

Region chops \$45,000 from police, then approves \$20.5 million budget

York Regional council took one final chop at the police budget Thursday before approving a \$20.5 million net regional budget for 1979.

The regional levy will be up 8.7 per cent to \$12.9 million, with the rest of the money coming from last year's \$681,000 surplus and more than \$6 million in provincial grants.

The impact on the taxpayers is softened by a 4.7 per cent increase in assessment across the region which means the impact on area municipalities averages out at 4 per cent.

The impact is greatest on the municipality with the greatest growth rate, Markham, 6.5 per cent, but only 2.6 per cent in Richmond Hill.

Regional councillor Ron Moran estimated the impact on Markham taxpayers at about \$6.

Richmond Hill mayor David Schiller initiated the move to trim the regional police budget by an additional \$45,000.

He noted that the York Regional Police had a surplus of \$167,000 last year and a \$100,000 surplus "has been fairly common every year that I have been there (at regional council.)"

Because there is a natural attrition on staff, he said there is nearly always a surplus in the payroll account because of vacancies. Last year it was \$50,000.

He did say that the police appeared to have budgeted better than in previous years.

Regional councillor Lou Wainwright, a police commissioner said that the budget had been gone over carefully and pared by the police commission and that the \$45,000, if implemented, would have to come out of courts and overtime.

But Aurora Mayor George Timpson said it would be "foolish to take it out of one account."

Schiller, Timpson, Carole Bell, Michael McDonald, Ron Moran, Angus Morton and Tom Taylor voted for the budget cut while Wainwright, Tony Roman, Gordon Rowe, Joe Dales and Ray Twinney op-

posed it.

That left the police department's share of the budget at \$9,861,600 compared with last year's budget of \$9,212,200.

Council also cut the police commission's request for \$550,000 for a police station in Georgina to \$250,000 on the understanding that it would be started this year.

New projects which have been launched by way of last week's budget are an emergency dental program for children whose parents cannot afford to send them to the dentist, which is estimated to cost \$26,000.

Regional council also allotted \$32,000 to buy a beach on Lake Simcoe which will likely be operated under the South Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority.

Adjoining forest lands may be acquired later, but Georgina Mayor Joe Dales argued that the opportunity to purchase the Holme's Point Beach for public use might not come up again.

Mayor Schiller agreed with the principle of acquiring lakefront property but not on the way the costs were being allocated.

The levy could still change a little because of final changes in assessment and because the final figures from the Children's Aid Society had been received only by telephone on Thursday.

Treasurer John Hlynski said the Society wanted an additional \$32,000. He said it was based on 225 to 228 children in care while the original budget was based on 190.

The actual budget for 1979 includes the following: general government, \$1,775,900; planning and reforestation, \$637,600; engineering, \$4,588,000;

grants to hospitals, \$1,030,800; welfare division \$144,200; police, \$1,238,700; health and \$550,700; conservation \$9,861,000; police social services, grants, \$491,900; land building, \$250,000.



Defense Minister Barney Danson (centre) and Board of Economics Chairman Robert Andras get "Heat Treated" royally. They took a tour last week of Heat Treaters, Richmond Hill, to inspect the armor plating being prepared for the Moag armored vehicle — one of the latest defense budget expenditures. Vice-president and general manager Jim Claire (right) explains the process. (Liberal photo by Steve Pearlstein)

Danson, Andras tour Hill plant inspecting treated armor plate

By STEVE PEARLSTEIN
Liberal Staff Reporter

Federal Defense Minister Barney Danson and Chairman of the Board of Economic Ministers, Robert Andras paid a visit to a Richmond Hill plant Friday and while it was the company's 16th birthday, they were there for quite a different reason.

The two federal politicians took a tour of Heat Treaters Inc. on Newkirk Road because it has a contract to produce specially treated armor plate for about 420 Swiss-designed, General Motors-built armored vehicles for the Armed Forces.

The vehicles are called Moags (after the Swiss designer, who gets a royalty) and the Richmond Hill company is the only firm in the country that can produce the quality treated steel needed for them.

Assistant general manager Robin Brock didn't have exact figures on hand but said the original contract was for 750 of the machines at a cost of \$160 to \$200 million.

Mr. Danson claimed it isn't likely he'll be able to find enough money in his budget for the extra 350 vehicles.

The armor plate Heat Treaters produce is classified as restricted goods and any export of it is regulated by the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Commerce through the Export Control Board. That could explain Mr. Andras' presence on the tour.

The company had a contract with Israel for between \$3 million and 4 million. However, it had to be rescinded on orders of the Export Control Board, whose apparent policy is not to sell these kinds of products to countries where political unrest could result in conflict.

"It's hardly what I would call the External Affairs classification of 'hot goods,'" said Mr.

Brock. "Israel is heavily funded out of the U.S. so it is under pressure to buy American products. The Israelis can buy similar plate there, but not from us even though our product is better."

"It's true we're selling ourselves short — the Americans do have the product," said Mr. Danson. "But we have to be careful who we're selling this kind of material to and what their purposes are... we don't want to get into the arms business."

He went on to say it's all a matter of how you categorize the sales and the countries involved. As an example, he said the Export Board approved the sale last week of Buffalo Aircraft to Libya.

Asked if there are possibilities of changes in the Board's policies and External Affairs outlook, Mr. Danson said yes, though it could take some time.

Mr. Andras' reasons for accompanying him were not given, but with the likelihood of an election around the corner, his presence made sense to reporters and the staff of Heat Treaters, who are in Mr. Danson's constituency.

The Moag vehicles, being assembled in London, Ontario, include an armored fighter (name not given), the Husky — an armored troop carrier and the Grizzly — an armored recovery vehicle.

Mr. Brock said he couldn't fault the military since the tie-up seems to be at External Affairs. He also said the contract with Israel is not the only one being held up — the department considers Argentina another "hot spot".

He claimed the company wouldn't try to wholesale the armor plate to the U.S., which could then sell it to "restricted countries".

"That's not the way we do business here," said Mr. Brock.

negotiating team, have formally asked the board to re-open discussion on their two-year pact that was effective last September.

Though no date has been set for the two sides to meet, one of the board's negotiators, King Trustee Elio Bellon, could only speculate on the nature of the teachers' dissatisfaction.

"There's no way I can say for sure what's bothering them but there are a couple of possibilities. During contract talks they made a change in one of our initial proposals and we eventually accepted it — it had to do with category upgrading and the teachers felt \$40,000 was a fair figure to have in the contract. I guess they figured they could make whatever else up through the salary grid and increments."

Mr. Bellon said the board didn't think the \$40,000 would suffice but went along with what the teachers wanted. He thinks it's possible the teachers made a mistake and could try to improve their position if they feel they've lost anything.

The other areas open for discussion are cost of living allowances and discussion on upgrading and changes in position is possible, according to Mr. Bellon.

The board's next management committee meeting is March 6 and Mr. Bellon said if anything transpires between the two teams by then, it would likely be considered in committee.

One of teacher negotiators, John Stokes who is also principal of St. Joseph's in Aurora, would only acknowledge a meeting is being set up with the school board to talk about the teachers' contract.

Teachers ask board to re-open talks

York Region Separate School Teachers, on the advice of their

Left turn lanes needed, when?

Ministry of Transportation and Communications (MTC) Planning Staff have decided the Doncrest-Rockwell Road area needs left turn lanes but when and how wide won't be decided until March 8.

Neil Goldsmith, representative for MTC said meetings have been held with senior planning staff and the decision now is where and how wide should the necessary left turn lanes be.

March 8 the planning choice for location and technical data will be sent to MTC Program, Priority and Development staff to decide funding and scheduling.

"It could be any time from next month to 1986," guessed Mr. Goldsmith. Plans for Highway 7 must be studied to some detail, said Mr. Gold-

smith, as the highway must function up to the construction of Highway 407 as well as serve Highway 7 as a local support system.

"There is more to it than people think," he said.

The town of Richmond Hill approached the MTC early in October after receiving delegations of residents who convinced the town staff this was a dangerous area without proper turning lanes.

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