

**City of Melfort
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
BUDGET SESSION
April 12, 2010**

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on Monday, April 12, 2010, in the Council Chambers, Melfort, Saskatchewan, commencing at 4:05 p.m.

PRESENT: **COUNCIL:** Councillor George, Deputy-Mayor; Mayor Phillips and Councillors Lang, Degelman, Terry and MacNaughton (arrived at 4:10 pm).

STAFF: J. Wade, City Manager; S. Peterson, City Treasurer; G. Gilmore, Director of Works & Utilities; K. Ottenbreit, Director of Community Services and H. Audette, City Clerk.

Deputy Mayor George called the meeting to order and turned it over to Councillor Lang, Chairman of the Legislative & Finance Committee.

Balancing the Budget

The Committee reviewed the balancing options presented by the Legislative & Finance Committee and endorsed their recommended Option #4, as follows:

Beginning Deficit (status quo budget + \$100,909 additional requests)	\$183,435.00
Increase Vacant/Unimproved Base Tax from \$212 to \$250	-8,854.00
Raise Mill Rate by .87 mills, from 15.16 to 16.03 mills	-137,564.59
Draw from Mill Rate Stabilization Reserve, if required	<u>-50,000.00</u>
Initial Budgeted Surplus	\$ -12,983.59
Less: Dutch Elm Disease funding withdrawn by province	\$ 3,000.00
Ending Budgeted Surplus	<u>\$ -9,983.59</u>

Mill Rate Bylaw

The education mill rate remains the same. The municipal mill rate will increase by .87 mills to 16.03 mills.

Base Tax Bylaw

The only change in base tax is to the vacant/unimproved rate, which increases from \$212 to \$250. Agricultural land is also now listed as a sub-class. Base tax levels will be reviewed annually during budget.

Mill Rate Stabilization Reserve

The authorized withdrawal of a maximum of \$50,000 from the Mill Rate Stabilization Reserve will only take place if required at the end of the budget year.

Policy Amendments

Councillor Lang reviewed the proposed policy amendments and noted that the Legislative & Finance Committee recommends the establishment of a Special Capital Project Reserve, which will be funded by surpluses and allocated by Council on a highest priority basis. Financial policies will be reviewed on an annual basis.

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk