

year due to the backup with lack of staff. Therefore, in 1987 there is a requirement for a full time operator, who also works overtime hours weekly, and more monthly.

He stated the other increases are a reflection of the need for equipment.

Councillor DeRoche inquired what is meant by word processors. Mr. Wilson informed the IBM computers in question can be used as a word processor or as a terminal from one station. Councillor DeRoche questioned the \$11,000 cost of this equipment for the Recreation Department. Mr. Wilson informed this price includes a high quality printer and an emulation program in order that the station may be utilized as a terminal as well. Councillor DeRoche felt this cost should only be in the range of \$3,500. Mr. Wilson informed a high quality printer reflects the higher cost, and most departments require this. There was some discussion respecting these costs. Councillor DeRoche concluded the discussion, questioning whether or not the Municipality is receiving its money's worth for the cost of the equipment.

Councillor Fralick asked if there is a lease option available for this new equipment. He suggested rapid change in this type of industry may make it more feasible for go with a lease option. Mr. Wilson informed many of this equipment is on a lease/purchase agreement. However, the equipment usually lasts longer than the five year lease. Councillor Fralick stated a lease program and interest rate can be extended to seven years. He asked if this would be feasible for the Municipality. Mr. Wilson replied for the rent paid for the sixth year, the same amount can be paid upfront in that year, and it is then owned. Mr. Wilson felt the Municipality would be satisfied with this equipment in the sixth year.

Councillor Fralick inquired about the loss of employment to individuals because of the increased use of computers. Mr. Wilson replied no positions are being lost. Nobody is ever replaced, although an employee's type of work may change with some training. Much more work is produced with this equipment and the same number of people. Without computers, the information is very brief, to produce tax bills was very time consuming, etc. The computers produces much more information within the same time frame.

Councillor Lichter stated when equipment is being sold to the government, the price is usually somewhat higher because it seems so easy to pay for it from tax revenues. He suggested the Finance Department seriously consider the printer and terminal prices, as he suggested they are very high. He also stated many times computers sit on desks without being used. He stated there is no necessity for such equipment unless the proposed users are capable of using it.

Councillor Lichter also questioned the purchase of a new air conditioning system, referred to on page 14-14, when the existing system is working to capacity. Mr. Wilson informed this system is now not working.

He asked if page 14-13 refers to service contracts to all the new equipment. Mr. Wilson referred to page 14-6, stating a separate agreement was entered into in 1986, with the company that can offer the best service at the lowest cost. He informed the maximum to that point must be budgeted for. Councillor Lichter clarified that there is \$600,000+ worth of computer equipment in the building, and he noted the cost of the maintenance is unreasonable for this equipment.

Councillor Rawding expressed concern about the money projected for software and software modifications. He stated many changes to software documentation occurs, and purchasing the hardware will fit the intended use and the installers and the programmer will stay until the system is flowing smoothly. He stated changes after the fact are expensive, and incurring high maintenance costs should encourage consideration for hiring someone from a computer technology program to work solely at this. He asked how much more hardware should be purchased before all departments are working on the system freely. There was some discussion between Mr. Wilson and Councillor Rawding respecting this. In conclusion, Councillor Rawding maintained top dollar is being paid for software modifications; he stated this means a sizeable portion of the increase in the 1987 budget.

Mr. Meech stated the County provides most of the information, with the exception to changes in assessment figures and address changes. Therefore, the information is provided, and there is time period involved for this to come back through the system. In many instances this is not quick enough. An effort is being made to keep our own property-based information updated on a regular basis. The information can then be shared with the Province for their purposes. The only problem may be the printing of the tax bills, as this is based on the assessment rolls provided by the Province. He stated the County is trying to get control of its own data base before the applications can be made directly by our offices. Capacity of the hardware to perform the function is not the problem. Mr. Meech continued a software package is not simple to purchase, and the County does not have its own staff resources to look into this.

Councillor Lichter asked if equipment is being purchased with capabilities that cannot be used outside the Data Processing Department. Mr. Meech replied a part of the problem has been training employees. He informed it takes time to implement the system. When the systems were first installed, there was a resistance on the part of employees; however, as people become more comfortable with the it, there are more demands for access to the systems, and it is difficult to train all those who want the training. Councillor Lichter stated if only word processing capabilities are required, then only word processing equipment should be purchased, rather than an entire computer system which is not utilized. Mr. Meech responded that it takes much time to implement the entire system and have everyone trained to use the system. He stated in departments where the sytem has been in place for some time, utilization is to the extent where expansion to the system is required.

Mr. Wilson informed there are no changes in the Accounting and Tax Collection Departments, except automation is to the point where information is put out easier. In the future, there may be a requirement to increase staff. There is an attempt being made at an internal audit, but there is too much work to properly do this. He continued, stating there will be some re-organization in the Tax Department, in order to put more emphasis on the collection of funds. One of the cashiers may work part time at the cash register, and the other half of the time will be spent trying to devise a manner to collect without causing too much hardship on the public.

Councillor Walker expressed difficulty with removing one cashier part time. He stated during the busy time, there is need for an additional cashier. Mr. Wilson informed during the busy period there are two part time people to assure both wickets can be open all the time. Mr. Meech agreed the long line-ups can be a problem.

Councillor Fralick asked if Tax Collection at this point is the same as last year. Mr. Wilson replied there is an increase of approximately 0.2 percent in outstanding bills. Mr. Meech stated there is a need to focus more on the collection of taxes. This may lead to more tax sales.

Councillor Lichter referred to page 16-6 and asked if the 20 title searches are not under Mr. Cragg's jurisdiction. Mr. Meech informed the contract with Mr. Cragg has never included the preparation of property for tax sales.

Councillor Lichter noted all seminars are included with the Executive Office budget, as referenced on page 13-5. However, different portions of the departmental budgets still include seminar items. Mr. Wilson noted this has not been removed on the word processor.

Councillor DeRoche referred to page 15-8, asking for clarification with respect to "purchasing services provided by District School Board - \$30,000." He asked how much of the Purchasing Agent's time is spent doing County business. Mr. Wilson informed the \$30,000 is also for clerical staffing in Mr. Ardley's office. He stated the Purchasing Office send out all the County's purchase orders, matching them, purchasing, tendering, etc. Councillor DeRoche stated much of the tendering and purchasing for specialized items is done through the Department concerned. Mr. Wilson informed most of the Aerotech Park business was consulting work, although the purchasing is done through the County in order to receive federal sales tax exemption. He felt the cost of the purchasing services from the School Board are justified by the use of the services.

Councillor Eisenhauer expressed difficulty with the budgeting procedure. He noted 15 departments were under budget in 1986, three were even, and four were over; yet, the 1987 increases are based on the 1986 budget, rather than the 1986 actual. Mr. Wilson informed this has always been done due to fluctuations. He stated money varies from budget to actual through the hiring process, when people move up on the salary scale and new personnel takes the job at the lower scale. He

stated the budgets are to consider how many accounts are authorized, rates, etc. He stated the tax rate is set according to the budget. Councillor Eisenhower expressed difficulty with this. He felt once the budget is complete, it should only be a guideline for the given year. Afterwards, the actual figures should be used for the basis of the next budget. Mr. Meech stated using past budget is a matter of consistency. The actual may be the result of an extraordinary expenditure or savings. He agreed there is an explanation required for the difference in the actual and the budget, but in order to have some consistency, the comparison must be based on budgets.

#### Engineering and Works Department

Mr. Wdowiak began by reviewing administration budget for the Engineering and Works Department.

Councillor Lichter referred to page 21-6, inquiring about the difference in salary figures for staff, but there is no increase in staffing. Mr. Tam replied one staff member did not work a full year in 1986. In 1987 it is anticipated all staff will work all year; thus, the additional salary cost.

Councillor Merrigan inquired about the \$8,000 budgeted for other professional services. Mr. Wdowiak informed this is an item allowed for any studies which may be directed which cannot be done in-house. This has not been accounted for in the past, although there have been studies, which caused the Engineering and Works Department to go over budget.

Councillor DeRoche asked what the difference is between the PC intended for purchase, and those discussed earlier. He stated the cost budgeted by the Engineering and Works Department is at 50 percent cost-savings compared to those discussed earlier. Mr. Tam informed it is proposed to purchase the IBM compatible, which is manufactured and assembled in Halifax County at Atlantic Computer. He informed there has been one such machine in use in the Department for 1 1/2 years, and it has worked very well. It is compatible to the mainframe. Mr. Wilson informed the use of this system is very different from that discussed earlier.

Councillor Rawding inquired about the effect of changes in development plans on the budget, whereby the County and the Province are not involved in street paving. Mr. Wdowiak informed the \$300,000 budgeted is an "in-and-out" program. The actual expenditures in 1986 were much less than was budgeted. He stated this depends on what funding the Department of Transportation has to undertake a paving program. He stated they are not involved in paving for new development, although the Department still maintains a suburban paving program for existing streets and developments - anything prior to February, 1986 when this order in Council was established. He did not know if the Department of Transportation allocations as a result of this would be lessened. Mr. Meech stated this will not have any net impact to the operational budget. The recovery is shown because it comes from the per foot frontage charge to the respective property owners. There is a revenue

to offset the cost, and this is shown. He noted there will be a suburban paving program for areas outside the serviced areas; there is also a grandfather clause, so street approved prior to February 19, 1986 could still receive the benefit of the cost-sharing program for street paving, depending on Department of Transportation budgets. Councillor Rawding clarified there is an existing cost-sharing formula, which will not be effected by this change.

Councillor Deveaux stated unless the developer paves the streets during development of the subdivision, once the development is complete, the same procedure (acquiring petitions, etc), must be followed to get the streets paved. Mr. Meech felt the policy now dictates that the streets must be paved as part of the approval for the subdivision; the developer will be required to have the streets paved to be finally endorsed by the Development Officer.

Discussion next proceeded with the Common Services Budget for all County-owned buildings and vested properties.

Councillor Reid noted the insurance drop on page 17-2 and inquired about this. Mr. Wilson informed it was overbudgeted in 1986.

Councillor DeRoche inquired about the insurance costs of \$26,000 for Elkins Barracks. Mr. Tam informed the insurance is high because of the type of structure this is, as well as the useage. There is welding equipment used here, and the building is constructed of wood. Councillor DeRoche suggested the insurance should be the responsibility of the tenant. Mr. Meech informed the County insures all its own buildings.

Councillor Fralick inquired about miscellenaous repairs for surplus schools (page 17-8). Mr. Meech informed this is for emergency situations, when a school may be declared surplus, and there may be a period before the school is leased to a local organization or sold to an outside agency. These occasions sometimes cause the County to spend some money to keep the building up or to keep the heat on. Councillor Fralick expressed disapproval with this.

Councillor Walker inquired about conferences included with the Common Services Budget, page 17-8. Mr. Brine the Building Manager is proposing to attend a conference on air conditioning and air quality in buildings. He informed this conference will be held out-of-province this year. He informed there have been complaints from staff with respect to working conditions in this respect. He informed there was another conference respecting the legalities of surveyors, which the Municipal Surveyor should attend, as well as one respecting the Legal Aspects of Contracts, which the Property Manager should attend. Councillor Lichter stated the Property Manager's position is under another budget, but his conferences are included under the Common Services Budget. He expressed difficulty with this. Mr. Wilson informed this falls under the administration for the Engineering and Works Department. He referred to the Engineering and Works Department on the Organization Charts.

Discussion proceeded with the maintenance of Industrial Parks.

Mr. Wilson informed one of the costs incorporated into this budget is \$75,000, not to be recovered, for the operation of the water and sewer until the Industrial Park is filled and the airport is hooked into the system later in 1987.

Councillor Eisenhower asked if mileage and travel cost for Industrial Park maintenance should appear in this budget, rather than another. Mr. Wdowiak informed there are two permanent employees assigned to the Aerotech Park. One of these individuals has a County vehicle which is used for travel for maintenance purposes at the Aerotech Park.

Councillor Rawding noted there was no cost reflected in the budget for the snow and ice removal from the Little Sackville River. He asked if these costs are known and if they have been implemented into the Engineering and Works budget. Mr. Wdowiak informed this operation cost approximately \$4,000, and it is anticipated to recover these costs from the Department of the Environment. If this is not possible, it will be an over-expenditure in the budget.

There being no quorum, this meeting of the Committee of the Whole adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MARCH 26, 1987

PRESENT WERE: Warden MacKenzie  
Councillor Walker  
Councillor Rawding  
Councillor Fralick  
Councillor P. Baker  
Councillor C. Baker  
Councillor Deveaux  
Councillor Randall  
Councillor Reid  
Councillor Lichter  
Councillor Snow  
Councillor Merrigan  
Councillor MacKay  
councillor McInroy  
Councillor MacDonald  
Councillor Wiseman

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. K.R. Meech, Chief Administrative Officer  
Mr. K. Wilson, Director of Finance

SECRETARY: Glenda Higgins

---

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m.

Social Services Department

Mr. Wilson informed the Social Services Department is proposing a budget increase of \$1.3 million over 1986. He reviewed the 1987 budget for this department in comparison to the 1986 budget and the 1986 actual.

Mr. Mason commented there is a budget increase of \$1,200,000 over and above the actual expenditures for 1986. He stated part of this may be contributed to the new scales which were approved by Council, effective April 1, 1987. He informed these represent approximately \$330,000. Also, there is a Home Life Support Program whereby efforts and services are provided to maintain individuals in their own homes, as opposed to their being placed in special care facilities. He stated it is anticipated this will bring the general assistance program up to \$300,000 more in 1987. He stated the expenditures under General Assistance for this program are shareable at 50 percent. He informed if this program were not in place, there would be a heavy escalation in the Homes for Special Care budget. Mr. Mason concluded there has been a very dramatic increase in the general assistance program with an additional 200 cases per month. This has added approximately \$100,000 per month for the last three months. He informed his department is concerned about this expenditure, and it is a problem with the other local municipal units, as well. He suggested the lack of job opportunities may contribute to this problem.

Councillor MacDonald asked if the Cities of Halifax and Dartmouth are experiencing similar increasing caseloads. Mr. Mason informed over the past few months there have been meetings with senior staff from the two Cities, and their levels of assistance have also been increasing to a point beyond that of Halifax County's. He suggested this problem is experienced Province-wide.

Councillor Rawding asked of the additional 200 cases, how many can be attributed to unemployment. Mr. Mason suggested 80 or 90 of the 200 cases are unemployed, and another 40 to 50 cases are receiving assistance to supplement low earnings.

Councillor P. Baker inquired about social assistance recipients moving from one municipality to another. Mr. Mason replied most municipalities are charged for social assistance expenditures from former residents of that municipality, with exception to the City of Halifax and several other municipalities because there is a reciprocal agreement with them. He informed the major municipality for which there is no reciprocal agreement is the City of Dartmouth. He estimated in any given year, the City of Dartmouth probably bills the County approximately \$60,000, and the County bills them a similar amount. The amount is very small for other municipalities.

Councillor P. Baker next inquired about the right to appeal a decision with respect to social assistance. Mr. Mason informed applicants can appeal Mr. Mason's decision to give or not to give social assistance.

Councillor P. Baker asked what power an elected official has into the deliverance of social assistance. Mr. Mason informed these people have no discretionary power with respect to the deliverance of welfare; they decide the policy under which the Department operates; he noted the more accurate information given by the Councillor reflects the decision of the Director of Social Services, although they have no input into the final decision.

On page 23, Councillor Snow inquired about the rent and cleaning costs budgeted for Sheet Harbour. Mr. Mason informed the rental budget is for other offices throughout the County.

Referred to on page 23-4, Councillor Reid asked if the one Family Counsellor will be a case worker to be assigned to the increased workload. Mr. Mason informed there is presently one such employee involved in family counselling, servicing the entire Municipality. Within the last six or seven months has seen an increase in this need, and there is a requirement for another family counsellor. He stated the Minister of Social Services has indicated he would cost-share in this position at the level of 75 percent. The increased workload will be covered by an additional Case Aide, who has been taken on casually for the present time. He suggested this will not take care of the increased caseload, although the situation could be monitored for awhile. He stated it is hoped this can be handled by hiring a person with dollars from the part time budget. He concluded he is concerned about this.



Councillor McInroy felt the majority of the efforts of the additional Case Aide worker would be directed toward verification of information, job search, UIC checks, bank verifications, etc. to substantiate eligibility. He asked if this person would be working closely with the Eligibility Review Officer. Mr. Mason stated his Department is rather busy in the area of eligibility review, but the case aide worker is to assist in the main office because the situation is much worse here. He stated the situation with respect to the general assistance program is very serious, and it has been questioned as to whether or not the Department is asking enough for the General Assistance program.

Councillor McInroy also inquired about the duties and the need for the Research and Development Officer. Mr. Mason informed the Ad Hoc Social Services Committee, consisting of Councillor Walker - Chairman, Councillor Reid, and Councillor Merrigan, had serious concerns about the number of employable people who may be on the general assistance caseload. The committee feels the caseload should be monitored. The Research and Development Officer could give facts as to what this composition is. Thus, it may be possible to develop programs to meet the needs of employable social assistance recipients.

Councillor Walker inquired about the time and effort spent on the Bedford area under the Social Assistance program. Mr. Mason informed there is one staff person under the General Assistance Program to work solely for the Town of Bedford. He stated when Bedford is charged for this, this person's full salary is taken into account. Some other staff are involved to a lesser extent are those working in Homes for Special Care and Homemakers. Other programs are recovered on a percentage basis, according to the work done.

Councillor Walker inquired about the general assistance caseload worker. Mr. MacNeil explained the general assistance program.

Councillor Walker was of the opinion the Social Services Department is doing a good job for the caseload they have to deal with. He stated he would support this department very strongly, as he has in the past. However, he was of the opinion Social Service Workers are not doing the job they have been trained to do; social workers are not required to fill out an application and verify information. Councillor Walker asked that the Department seriously consider this. Mr. Mason commented that the large geography of the County also affects the job of the social workers.

Councillor Rawding noting five additional staff is being requested, and he asked how they will be allocated. Mr. Wilson informed the additional stenographer would be added to the administration budget, and the remainder of the proposed additional staff would be under the general assistance budget.

Councillor Deveaux stated that any social services worker for the County of Halifax or any other local municipal unit is not underworked, and same applies throughout the Province and probably the Country because governments and business are not providing enough work.

Councillor Lichter expressed concern about Bedford's contribution for the County's services. He stated all he can find is a \$70,000 payment projected for 1987. He asked if this is the total payment for administration, general assistance, the homemaker program, etc. Mr. Meech informed this is the cost for administration only. The Town make their own claims for general assistance and other programs.

Councillor Lichter asked if it has ever been determined what the caseload ratio for Bedford is as compared to the County. Mr. Mason suggested under the general assistance program, the caseload in the Town of Bedford is approximately 5 percent. Councillor Lichter noted the Town of Bedford have two social service workers completely charged to them, and those workers require assistance from other levels of administration, as well. He noted a caseload of 200 from less than 2,000 total per month indicates close to 10 percent of the total caseload. He suggested this service may be provided to Bedford far cheaper than it should. Mr. Mason informed there has been some discussion about the Town of Bedford taking over the administration of their own social services program because they feel the Municipality may be charging them too much for the administration of their program. He informed this is not his belief, and the figure charged is fair. Councillor Lichter stated it would be very difficult to set up social services department and take care of the business for \$70,000. Mr. Meech clarified the general assistance caseload for Bedford is 100, and they also have residents placed in Homes for Special Care and assistance in the Home Life Support program and Homemakers. Councillor Lichter concluded he would like to see the Town of Bedford go on their own, and in the meantime, he would maintain that Bedford is not paying its share of the cost. Mr. Meech stated there would probably be some economies of scale if the Town of Bedford decided to administer their own program, but it may not mean the same reduction in the County's administration costs.

Councillor MacKay stated he has two concerns with social assistance: 1) that those in need are provided with as much as possible, which has been addressed with the Eligibility Review Officer, and 2) that of separated and deserted mothers. He asked how long somebody in this situation is kept on the County caseload before being referred to the Province for long term assistance. Mr. Mason informed the figure of 400 shown are mostly receiving Provincial assistance already, and the County supplements this with additional assistance. Mr. MacNeil informed such mothers are encouraged to go the family court, who may make an order against the person if there is income to do so. Also, they are asked to apply for Provincial benefits at the same time. This process usually takes six to nine months. Approximately 600 families are receiving family benefits from the Province and County social assistance supplements this with drugs, fuel in the winter, etc. Mr. MacNeil informed the Province cost-shares at the level of 50 percent automatically, and it can be as high as 78 percent.

Councillor MacKay inquired about the Provincial scales for those receiving family benefits. Mr. MacNeil informed the Province raises their scales usually twice a year based on the cost of living index. When the scales raise, at the County level this is shown as increased income, and it is taken from them at the Municipal level.

Councillor MacKay asked how successful the County is in getting court orders for deserted mothers. Mr. MacNeil stated there is a problem trying to determine court orders, and the Eligibility Review Officer is often investigating such cases. Contact is constantly made with the Court to keep on top of information respect income changes, etc. Councillor MacKay asked if there is cooperation from Revenue Canada in this respect. Mr. MacNeil informed financial information is not available from Revenue Canada, although information can be verified from the Unemployment Insurance office, as well as Provincial information.

Councillor Randall asked if the ERO is being fully utilized in this position now. Mr. Mason replied the ERO could still be utilized as a caseworker, but he has been fully employed in the role of ERO, and this has been proving very helpful to the department.

Councillor Rawding expressed appreciation for the backlog and large caseloads, but he felt stronger efforts should be made to recognize various situations and to obtain recovery from spouses who have an obligation to support. Often it appears easier to take the social assistance route, rather than going through the courts for maintenance pay. He informed many times solicitors are not required, as is often believed. Councillor Rawding asked if action is ever taken against family members other than the immediate spouse, as the City of Dartmouth has recently proceeded to do. Mr. MacNeil informed this action is taken primarily for Homes for Special Care to recover money for persons placed in such homes. This section of the Act is not utilized for General Assistance.

Mr. Wilson noted there are several additional positions projected for this department for 1987, and he asked Mr. Mason to prioritize these positions, in the event they are not all approved. Mr. Mason informed the clerical position is needed in the Sackville office, and an administrative assistant for the Homemaker Program is also required. Mr. Mason stated the Case Aide for the General Assistance Program is required, next to a Home Care worker, the Research and Development Officer, and the Family Counselling position.

With reference to page 23-12, Councillor Deveaux asked why the rent for the Sackville office increased by \$10,000. Mr. Mason informed additional office space has been obtained at the Cobequid Multi-Service Centre.

Councillor Lichter noted conferences are budgeted for under the Social Services Department, as well as the Executive Office.

Under the General Assistance budget (page 23-17), Councillor MacDonald noted a 32.1 percent increase. Mr. Mason replied this is the increase in general assistance proposed for 1987.

Councillor Deveaux inquired about the number of employees working on the Homemaker Program. Mr. Mason informed there is a coordinator, a stenographer and 16 homemakers (ten part time), who are spread across the County.

Councillor C. Baker inquired about part time and full time Homemakers and the number of hours they spend in the homes. Mr. Mason informed the program began with full time Homemakers and it became useful to have some part time, as well. They do not work a standard number of hours, and they are not paid for off-hours. Full time people receive all benefits the Municipality pay to other employees. With respect to visiting hours, few are seen on a daily basis, but some are visited for one or two days for a few hours. The only chores done for these people are those they cannot do themselves; they are not to become dependent on the Homemakers.

Councillor Lichter asked how many homes a Homemaker would service in a day. Mr. Mason informed each Homemaker usually sees three or four individuals per day, spending approximately two hours (maximum) with each. Councillor Lichter commented on the high travel costs, noting the figures shown work to approximately 13,000 miles per person, per year. Mr. Mason informed this must be monitored all the time. One difficulty is that Homemakers are out every day. Mr. Mason responded to Councillor Lichter that he would seriously consider this area of expenditures; he noted this proposed expenditure is also for the coordinator who is on the road very much.

Councillor Lichter inquired about the responsibilities of the five employees for Homes for Special Care. Mr. Mason replied one employee is responsibility for administration (supervisor of the program), and the others are involved with the Homes for Special Care facilities. One additional area is the Home Life Support program, which is growing. After an individual is placed in a Home for Special Care the worker continues to be involved with this individual.

Councillor Reid asked why it is more expensive to keep people in Ocean View Manor rather than a private nursing home. Mr. Mason informed the per diem rate in private nursing homes ranges at \$50 to \$60, and at Ocean View Manor it may be slightly higher. Mr. MacNeil informed the private nursing homes are usually smaller with less overhead costs so the per diem rate is lower. He noted some of the private nursing homes are often only glorified boarding homes. The Birches in Sheet Harbour are listed under nursing homes, and the per diem rate here is similar to that for Ocean View Manor. Mr. Mason and Mr. MacNeil agreed to check into these costs.

Councillor Deveaux asked if cost-sharing is available for the \$16,000 grant to the Cole Harbour Girls' and Boys' Club. Mr. Mason replied 78 percent of this money is received, and these have been shareable at this rate for some time. Mr. Mason added that East Preston Girls' and Boys' Club has requested \$42,325 for 1987, rather than \$22,365 as projected. Mr. Mason informed the 1986 grants were increased by 4 percent for the 1987 budget, and no group would be assured anymore than this amount.

With respect to the budgets for senior citizens' homes (page 23-36), Councillor Wiseman asked what the County's budget for these facilities cover. Mr. Wilson informed the County's share of the deficits incurred by these senior's units are 10.6 percent, and the balance is picked up

by the Federal government, through CMHC, and by the Provincial authority. This is for operating costs. The amortization of the debt is part of the operating costs, as well as taxes paid. The taxes collected amount to approximately the County's share of the debt. Newer units, for which the County gave up-front money, the operating costs are not shared by the County.

Councillor Rawding expressed concern about the addition of six staff to the Social Services Department, and the addition of approximately 25 new people to staff overall. He asked that Council agree to limit the total hiring in this department be limited to three, ensuring the Research and Development Officer position.

There was some objection to this suggestion from other Members of Council. Councillor P. Baker and Councillor Deveaux stated the Social Services Department is to serve the people and this should be taken care of no matter how many people must be hired. Councillor P. Baker indicated he would support the Social Services budget 100 percent. Councillor Wiseman also indicated the people-type service must be supported. She stated she would not necessarily support all the additional requested positions, but each will have to be looked at and considered carefully.

Mr. Mason informed in the 25 years he has been with the Social Services Department, the situation has never been this serious. He expressed appreciation for Councillor Rawding's comments, but he felt all the additional staff is required, and he is concerned that he may not be asking for enough.

There being no further discussion about the Social Services budget, Members of Council proceed with the Library budget. Warden MacKenzie had to vacate the chair.

It was moved by Councillor Fralick, seconded by Councillor P. Baker:

"THAT in the absence of the Warden and the Deputy Warden, that Councillor Lichter take the Chair."  
MOTION CARRIED

#### Library Budget

Ms. Gilliss, Chief Librarian, began the review by outlining the purpose, objectives, and expected outputs of the Halifax County Regional Library. She informed the start-up costs for the Cole Harbour branch of the Regional Library have been included in this budget. She also stated over the past five years there has been difficulty in garnishing sufficient Provincial grants to deal with the increased use of this library, and the budget deals with this in part, as well as a new funding formula which has recently been published to deal with regional library funding; however, the budget presented is in accordance with the old funding formula.

Councillor Deveaux asked how much is budgeted in 1987 for the Cole Harbour Library Branch. Ms. Gilliss informed approximately \$212,000 is

projected for this use in 1987. Councillor Deveaux asked what effect it would have if only one-half of the projected budgeted is set aside for this branch in 1987, in order that the other half of this money can be used for other projects which may be more pressing. He noted this branch office may not be available until sometime in 1988. He also noted this project will not proceed until the Province has agreed to cost-sharing in this project. Ms. Gilliss informed the Province has not approved any cost-sharing as of yet, and if the budgeted figure of \$212,000 were cut in half, it would have an adverse effect on the Cole Harbour branch of the library because there is a need to prepare the collection of books, to prepare the service, and to prepare the facility. She informed the collection of books is time-consuming and costly, so the collection is available when the facility opens. She informed there will be 22,000 items purchased prior to the opening of this branch, and the \$212,000 will include a salary for an additional staff person to take care of this. Any additional funds from the Province will also be used, and the budgeted money will not be spent until the Province has cost-shared in the project. She stated the new formula will separate funds for a new branch and the per capita funding. She stated the County has already approved and supported this branch and the required funds, and the Province has been notified of this support subject to their cost-sharing. Given immediate approval from the Province, the branch cannot be open for at least one full year.

Councillor Walker inquired about the 75 percent increase for the Hubbards-Shatford Library. Ms. Gilliss informed the full amount for 1986 was not spent on this branch as projected. There have been difficulties with the upkeep and maintenance of this branch, and the unused portion of 1986 funds are accounted for in the 1987 budget, as well as costs for additional maintenance on the interior of the building and to fix a continuous leak. She noted libraries do not have a capital budget; all is considered operating. She informed the Hubbards-Shatford is very expensive to keep up, and another such facility would not be recommended in the future.

Councillor Fralick asked if the Cole Harbour branch library will go ahead, whether or not it is in Cole Harbour Place or some other place. Ms. Gilliss informed it is a priority of the Library Board to set up a branch in Cole Harbour. She stated a bookmobile service is not large enough for a community the size of Cole Harbour.

Councillor P. Baker informed he would not support this project because there are too many unanswered questions. He stated taxpayers money should not be tied up with such uncertainty.

Councillor Lichter expressed no difficulty with a regional library for Cole Harbour, but he felt there should be some pressure put on the Provincial government for their share in this project. He suggested there be a recommendation to Council that a letter be written to the Province indicating the County has set aside this money for the Cole Harbour branch library, but that amount will be removed from the budget if the operating expenditure by the Province is not approved at the time the County sets the tax rate.

Ms. Gilliss noted the 1986 actual differs from the 1986 budget because the Provincial grant was less than anticipated, and money is not spent that is not had. She informed if the Province does not cost-share in the Cole Harbour branch project, the \$212,000 will not be spent because both the County and the Provincial funding is required to locate this branch.

Councillor Deveaux suggested this be left until the budget is to be finally dealt with and the tax rate is ready to be set. If \$100,000 is need for a more pressing project, it may be necessary to use this money, if the branch will not be available until next year sometime.

Councillor Walker felt this money cannot be reserved with the uncertainty about this project. He stated he supports the concept of a library in Cole Harbour, but Provincial approval for cost-sharing should be available before the County reserves \$212,000 for this project. He objected to Councillor Lichter's suggestion of pressuring the Provincial government for this funding, but they should be advised the County is preparing the budget, and before this money can be included we must know what position the Province will be. Councillor Lichter noted Council has already committed the Province to this project, and the Province must be urged to come up with their share.

Councillor Reid informed if this upfront money is not supplied, when the Cole Harbour branch is open, the people will only have a facility that is one-half complete; it will not be what the people will expect, want, and deserve. He stated if this project is going to be done, it should be done properly.

Mr. Wilson supported this expenditure, noting the budget can be increased and taken from surplus, or money saved in other areas can be used. He agreed with Ms. Gilliss that once the Province gives their approval, the project can proceed. However, any money spent before Provincial approval will not be cost-shared, so any spending for the Library prior to Provincial approval should be spend through the County, rather than the library. He suggested this money should be left until the tax rate is set, and if the Province has not approved their cost-sharing by then, it will have to be removed. If the Province approves their share later, the funding can be taken from surplus.

Following further discussion about the library funding, the discussion moved to the budget for Ocean View Manor.

#### Ocean View Manor

Mr. Morrison informed Ocean View Manor is a non-profit organization which broke even in 1986 - a normal year. He informed both he and the Board of Management were very pleased with this. Mr. Morrison informed 1987 is a tripartite rate-setting year, and the ground rules are a little different for the setting of the rate. He informed each region of the Province will decide what each home's budget will be. He stated the presentation made here is only a proposal. Mr. Morrison continued to inform that the new tripartite rate-setting process opens

up staffing guidelines to expenditure not present before. Ocean View Manor has met the staffing guideline, and costs have accelerated considerably. He stated the budget is based on 97 percent occupancy, and because Ocean View Manor is usually has 99 percent occupancy, the per diem rate can be kept down.

With respect to the difference between a residential care facility costing and a home for special care, Mr. Morrison informed there is no comparison. Most residential care facilities have a per diem rate of not more than \$25 because these residents only require supervisory care. Extended care facilities are entirely different; thus, the difference in per diem rates.

Mr. Morrison informed the average budget proposed includes a 25 to 40 percent increase over 1986. The rate-setting committee will have to do something about this. He informed Ocean View Manor has increased its staffing guidelines, as well, and this makes the per diem rate appear very high at \$63.66 to \$71.06 - an increase of more than 11 percent.

Enriched seniors' housing at Ocean View Manor has been started and occupancy will be available for 30 additional people probably late in 1987 or early in 1988. He concluded, noting the biggest client at this time in the City of Dartmouth, and the 1987 presentation is only a proposal. He noted there is an 11 percent increase in care every year, but there is not an 11 percent increase in staffing every year. This is what causes situations such as that at Park Haven.

Councillor P. Baker inquired about residents from Halifax County in Ocean View Manor. Mr. Morrison informed there are approximately 73 County residents in the Manor from a total of 182. This figure has dropped 58 percent in the last three years. Councillor P. Baker inquired about selling this facility, as well as the Rehab Centre. Councillor Walker expressed agreement that nursing homes should be publically operated, but only Halifax County owns and operates such a facility in the Province, and the Province should be approached for more funding. No other nursing facility in the area can give the care Ocean View Manor does, and this can only be guaranteed because it is municipally operated.

Councillor P. Baker felt the quality of care depends on the management of this facility, and he stated hospital facilities in Nova Scotia are fully paid for by the government and similar health care at Ocean View Manor should also be paid for by the government. Councillor Lichter noted the difference between a hospital facility and a nursing care facility is the length of time spent at each.

Councillor Deveaux expressed agreement with Councillor P. Baker, but he expressed concern that the quality of care would lessen if Ocean View Manor were sold. He suggested such facilities should be administered by the Department of Health, rather than the Department of Social Services. He stated he would pursue this further at the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities next fall.



There being no further discussion about this budget, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m. Members of Council were reminded the next budget meeting will be held on April 2, 1987 at 2 p.m.

M I N U T E S & R E P O R T S

OF THE

S E C O N D Y E A R M E E T I N G S

OF THE

F O R T Y - S E C O N D C O U N C I L

OF THE

M U N I C I P A L I T Y O F T H E C O U N T Y O F H A L I F A X

A P R I L C O U N C I L S E S S I O N

T U E S D A Y , A P R I L 7 a n d 2 1 , 1 9 8 7

&

C O M M I T T E E O F T H E W H O L E

A P R I L 2 a n d 1 4 , 1 9 8 7

&

J O I N T C O U N C I L S E S S I O N

A P R I L 7 a n d 2 8 , 1 9 8 7

&

P U B L I C H E A R I N G S

A P R I L 1 3 a n d 2 7 , 1 9 8 7

April Council Session - 1987

I N D E X

Adolescent Treatment Centre -----	5-8
Building Inspectors Report -----	18 & 38
Capital Projects -----	15-16
Commonwealth Games -----	27-28
County Pension Plan -----	33
Development Officer Report -----	15
Grants -----	12 & 34
Guarantee Resolution - Metropolitan Authority -----	18
Home East Developments Ltd. -----	13
Halifax County Industrial Commission - Appointment of Members -----	16 & 40-42
Long Term Service Recognition -----	13
Motion - Approval of Minutes -----	2 & 21
Motion - Adolescent Treatment Centre -----	5-8
Motion - Letters & Correspondence -----	8-11 & 35-38
Motion - Prospect Road Bus Service -----	9-10 & 34-35
Motion - Sackville Civic Status Review Committee -----	10-11
Motion - Easement, Maritime Tel & Tel -----	11 & 35
Motion - Grants -----	12 & 34
Motion - Loan, Sackville Lions Club -----	12
Motion - Vehicle Reserve Fund -----	12
Motion - Long Term Service Recognition -----	13
Motion - Public Hearing Dates -----	13-14 & 38-40
Motion - Home East Developments Ltd. -----	13
Motion - Eastern Passage/Cow Bay Municipal Planning Strategy -	14
Motion - Development Officer Report -----	15
Motion - Redistribution Committee Report -----	15
Motion - Capital Projects -----	15-16
Motion - Woodbine Mobile Home Park -----	16
Motion - Halifax County Industrial Commission -----	16 & 40-42
Motion - Social Services Special Committee Report -----	17-18
Motion - Building Inspectors Report -----	18 & 38
Motion - Guarantee Resolution, Metropolitan Authority -----	18
Motion - Roads -----	19
Motion - Adjournment -----	20 & 44
Motion - Oil Drilling, Georges Bank -----	22-27
Motion - Commonwealth Games -----	27-28
Motion - Sewer Legislation -----	28
Motion - Policing, Cole Harbour -----	29-32
Motion - Police Protection, Halifax County -----	32
Motion - Sackville Recreation Program -----	32-33
Motion - County Pension Plan -----	33
Motion - Occupational Health & Safety Policy -----	33-34
Motion - Regional Library Funding -----	38
Motion - Tabling of Financial Statements -----	42

Index  
April Council Session - 1987

Motion - Appointment of Auditors -----	42
Motion - School Area Rates -----	42-44
Oil Drilling - Georges Bank -----	22-27
Occupational Health and Safety Policy -----	33-34
Prospect Road Bus Service -----	9-10 & 34-35
Public Hearings - Dates -----	13-14 & 38-40
Policing - Cole Harbour -----	29-32
Police Protection - Halifax County -----	32
Redistribution Committee Report -----	15
Regional Library Funding -----	38
Sackville Lions Club - Loan -----	12
Social Services Special Committee - Report -----	17-18
Sewer Legislation -----	28
Sackville Recreation Program -----	32-33
School Area Rates -----	42-44
Vehicle Reserve Fund -----	12
Woodbine Mobile Home Park -----	16

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

APRIL 2, 1987

PRESENT WERE: Warden MacKenzie  
Councillor Walker  
Councillor Rawding  
Councillor Fralick  
Councillor P. Baker  
Councillor C. Baker  
Councillor Deveaux  
Councillor DeRoche  
Councillor Randall  
Councillor Bayers  
Councillor Reid  
Councillor Lichter  
Councillor Snow  
Councillor Merrigan  
Councillor MacKay  
Councillor McInroy  
Councillor Wiseman  
Deputy Warden Mont

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. K. Wilson, Director of Finance

SECRETARY: Glenda Higgins

---

Warden MacKenzie called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

Councillor Lichter began the discussion by expressing concern over the comparative vehicle and travel report for 1985-86. He stated there is some budget figure for every department for travel, and there are some questions which should be answered about this.

Protective Services - Building Inspection

Ms. Spencer informed her total department budget represents slightly more than \$1.9 million - a 17.5 percent increase. She stated she is not comfortable presenting this budget to Council as a new Director. She estimated slightly less than \$1.1 million will be unrecoverable costs. Ms. Spencer informed her Department has been struggling, and it will continue to struggle for some time before it can get back on its feet. Even with the requested staff increases, it will take until the end of 1987 and early 1988 before new positions will be fully functional. Ms. Spencer reiterated that she understands the difficulty with a 17.5 percent increase in the budget over 1986. She stated the proposed increase is felt to be necessary, and it is not all the department wishes it could have. She stated the majority of the changes is remedial work necessary to satisfy the level of service which is assumed and expected.

She continued with the budget for the Building Inspection Division, informed this department has a proposal for a 22.7 percent increase. The Building Inspection Division is affected by recoverables, which is estimated at the actual recovery from building permits in 1986 (\$550,000). Ms. Spencer informed the RRAP recoverable of \$5,000 is a reasonable estimate based on what was received in 1986. These recoverables are expected to cover about 23.3 percent; the greatest increase is in the area of staffing.

Deputy Warden Mont asked if increases in personnel have been implemented at this time. Ms. Spencer informed none have been implemented, and the majority of them will have to be rated to determine who much the new jobs would pay.

Councillor Walker expressed difficulty with the efficiency of the Building Inspection office. He stated there appears to be much duplication of knowledge and information by inspectors and clerical workers.

Councillor P. Baker expressed agreement with Councillor Walker. He felt the building inspectors should visit a site more often during construction. Ms. Spencer noted there are some administrative problems, and if there are complaints, they should be taken to her directly. She stated she is always available to listen to complaints and problems about a specific situation or in general.

Councillor Lichter noted the difference between 1986 actual salaries and 1987 budgeted salaries is due to the proposal for two additional staff. However, in 1986, the average salary was slightly more than \$25,000 for the 15 staff members in this Department. He expressed concern that the new positions would pay more than the average salary of those who are already trained. Councillor Lichter also expressed concern about the logistics of travelling and mileage by this Department. He felt a strong attempt will have to be made to provide this service without travelling numerous different directions on the same day. He expressed difficulty with the average annual travel cost per person at \$6,800. He suggested somebody in this department seriously consider mileage claims, and if they are fair. He suggested some people may be charging mileage from home to the Municipal Building and back; mileage is only for inspection travel. Ms. Spencer informed the \$115,000 proposed for mileage for 1987, includes \$5,000 for the vehicle reserve fund, as well as \$1,500 for maintenance for the two County-owned cars. Therefore, the total mileage claims are only estimated at \$107,000. She informed travel claims are heavy, and she is presently reviewing them. She stated if travel costs remain the same, and with the additional By-law Enforcement Officer and Building Inspector, it will be difficult to work under the \$107,000 mileage budget for 1987. Councillor Lichter stated adding two additional people at the 1986 rate is not acceptable.

Councillor Randall commented on the length of time it takes to receive an occupancy permit; people move into their homes without the permit; others never receive it. He expressed difficulty with the procedure

for the issuance of occupancy permits. He stated there should be a more positive route followed before letters are sent to property owners. He also agreed with Councillor Walker's comments that building inspectors do not seem to have a set route, and they spend one day here, another there; there appears to be no schedule.

With reference to page 19-9, Councillor Lichter noted there are part time positions for April to October, which add up to more than one full-time employee. He asked if there is any other way to avoid part time employees by re-scheduling workloads, vacations, etc. He stated if this arrangement could be made, he would not have any difficulty with the two additional, full time employees.

Councillor Fralick commended building inspectors for a job well done in his district. However, he expressed difficulty with part time employees due to lack of experience.

Councillor DeRoche asked if it is intended to have the part time positions supplemented through any program. Ms. Spencer advised it is not. Councillor DeRoche asked how it is expected to get a building inspector and an unsightly premise inspector on a part time basis and have them know what they are doing. Ms. Spencer suggested this should lead to re-organization, as suggested by Councillor Lichter, which may result in another full time position.

Councillor DeRoche questioned the \$10,000 fee for rental of word processing and computer equipment. Mr. Wilson informed this is the allocation of data processing costs to the individual units. Councillor DeRoche clarified that equipment purchased is charged against the Data Processing Department, and the usage is charged against the department utilizing the equipment.

With respect to page 19-13, Councillor Walker was of the understanding costs for cleaning up an unsightly property was charged against the property. He asked why the \$10,000 is projected for this purpose. Ms. Spencer informed the estimate for this matter is double the 1986 budget. There is a small proportion which is unrecoverable. This increase is also due to some of the costs of advertising because the present tender system is not getting the necessary response. These costs are recoverable by charging the property owner, but the Municipality is responsible for paying the fee upfront.

Councillor Rawding asked why the Municipality is advertising, when the new derelict vehicle program has been set up with various salvage yard dealers to eliminate advertising. Ms. Spencer advised this cost is projected for unsightly properties, as opposed to derelict vehicles, and advertisement is required to get people to clean these properties

Councillor Fralick clarified that the County will try to get available cost from owners of derelict vehicles whenever possible, although not all costs will be recoverable. Ms. Spencer agreed, stating vehicles with unknown owners will not have release forms, and the cost for removal of these cars will not be recoverable.

Development Division

Ms. Spencer stated the major alteration in this department is in terms of staff. There is the deletion of one position and the addition of two new positions, which have not been rated.

Councillor Walker stated there appears to be no rationale behind the implementation of new planning and zoning by-laws. He stated there is a proposal for more employees every year, as new plans are prepared and approved. He stated there will be a real mess when there are numerous plans for the entire County, with nobody knowing what the interpretation for each is. He expressed difficulty with the public participation process.

Councillor Lichter inquired about two new Assistant Development Officers. Ms. Spencer advised the original position, which was deleted, held the appointment of Assistant Development Officer in the absence of the Development Officer. However, it was only a senior planner position, which has altered very much over the years. Ms. Spencer stated it is not necessary to have two positions replace the senior planner position. The two new positions may or may not be on the existing staff, although there may be internal candidates, and their functions will be very important. She stated one of these positions will be to assist the By-law Enforcement Officer. These new positions will be fully appointed as assistant Development Officers from the beginning, and the jobs will be totally devoted to this. Both will be fully capable of filling in for the Development Officer and dealing with whatever may come up in terms of Development Division activities. One will spend more time administering subdivision functions, and the other will spend more time administering development permit functions. Councillor Lichter asked if three people will have signing authority. Ms. Spencer was not sure this would be possible, although she would like to see a system whereby Council appoints three with signing authority at the beginning of the year, and in the absence of the Development Officer for any length of time, somebody will be available to sign a permit without required authorization from Council for a special appointment. Councillor Lichter commented he would have no objection if there could be three appointments with signing authorities because the system would work much better than it has in the past. However, if the two additional people cannot have signing authority, he would not support the two new positions. Without signing authority, matters are held in abeyance until the Development Officer can return to sign the necessary papers. Ms. Spencer advised she would try to have more information by the next session to discuss this budget. She advised she has interprets from the Planning Act that it is not necessary to have special motion to appoint somebody as Assistant Development Officer, every time the Development Officer will be out of the office.

Councillor Rawding inquired about the success rate for prosecutions initiated by the Development Division. Ms. Spencer replied the success of prosecution is fairly good, but the difficulty is finding the violations and following them through to make certain prosecution is not necessary. Action is initiated now by whoever may have an interest



in a certain area, more particularly a building inspector who is in the field more often than anyone else. She stated there has been criticism from the public that they should not have to launch complaints before action is taken against a violation of a by-law. She stated the first priority of the By-law Enforcement Officer in terms of development is going to be to gather all development agreements and contracts and to continue with the enforcement of these contracts and agreements.

Councillor Lichter asked if account numbers with the last four digits 040 refer to travel by any other means than car. Mr. Wilson informed this account is for travel by plane, hotels, meals on the road, etc. Councillor Lichter noted this is why the figures in Mr. Meech's report do not match the budget figures. Mr. Wilson agreed, stating Mr. Meech's report were for mileage alone. Conferences are charged to each department, including fees, travel, hotels, etc. Seminars are through the Executive Office, and there has been trouble determining if travel is charged to the Executive Office or to the individual departments. He informed this is not budgeted twice.

Deputy Warden Mont inquired about the proposed Counter Clerk. Ms. Spencer advised these people will be required for one-half of the year, during the busy periods. They are entrance level clerical positions, given to planning students with a clerical background. She advised these positions are being requested of Council for the first time, but these people have always been hired in the past through the Provincial Employment Program. She advised application is being made for three additional people under the employment program, as well.

#### Policy Division

Ms. Spencer advised this division is expecting an increase of approximately 11.8 percent, and the Provincial cost-sharing is also increasing, but not to cover the entire increase. She informed the Policy Division will not have an easy year because the division is still recovering from a significant turnover in staff in 1986. She informed the largest increase is relative to the processes, such as committee meetings, professional services, advertising, and equipment - all related to plan preparation and plan review.

Deputy Warden Mont asked if the Research Assistant position is now implemented. Ms. Spencer advised it is. Co-op programs through the various universities has been taken advantage of on a regular basis in the past to pick up a person to do work during the winter months. There will be a different individual in this position from May to September than there was from January to April.

Councillor Lichter noted the Board of Health often requires some research, and often cheap research from graduate students at Dalhousie University can be obtained for certain projects. He asked if this service could be taken advantage of in the Policy Division, as well. Ms. Spencer advised students who work in the Policy Division are enrolled in graduate planning programs or the cooperative geography program at Saint Mary's University. She agreed the money paid could be lower, but these students are required to work hard and provide

valuable information, and the salaries are specifically chosen to recognize the type of service expected.

There was some discussion about cooperative programs and the work terms. Ms. Spencer advised students from the Nova Scotia College of Arts and Design are not eligible for this program, and they do not have cooperative work program. She advised that Mount Saint Vincent University does not have a planning program, so students from this university are not considered in the Policy Division. Mr. Wilson informed business students from Mount Saint Vincent University have been in the Finance Department under the co-op program.

Councillor Reid noted three major increases on page 25-8, and he asked if they are associated with the extra work involved with reviewing the plans and preparing new plans. Ms. Spencer advised these costs are all associated with this. There are legal requirements to have a plan reviewed word-by-word and argue cases before Municipal Affairs. Advertising costs are required for proper public hearing notices, etc. The advertising costs budgeted for 1987 will cover plans which are expected to be adopted this year, as well as the review of existing plans.

Councillor Lichter noted the lawyer for the plan review process is not from Halifax County, and he inquired about this. Ms. Spencer advised one difficulty experienced when looking for a lawyer from the County was that many found they would be in a position of conflict. Cost was also considered, and the individual chosen is prepared to do the plan review with some municipal experience at a rate which is felt to be reasonable, as opposed to hiring a large firm.

Ms. Spencer concluded the discussion with respect to her budgets by indicating she welcomes all Councillors to speak to her about specific problems they may experience. She stated it is sometimes difficult to hear the system should be more efficient from a general point-of-view, and Councillors should approach her about the specifics of building inspectors routes, attitudes, etc.

#### Industrial Commission

Mr. Denny advised initial instructions during budget preparations were no increases. After reviewing the prepared budget, it was determined cuts were necessary. He stated \$20,000 has been cut from the original budget for presentation to Council. He reviewed the objectives of the Commission, reviewed events from 1986 and expected outputs for 1987 as presented with the budget. With respect to page 28-1, Mr. Denny advised advertising costs were reduced considerably. In 1986 \$85,000 was budgeted for advertising; only \$47,000 was used. The 1987 budget reflects increased costs for international advertising.

Councillor Lichter clarified that New Wings remains as the consultant. He stated it has been many months since a report has been received by Council from the Industrial Commission. The last time this came to Council there was a six month extension to this contract, and nothing has been heard since. He asked if the Industrial Commission deals with

this without notifying Council. Mr. Denny advised this has not come to Council since it was initiated approximately one year ago. However, the contract for the consultant is on a month-to-month basis until it changes or until it is up for renewal. He advised this is presently awaiting review by Mr. Meech, and recommended changes will be presented to the Commission.

There was some discussion between Mr. Denny, Councillor Lichter, and Mr. Wilson with respect to advertising costs for the Industrial Commission. Mr. Wilson clarified the costs in 1987 relative to the budgeted and actual costs for 1986.

Councillor Reid asked if Aerotech marketing at \$50,000 is at the same rate as it has been over the past year. Mr. Wilson advised this budget has the same total, but in 1986 consultant fees were \$37,000 and travel costs were \$13,000. In 1987 \$10,000 is budgeted for travel and \$40,000 for the consultant, with the same total dollars.

Councillor Lichter commented that travel expenses as noted in Mr. Meech's report only reflect travel by car, which is approximately one-half of the total actual cost for the Industrial Commission for 1986. He asked where the remainder of this cost has been spent. Mr. Denny informed this amount has mainly be spent on luncheons. The same is budgeted for 1987. Councillor Lichter expressed dissatisfaction. Mr. Denny informed this figure is down from the previous year, and an effort is made to hold this down. There was some discussion concerning this budget, and Councillor Lichter suggested Mr. Denny discuss this with Mr. Meech.

With respect to page 28-10, Councillor DeRoche asked if any portion of the amount for travel is in addition to the \$18,000 previously reported. Mr. Denny advised the special costs for promotion in the industry, estimated at \$6,000, is for two dinners - one with Council and the Province and the other with a client for 16 people. Mr. Denny stated the rationale for special costs is not inaccurate. The money is strictly at the decision of the Commission for receptions, plant openings, promotions, etc., not related to mileage at all, although it has been in previous years. There was some explanation and discussion in terms of this budgeted cost. Councillor DeRoche stated the documents supporting the budget should contain more clear and accurate information.

With respect to Industrial Park Maintenance, Councillor Lichter inquired about the \$75,000 shown on page 29-0 and 29-2 as Aerotech Park sewer and water costs. Mr. Denny informed Pratt & Whitney are presently using water and sewer services at the Aerotech Park, as well as Grand Masters Winery. Litton will be hooked to the system around the end of September. He suggested the two present users are now being billed for their use. He stated he did not know what percentage will be recovered with overhead costs, as the Engineering Department would be best suited to answer this.