

# 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 for use.

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 moved the budget estimates be tabled until after a meeting with the Minister.

"We have to pass a bylaw on roads," said Chairman Wright.

"Who says so?" asked Mayor Forhan.

"The province," the chairman replied.

It was ridiculous 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 McKeough) 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 adversely 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 Whitechurch-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.

# Recommends More Planning

(Continued from Page 1)

**SITE PLANS**

A total of 20 site plan applications were also dealt with. Fourteen agreements were completed, five projects are still in process and one was withdrawn. Fourteen projects were in areas where the zoning bylaw permitted development and only one applicant (Black Hawk Motor Hotel) refused to enter into a site plan agreement. Thirteen were for commercial development, three were institutional (including a new Legion Hall, addition to York Central Hospital and the court house) and four were for apartment buildings.

Two subdivision agreements were considered — one was withdrawn, the other completed.

**COST**

Revenue of the planning department came, for the most part, during the period between June to December, with a change in the structure of application fees and an increased number of applications. The actual revenue was \$3,129 higher than in 1970. Other income received by the municipality due to the planning process.

Although the planning department's budget was increased last year to \$33,152 from \$21,958 in 1970, the cost per capital was reduced from \$1.12 in 1970 to 97c in 1971.

Richmond Hill's population increased from 19,600 to 34,000 with the widening of its boundaries under regional government and its area increased from 1,700 acres to 24,500 acres. These increases created a substantial increase in the responsibilities and workload of the planning department.

**STAFF**

In 1971 the planning staff was increased from 1 1/2 to 2 3/4 persons by hiring a planning director in April. The planning administrator was appointed secretary-treasurer of the committee of adjustment, replacing Miss Merrylynn Henry, who became secretary to the planning director.

It is proposed that the staff be increased by one professional planner and share with the works department a planning draftsman. It is also proposed that a summer student be hired for a period of four months to assist in the field work necessary for the preparation of a new Official Plan.

This composite Official Plan will receive high priority during 1972, according to the proposed work program of the department. It will include a land-use plan, policies on transportation, rural residential, highway commercial, agricultural land-

# 68-Year-Old Woman Missing From Home

The B.A.I.F. project now underway (including a major shopping centre) will also make extensive demands on the time of the planning department, it is claimed.

Also included will be completion of the work on bylaw 66-71 (the new zoning bylaw to replace Bylaw 1000 in former town), the civic centre, Lake Wilcox study, retail floor area needs study, topographical mapping, and special projects as well as progress reports.

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**68-Year-Old Vaughan Town Man Struck And Killed**

A 68-year-old Vaughan Town man was struck and killed by a car Tuesday night while crossing Major Mackenzie Drive, just east of Dufferin Street. He Road, Keswick. He has been charged with criminal negligence causing a death and dangerous driving.

Driver of the car was Leonard Millard, 56, of 207 South Park.

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