also make ex-A total of 20 site plan appli- cation fees and an increased ministrator was appointed sections tensive demands on the time of seeking information on the cations were also dealth with. number of applications. The ac- retary - treasurer of the com-Fourteen agreements were com- tual revenue was \$3,129 higher mittee of adjustment, replacing claimed. pleted, five projects are still in than in 1970. Other income rec- Miss Merrylynn Henry, who beprocess and one was withdrawn. eived by the municipality due to came secretary to the planning pletion of the work on bylaw Police said Mrs. Isobel

where the zoning bylaw per- Although the planning de- It is proposed that the staff replace Bylaw 1999 Brooks, Concession 10 at Highmitted development and only partment's budget was increased by one profestown), the civic centre, Lake hasn't been seen since. A check one applicant (Black Hawke ed last year to \$33,152 from sional planner and share with Wilcox study, retail floor area of friends and relatives has re-Motor Hotel) refused to enter \$21,958 in 1970, the cost per into a site plan agreement. Capital was reduced from \$1.12 ning draftsman. It is also proposed that a summer student plant. Thirteen were for commercial in 1970 to 97c in 1971.

Wilcox study, retail floor area needs study, topographical mapping, and special projects as well as progress reports. development, three were insti- Richmond Hill's population be hired for a period of four utional (including a new Legion increased from 19,600 to 34,000 months to assist in the field

Hall, addition to York Central with the widening of its bound- work necessary for the prepara-Hospital and the court house) aries under regional govern-tion of a new Official Plan. and four were for apartment ment and its area increased This composite Official Plan from 1,700 acres to 24,500 acres, will receive high priority dur-Two subdivision agreements These increases created a sub- ing 1972, according to the prowere considered - one was stantial increase in the respon- posed work program of the dewithdrawn, the other completed. sibilities and workload of the partment. It will include a landuse plan, policies on transport-

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planning department. ation, rural residential, highway STAFF

use, housing, parks and recreation policies and municipal services. The future of this town 68-Year-Old Woman will be 'established by this work, the report claims,

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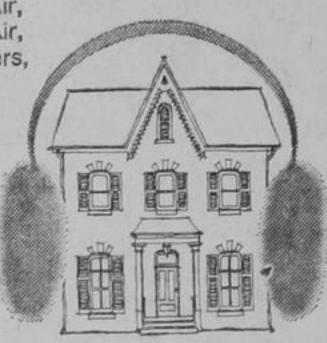
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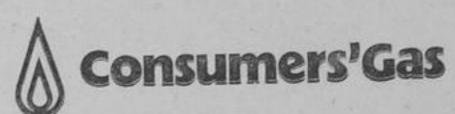
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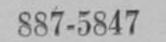
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