

Re: LETTER DATED DECEMBER 4, 1975 FROM THE CORPORATION OF DELTA
G.V.R.D. 1976 PROVISIONAL BUDGET

Following is a report from the Municipal Treasurer on the subject correspondence from the Corporation of Delta.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Council request the Greater Vancouver Regional District to reconsider its budget in light of Federal Wage & Price Guidelines; and
2. THAT Council ask for an explanation for the startling increases in some sections of the District's budget; and
3. THAT a copy of this report be sent to the Corporation of Delta.

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TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER
 FROM: MUNICIPAL TREASURER
 RE: GREATER VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT
 1976. PROVISIONAL BUDGET

11 December 1975
 File: G70-1-3

Appearing on the agenda for 15 December 1975 is a letter from the District of Delta requesting support for their recommendation that the Directors of the Regional District endeavour to produce a budget that is within a ten percent increase over the 1975 budget.

For the information of Council, shown below is a summary of the 1976 budget of the District in comparison with 1975:

	<u>Estimated Revenues</u>		
	1975 Annual Budget	1976 Provisional Budget	% Increase
Members' tax requisitions	\$ 3,988,235	\$ 5,391,552	35.19
User charges	10,000	10,000	-
Provincial Government grants	521,374	472,800	(9.32)
Federal Government grants	165,000	197,955	19.97
Recoveries	-	93,500	-
Other revenue	127,000	144,000	13.39
Surplus/deficit carried forward from previous year	<u>511,891</u>	<u>210,663</u>	<u>(58.84)</u>
	<u>5,323,500</u>	<u>6,520,470</u>	<u>22.48</u>

ITEM 7
 MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 81
 COUNCIL MEETING Dec. 15/75

- 2 -

Estimated Expenditures

	1975 Annual Budget	1976 Provisional Budget	% Increase
General government services	\$ 528,000	\$ 874,300	65.59
Air pollution control	346,000	489,300	41.14
Housing	589,000	787,000	33.62
Parks	2,138,000	2,208,800	3.31
Planning	934,000	1,220,870	30.71
Labour relations	531,000	595,400	12.13
Hospital planning	137,000	177,000	29.20
Electrical area services	120,500	167,800	39.25
	<u>\$ 5,323,500</u>	<u>\$ 6,520,470</u>	<u>22.48</u>

It shows that the largest item in the budget, parks, has an increase over 1975 of only 3.31%, whereas increases in other areas of activity range from a low of 12.13% for labour relations to a high of 65.59% for general government services. While the budget document does endeavour to give an explanation for the operations of the several divisions of the District, it makes no attempt to explain the increases in costs from 1975 to 1976.

The exact cost of this budget to Burnaby will not be known until the proper assessment information becomes available in April of next year. However, from information supplied by District officials, your Treasurer included in the Provisional Budget for 1976 the sum of \$573,786, using 1975 assessments in the calculation. The budget on hand confirms the accuracy of this figure. It is \$130,369, or 29.4% greater than 1975.

Mention was made of this on page IV of the Letter of Transmittal of the 1975 Recast/1976 Provisional Budget. Additionally, the Letter pointed out that indications are that the Greater Vancouver Sewerage & Drainage District budget for 1976 will be double that of 1975, and that the Greater Vancouver Regional Hospital District budget may be as much as 78% greater than 1975 because of the large increases in debt charges incurred by both bodies. With respect to sewers, there will be some additional assistance from the Sewerage Facilities Assistance fund. Taking this into consideration, the cost to Burnaby taxpayers for the three services could be close to one and three-quarter hospital purposes mills greater than in 1975.

As we ourselves may find it difficult, if not impossible, to keep Burnaby's increase in the tax levy within a ten percent increase over 1975, even though every effort is being made to stay within the Federal Guidelines, I am unable to recommend that Council support Delta's request as it is written; however, a 35% increase in the District's budget without any explanation should not be accepted without challenge.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT Council request the Regional District to reconsider its budget in light of Federal Wage & Price Guidelines; and
2. THAT Council ask for an explanation for the startling increases in some sections of the District's budget.

David M. ...
 MUNICIPAL TREASURER