

## Spending doesn't reflect supposed constraints

**(Re: 2014 Fire Budget should be tightened, June 12)**

It was interesting to see how hardnosed Council gets with taxpayer funded items.

The Central York Fire Department's chief explained they need \$40,000 worth of water softener equipment within the new budget request.

The burning issue? Well, the firefighters are having trouble with water-spots after washing the trucks. Geez Louise, every taxpayer in our area has the same problem when vehicles get washed. The mostly deep well fed supply is full of hardness and, yup, water spots do result. But then that must be a good enough reason to spend \$40,000 on water softeners.

In the winter the Town of Aurora trucks away snow from Yonge Street.

It is not sponge like, but it does contain road salt that is part of normal winter safety measures. About 99 per cent of the remaining road salt used gets washed down catch basins and flows into Tannery Creek or similar water courses.

So, therefore, why are we spending \$900,000 or more likely a million dollars ?plus? on a state of the art facility to remove the salt from the trucked away snow, whenever it melts?

It will most likely mitigate only 1 per cent of that road salt contamination problem.

Also, we hear about a permanent skateboard park near the Leisure Complex on Industrial Parkway.

The portable Flipside Park was already a white elephant. How many users did it experience after set-up, especially after the initial hoopla wore off?

I just cannot get over how we are supposed to be in severe and desperate financial constraints, yet all this nonsense continues. A two-year pay-freeze for ?most? government sector employees, but these goofy purpose and frivolous expense items continue.

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