



March 8, 2010

DELIVERED

John Taylor, Chair
Budget & Corporate Services Committee
City of Burlington
426 Brant Street
Burlington, ON

Re: Report recommending approval of a dedicated tax levy for a municipal contribution towards the Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital (JBMH) Phase 1 redevelopment.

At a Council meeting on February 22, 2010 the Burlington Chamber of Commerce supported a motion to defer a decision on a dedicated tax levy for JBMH redevelopment funding so that Chamber members' views could be represented in the discussion. Following this deferral, the Chamber surveyed its members; 162 responses were received and the results are attached.

Results of the survey can be summarized as follows:

- There is strong support (72%) for the idea that the 2010 portion of the city commitment should come from the city's 2009 operating surplus. It should be noted that 96% of the survey responses were completed before it was announced that the city had a \$3.5 million operating surplus in 2009.
- There is marginal support (55%) for the idea that the 2010 portion of the city commitment should come from the city's Burlington Hydro dividend.
- There is strong support (74%) for the tax levy starting in 2011, not 2010. This is not a surprise since we are coming out of a recession.
- The tax levy should be over a 10-year period, not longer. This was the top response although it was not a majority response.
- Of the 162 respondents, 46 added comments. This is a very high number and speaks to the importance of the issue to the business community.

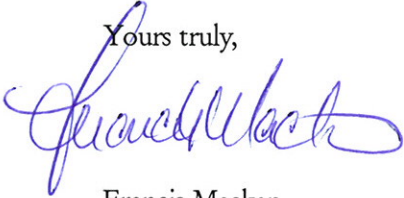
The message can be summarized: Use the 2009 city surplus to fund the 2010 portion, and begin a tax levy (over ten years) in 2011.

The Burlington Chamber of Commerce recommends that:

- The 2010 city contribution for the JBMH redevelopment phase 1, estimated at \$2.4 million, comes from the 2009 city operating surplus.
- The dedicated tax levy for the JBMH redevelopment phase 1 should begin in 2011.

The Chamber thanks Council for providing the Burlington Chamber with the opportunity to consult with our members and present valuable input into the discussion. We believe hospital redevelopment funding will have an impact on our members and it is important that the views of Burlington's business community be strongly considered as the funding options for the city contribution are decided.

Yours truly,



Francis Mackan
Chair



Keith Hoey
President

Enclosures [2]

cc: Councillor Rick Goldring, Vice-Chair, Budget & Corporate Services Committee
Councillor Rick Craven
Councillor Carol D'Amelio
Councillor Jack Dennison
Councillor Peter Thoem
Mayor Cam Jackson
Roman Martiuk
Kim Phillips