

Fire department gets 2001 budget money, for now

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writer

Whitchurch-Stouffville council has struck a \$3.8-million capital budget for 2001, while the town's five-year budget reflects a \$14.4 million expenditure.

In a three-hour budget meeting held Tuesday afternoon, local council allocated capital funding for the fire department, roads, sewers, streetlighting, parks, recreation centres, the museum, community centres and the municipal-owned cemetery.

A total of \$427,000 has been earmarked for the Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire department for this year. This includes \$386,000 for a pumper truck.

During budget talks, Mayor Wayne Emmerson reminded council that the Whitchurch-Stouffville fire department may be swallowed up if the proposed regional services amalgamation scheme becomes a reality. Because of this, \$300,000, earmarked for 2003 to build a fire station in the Vandorf area, was removed from the table. Since the Town of Aurora plans to build a fire station in the Gormley area, there's no need for two fire stations in this area, Emmerson stressed.

A total of \$1.8 million was budgeted for administration for public works to cover such capital items as \$5,000 for software and \$20,000 for engineering design this year. As well, staff was also directed to be on the look out for land suitable to house a new \$1.7 million public works depot expected to be built in 2003.

Capital transportation costs, including road work, will eat up nearly \$1 million this year. Road construction is expected to be carried out on McCowan from St. John Road to Faulkner Avenue, Vandorf Road between

Kennedy and McCowan roads, St. John from Woodbine Avenue to Warden Avenue and on Main Street, from Highway 48 to the Ninth Line. About six other municipal roads are earmarked for repair this year. The five-year road budget totals \$4.1 million.

Sidewalks will also get attention this year. Repairs include work on sidewalks on Park Drive from Main to Burkholder Street, the Ninth Line from Millard Street to Elm Road and Booth Drive from Thicketwood to Park Drive. Also under transportation, the town will buy a \$15,000 tree chipper and a \$10,000 trailer this year.

A total of \$15,000 was slotted for street lighting over the next five years with \$3,000 to be spent this year.

Sewers were included in the budget. Council approved a \$350,000, five-year sanitary sewer budget. Of that, \$100,000 will be spent this year on a new sewer line on Main Street at the east end of town.

A total of \$812,000 was allocated for parks development over the next five years. Of that, \$190,000 was earmarked for Ballantrae Park's expansion project and \$50,000 was set aside for the Channel Lands trail development this year. Applying to the next four years, \$10,000 was earmarked for landscaping and trees, \$35,000 was set aside for playground equipment, \$70,000 will be spent on washrooms in Stouffville Memorial Park and \$20,000 was allocated to keep the new skateboard park in sound working order. The Memorial Park tennis courts will be upgraded to the tune of \$10,000, but not until 2004, while \$20,000 is to be invested in park playground equipment in 2002.

An estimated \$581,200 will be spent on the Whitchurch-Stouffville

Recreation Complex. Of that, \$400,000 will be used to replace the roof on the 15-year old building. Some of the roof money will be recovered from the contractor, Mayor Wayne Emmerson told council.

A total of \$56,000 was set aside for the Ballantrae

Community Centre this year. Meanwhile, Lemonville Community Hall will get \$3,000 in 2001, Vandorf Community Hall will pick up \$4,000, while a total of \$1,000 was earmarked for Latham Hall in 2001. Each municipal hall will get a comparable amount in each of the next

four years. Council agreed to budget \$495,000 for the local library. Of that \$365,000 is earmarked for furniture and equipment for the new library which is part of the \$7.5 million indoor pool, fitness centre and library project presently under con-

struction at Memorial Park South.

A total of \$5,000 was earmarked for the local museum for this year. Stouffville Cemetery is included in the budget. The local cemetery is getting \$16,200 this year. The money will be spent on roads on the cemetery grounds.

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