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Item #	<u>2</u>
Report No.	<u>2</u>
<u>Council - January 29/13</u>	

From: Britto, John
Sent: Monday, January 21, 2013 1:46 PM
To: Bellisario, Adelina
Cc: Abrams, Jeffrey; Bonsignore, Connie
Subject: FW: Finance and Administration Committee - Item 2 - PROPOSED 2013 OPERATING/CAPITAL BUDGETS AND 2014 TO 2016 PLAN

Hi Adelina

To be received at the January 29th Council meeting, as it missed the January 21st F&A meeting (Item 2 on Jan 21 F&A agenda). Thanks

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 "Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new." ~Albert Einstein~

-----Original Message-----

From: Antony Niro P.Eng. [<mailto:antony.niro@gmail.com>]
 Sent: Monday, January 21, 2013 9:24 AM
 To: Clerks@vaughan.ca; Bevilacqua, Maurizio; Schulte, Deb; DeFrancesca, Rosanna; Rosati, Gino; Shefman, Alan; Racco, Sandra; Di Biase, Michael; Carella, Tony; Iafrate, Marilyn
 Cc: Kim Champion
 Subject: Finance and Administration Committee - Item 2 - PROPOSED 2013 OPERATING/CAPITAL BUDGETS AND 2014 TO 2016 PLAN

Members of Vaughan Council:

It appears that the focus of the city to this point has been "How to minimize raising taxes and still meet and hopefully exceed current service levels to the residents of Vaughan"?

I'd like to suggest that this focus is fundamentally flawed and should be re-focused to a new approach "How to reduce taxes by removing unnecessary or obsolete services with a renewed focus on the needs of new services for a 21st century city".

Let me provide some examples of possible unnecessary and obsolete services the city provides the public today:

1. Why do we still salt residential roads so heavily each winter? There is a tremendous savings in material and labour costs, besides environmental benefit, to dramatically reduce residential salt use.

Roads with snow on them is not unsafe or difficult to drive on. Today's winter tire technology provides exceptional grip on snow and ice as one example of maybe salted residential roads are become obsolete.

2. Why excessively light residential streets? The maintenance and electrical cost to excessively light all residential streets can be costly and unnecessary. San Diego CA is the 4th largest city in North America and has minimal use of residential street lighting. San Diego is a "Dark Sky" city to minimize light pollution. I'd like to see Vaughan enter the 21st century, declare the city a "Dark Sky" community, reduce our light pollution, and reduce our operating costs for street lighting.

3. Why keep building \$1 Million dollar sidewalks? The sidewalk on Kirby Road between Dufferin and Keele cost taxpayers an excessive amount of money and has little to no use. To add to this excessive cost mature trees were removed for the making of the sidewalk and are being replanted at an additional cost to taxpayers. Are traditional cement sidewalks along major streets cost effect and necessary today? Kirby is a bike route for many GTA bike clubs and a cheaper multipurpose path construction would of saved money and provided a safer environment for cyclists.

These are just a small sample of suggested changes the city could make to reduce our taxes and still exceed service levels to the residents of Vaughan.

Vaughan is building a vision now for the future. Why not include in this vision the removal of unnecessary and obsolete services and focus on the needs of tomorrow. It's very possible that the cost of running our new city can be less than it is today.

I look forward to your feedback.

-Antony.

Antony Niro P.Eng.
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