



## Notes from Budget Information Meeting

January 17, 2018, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Municipal Hall, Multipurpose Room 162

Total Attendees: 9 (3 residents, 6 Councillors/staff)

*Q: Do assessments ever go down?*

A: Property assessments are meant to reflect fair market value and fluctuate accordingly. In the lower mainland, values in the past few years have tended to go up, but they can go down as well. If real estate sales prices go down, assessment values will reflect that.

*Q: Why was the operating budget separated from the asset levy?*

A: Operational bills must be paid, but maintenance can be delayed. When the two types of costs were accounted for together, it was very common for operations to take up most of the available funds, which resulted in assets being poorly maintained. At the District, these two types of costs have now been separated so that each has its own source of funds and can be considered separately. This is one part of the District's assurance to the public that, over time, the asset levy funds will continue to be used for asset maintenance.

*Q: Is the 20 Year Life-Cycle Replacement & Maintenance graph available to the public? It would be interesting to know what the backup information is behind these coloured bars.*

A: Yes, if you contact Financial Services, we can provide this information.

*Q: What does "not applicable" mean next to the Klee Wyck item on the poor condition, low use assets table?*

A: "Not applicable" means that there is no 2018 budget provision for this item. This item requires a long term strategy, but no investment or maintenance is currently taking place.

*Q: How do new assets, such as the arts centre and bistro included in the waterfront strategy, fit in to the asset management strategy? Shouldn't it be part of the discussion before you build?*

A: New and replacement facilities become part of the asset maintenance program after the facility assets are built. But yes, we should be thinking about asset maintenance before building new structures, because as soon as a new structure is built, it must be maintained.

*Q: Have permit revenues been going down?*

A: Yes, we are predicting that permit revenues are tapering off. In 2017, they did not reach the heights they attained in 2016, which may turn out to be a 'peak year'. 2018 is likely to return to more normal historic levels.

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*Q: Can the public view the list of assets?*

A: Yes, it was published [online](#). The list doesn't include land, because land is not maintainable.

*Q: The neighbourhood boundaries have changed in the GIS map - who made those changes?*

A: The [2018 Assessment Net Change Map](#) was developed for the purposes of the 2018 Budget presentation to demonstrate assessment changes. The map represents changes in assessments based on land title and BC Assessment information and does not signify a change in official neighbourhood boundaries.

*Q: What specific actions have been taken to decrease expenses and increase revenues?*

A: Each year, we review our fees and charges and set new fees as well as ensuring that existing fees are appropriate. For 2018, we looked at administration fees, particularly for TransLink and the Utilities to make sure that our staff costs were being charged to them appropriately. We worked hard on trying to project our permit revenue and we made an adjustment to Squamish Nation revenue. We also worked on the labour model so that we know exactly what our labour costs will be and we reviewed all other accounts in detail to ensure that we are operating as efficiently as possible.

*Q: Did the District donate \$700,000 for the Wardance Bridge?*

A: The Wardance Bridge was previously identified as requiring safety upgrades for cyclists and pedestrians, and Council decided to make a contribution from Community Amenity Contributions (CACs), as the bridge is an important part of the Spirit Trail network. CACs are to be used to provide amenities for the community.

*Q: The Lalji family just donated \$700,000 to the West Vancouver Community Centre. Is this money being recycled?*

A: No. The donation to the West Vancouver Community Centres Society (WVCCS) is completely separate from anything to do with the Wardance Bridge upgrade or any other District operational or capital budgets. The Laljis are a prominent West Vancouver family that have a long history of supporting events in our community, and the donation was made directly to the WVCCS, which is a separate organization from the District. The society will control the use of these funds and apply them to enhanced services and programs at the community centre.

*Q: Where are the CACs?*

A: The CACs are in the five-year financial plan. You can see where the money comes in and goes out on the financial statements.

*Q: Would the Wardance Bridge be shown on the financial plan?*

A: Yes, it's part of the overall five-year financial plan

Q: *Are you setting aside funds for legal expenses?*  
A: Yes, funds are being set aside for legal expenses.