

Some of council fights city staff over discretionary budget expenses

By **Christopher Shoust** - May 14, 2018



In a very heated discussion over budget process and discretionary spending, the main word was “disconnect” that came up over and over.

City councilors Matthew Shoemaker, Rick Niro and Paul Christian specifically were disappointed with what city staff presented on its preliminary budget process and discretionary spending list, not with public works, but with the rest of the city’s inner corporation.



Public Works was used as an example time and again as to what these councilors wanted from the rest of the corporation.

It is not the first and probably will not be the last time these councilors have instructed or been severely disappointed with what city staff has presented to them in the form of budgeting information.

Deputy CAO Tom Vair became the center of a heated argument between him, Shoemaker and mayor Christian Provenzano concerning lack of information concerning his department’s report.

Rick Niro brought up a line from his report stating that parking lot maintenance cost over \$200,000 to which Vair could not explain the breakdown.

Niro asked why if public works could provide all of its exact cost breakdowns, could Vair not do the same?

CAO Al Horseman defended Vair and the other departments saying that they do not have the same systems to exact costs as public works does.

This was voted to come back with more information in the form of a new report in the near future.

Christopher Shoust

<http://shoust.ca>

Christopher Shoust, Dip. J, BFA (honours), is a working artist in Sault Ste. Marie, who primarily works as a painter, writer, sculptor, filmmaker and reporter for SaultOnline.com He is excited to be a part of the SaultOnline team and has great things to contribute!

