

Thank you Eric Stern for taking on what the majority of us would find an impossible task, especially in view of the very short period of time available to you,

The petition and Eric Stern's suggestions relative to the budget should we believe have councillors questioning whether the purpose of this Special Meeting, to endorse the budget is premature.

The material from members of the public before this Special Council should at the very least see our CAO be asked if his opinion remains the same in terms of “I don’t see any shiny objects in this budget, but I do see it being inspired by where I where I feel the community wants us to go.” and each Councillor carefully considering whether the public need an opportunity to address what has been brought before this Special Meeting by Eric Stern and those signing the petition at an additional meeting of the Budget Committee.

We brought to the attention of Council at its last regular meeting that a survey of 600 homeowners was used as a support for the municipality to gift 61 million brought to the table by Marianne Meed Ward at that time a member of the JBH Board. The gift was to purchase hospital equipment, a hospital foundation responsibility not

the municipality's and the JBH tax levy (2.6 million at this time) remains with us until 2028 according to information provided by staff.

Further, the Council of the day were cautioned of the financial Stress such a gift would put on future council's decision making.

Surely the more than double petitioners who are opposing any tax increase deserve the same weighting to a council budget decision as did those surveyed on the JBH Gift. Further, surely Mr. Stern's suggestions deserve appropriate review by staff and councillors to determine if the percentage increase can be significantly reduced.

Councillors, do the right thing do not endorse this budget as it stands and refer the petition and the report by Mr. Stern to an additional Budget Committee. This will ensure you have done all you can do to approve a budget that is one that the public you are committed to serving can support.