

City Budget Process Evaluation

Mover: Matthew Shoemaker

Seconded: Susan Myers

Whereas Sault Ste. Marie City Council recently passed the 2015 municipal budget; and,

Whereas Council elected to utilize approximately \$2 million of surplus money and redundant reserve funds as revenue to decrease the tax levy; and

Whereas these actions when combined with expected decreases in provincial grant formulas will likely result in a \$3 million gap facing the City of Sault Ste. Marie when it begins preparations for the 2016 budget; and,

Whereas Council is aware of the need to decrease this gap as much as possible in order to minimize tax increases in 2016 and future years; and

Whereas it is understood that the whole of Council must exercise leadership and must take responsibility for providing direction to staff in order to accomplish the aforementioned objective;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that a subcommittee of council be struck, with the Mayor and two councillors as voting members and with the following staff as resources:

- The Interim CAO/CAO
- The Commissioner of Finance and Treasurer
- The Manager of Audits and Capital Planning

And that said subcommittee, by evaluating the City budgeting process and the past experiences of comparable municipalities, shall identify appropriate methods by which a Council-led spending review of City operations and grants to outside agencies could be undertaken and report back to Council with findings and recommendations.