

**THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE PRIORITIES COMMITTEE  
OF THE CITY OF GREATER SUDBURY**

**Council Chamber  
Tom Davies Square**

**Wednesday, April 4th, 2007  
Commencement: 5:30 p.m.**

Chair

**COUNCILLOR GASPARINI, IN THE CHAIR**

Present

Councillors Cimino; Barbeau; Berthiaume; Dutrisac; Dupuis; Rivest; Thompson; Callaghan (D6:20pm); Craig; Caldarelli (D6:47pm); Landry-Altman; Mayor Rodriguez

City Officials

M. Mieto, Chief Administrative Officer; R. Henderson, Acting General Manager of Community Development; H. Mulc, Acting General Manager of Growth & Development; G. Clausen, Acting General Manager of Infrastructure; T. Beadman, Acting General Manager of Emergency Services; L. Hayes, CFO/Treasurer; G. Lamothe, Manager of Communications & French Language Service; T. Derro, Supervisor of Tax; E. Stankiewicz, Manager of Financial Planning & Policy; D. Braney, Acting Director of Solid Waste & Assets; C. Scott, Secretary to the Manager of Assets; A. Haché, City Clerk; M. Laalo, Licensing & Assessment Clerk; CJ Caporale, Council Secretary

News Media

Sudbury Star; CIGM; Channel 10 News; Big Daddy

Declarations of  
Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

**PART I**

**5:30 P.M. TO 7:00 P.M.**

**CITIZEN DELEGATIONS**

Item 2  
Electrical Safety  
Authority (ESA)  
Update

Mr. Scott Saint, Vice-President & Chief Operating Officer, ESA; Mr. Peter Lambert, Manager, Northern Territory, ESA; Mr. Paul Shames, Senior Inspector - Wiring, Northern Territory, ESA; and Mr. Randy Aldred, Electrical Inspector, Northern Territory, ESA, were introduced to the Members of the Priorities Committee by Ms. Danielle Braney, Acting Director of Solid Waste & Assets. She advised that the ESA has a staff of four hundred employees with an annual revenue of \$65 million.

Mr. Saint outlined the history of the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) stating that it is responsible for enforcing a level of public electrical safety across Ontario that will keep the residents safe where they live, work and play.

Item 2  
Electrical Safety  
Authority (ESA)  
Update  
(continued)

He indicated that when renovating, or altering electrical wiring in your home, one must ensure electrical installations have been inspected by ESA and a "Certificate of Inspection" for the work has been issued which is the homeowners record that the electrical work meets the requirements defined in the Ontario Electrical Safety Code. He also stated that ESA encourages you to use licensed electrical contractors which can be obtained on their website at [esasafe.com](http://esasafe.com).

He advised that the City of Greater Sudbury exceeded at providing electrical safety training to their employees and external technical groups (ie. electricians, firefighters, etc.).

Mr. Scott presented a Safety Award to the Mayor and Council and congratulated the employees of the City of Greater Sudbury for their leadership demonstrated towards electrical safety.

Mayor Rodriguez congratulated the employees for their commitment and actions towards safety.

Item 3  
Overview of Parkside  
Older Adult Centre,  
Sudbury

Ms. Tina Pilon, Manager, Parkside Older Adult Centre Sudbury (OACS); Ms. Colleen O'Malley, Member of the Board of Directors; and Mr. Merv Gribbons, Chair, OACS, were introduced to the Committee.

Ms. O'Malley provided an electronic presentation stating that currently 30% of Sudbury's population is between the ages of 40 and 60 (baby boomers) and that 32% of Sudbury's population is 50 years of age or older (49,300). She outlined the OAC's mission statement, and membership and Board of Directors' guidelines.

Ms. Pilon outlined funding received from various organizations such as the City of Greater Sudbury (\$12,000 annually), Ministry of Health (\$30,000 annually), fundraising campaigns, etc. She advised that there is currently one full-time Manager, a Program Director, a part-time Kitchen Coordinator, and students from local post-secondary schools. There are many volunteers that contribute their time and expertise to the OAC.

She outlined program opportunities offered at the OAC, community projects and resources, home community groups, and future projects for 2008.

## **COUNCILLOR BRIEFING SESSIONS**

### **Item 4 Property Tax Policy**

Report dated 2007-03-29, with attachments, from the CFO/Treasurer regarding Property Tax Policy was received for information only.

Ms. Lorella Hayes, CFO/Treasurer and Mr. Ed Stankiewicz, Manager of Financial Planning & Policy, gave an electronic presentation.

Ms. Hayes stated that the following information will give Council a basis for the adoption of property tax policy decisions, which will follow at a later meeting this month.

She stated that property taxes are based on the capital value of real estate and not on income tax or a consumption tax (PST; GST). The province utilizes a uniform system to value all properties through the Current Value Assessment (CVA) system. The property tax levied for each property is CVA times the tax rate.

Ms. Hayes stated that 2007 is a non reassessment year which means there will be no changes in property valuation creating an assessment growth for 2007 of 1.1%. She advised that in 2009, there will be a reassessment cycle of all properties every four years which will be based on valuations as of January 1, 2008. She also advised that the Province has stated that residential properties with decreases will realize an immediate saving while the assessment related increases will be phased in over four years.

She indicated that all properties are assessed and taxed with specific exceptions, payment in lieu (federal & provincial; institutions) and exemptions (churches, battlefields, Children's Aid Society, etc.). She provided further information on property tax classes and process for appealing assessments.

Ms. Hayes indicated that municipalities have a tax policy role in five key areas:

- area rating (transit and fire services)
- tax ratios for property classes
- optional classes
- tax rate discount levels
- tax cap funding for business classes

and outlined provincially mandated programs.

She provided further information on area rating stating that Transit costs for each of the urban (former City of Sudbury) and commuter areas are based on delivered service hours, whereas, fire service area rates are based on the costs of the service levels delivered within old municipal boundaries.

Item 4  
Property Tax Policy  
(continued)

Mr. Stankiewicz stated that Council can “within limits” choose the “weighting” to be applied to classes of property. He indicated that weighting is measured in relation to the residential tax class which has a ratio of 1.000. He provided a chart of the Province preferred “Range of Fairness” for ratios. He continued by explaining transition ratios for all classes and advised that any property class with a tax ratio over the provincial average could only pass 50% of the levies increase onto those property owners.

He outlined tax capping, how tax rates are calculated, and the City’s tax policy and stated that the 2007 Property Tax Levy totals \$214 million. He advised that Council will be required to provide staff with direction for 2007 regarding area rating, optional tax classes, tax ratios, and tax cap funding.

Seniors’ Tax Rebates

With the concurrence of the Committee, Councillor Gasparini requested that staff prepare a report on developing possible tax rebates for seniors with low incomes which would be discussed and debated prior to the 2008 Budget.

**POLICY DISCUSSION PAPERS - DECISION REQUESTED**

Item 5  
Collection of Property Taxes using Rental Attornment and Bailiff Services

Report dated 2007-03-14, with attachments, from the CFO/Treasurer regarding the Collection of Property Taxes using Rental Attornment and Bailiff Services was received.

The following recommendation was presented:

**RECOMMENDATION 2007-16: Moved by Councillor Cimino:**

THAT the City of Greater Sudbury adopt a collection policy utilizing rental attornment and bailiff services for the recovery of property taxes in the commercial, industrial and multi residential tax classes under the authority of Sections 350 and 351 of the Municipal Act, 2001;

AND THAT the necessary by-law be passed.

**CARRIED**

**MOTIONS**

Federal Government Buildings - Property Taxes

As presented by Councillor Cimino:

THAT staff prepare a report on steps municipalities can take and have taken to obtain additional property taxes on federal government buildings.

This matter will be included on the next Priorities Committee agenda for a decision.

Adjournment

**RECOMMENDATION 2007-17: Moved by Councillor Berthiaume:**

THAT this meeting does now adjourn. Time: 7:19 p.m.

**CARRIED**

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Councillor Janet Gasparini, Chair

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Angie Haché, City Clerk