

Transition Sooke – Council Watchdog Summaries

Special Council – Budget Deliberations 21 October, 2020, 1 pm – Notes by Alan Dolan

This meeting really got into the weeds on the budgeting process, so I am only providing a brief summary. Buried in the weeds, there may be a budgetary decision that is significant to Transition Sooke, but I found that sort of a decision very difficult to find.

The Director of Finance, Raechel Gray, presented a budget overview.

The Director also presented the results of a citizen survey. One of her comments was quite telling here. She says that one person from the public stated “Fund changes with the least amount of increases to property owners.”

It was also noted that most taxpayers ask “where do their tax dollars go?”

The results of a citizen survey were presented. There were fewer than 200 online participants and 15 people replied to a mailout survey that was sent to 100.

Her best overall comment was that people want to decrease the budget for everything but they want more services.

The Director provided an overview of the written staff report which highlighted the 2021 department requests and their financial impacts, along with a proposal for three new positions:

1. Land Development Technician
2. Economic Development Officer
3. Park Labourer

Formal notes from the meeting, although they are not very detailed, can be found here: <https://sooke.civicweb.net/filepro/document/47078/Special%20Council%20Meeting%20-%20Budget%20Deliberations%20-%202021%20Oct%202020%20Minutes.pdf?widget=true>

And Jeff Bateman’s Blog for Nov 21, 2020 has a great review of budgeting stuff including the plans for the COVID money (<http://www.jeffbateman.ca/blog>)