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THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 8-2004

Minutes of a meeting of the Corporate and Financial Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Wednesday, March 10, 2004, commencing at 10:00 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Martin, Chair; Partington, Regional Chair; Burroughs; Goulbourne; Heit; Leavens; Saracino.

Staff: Mr. Bacchus, Commissioner, Corporate Services; Ms. Gilroy, Acting Regional Clerk; Mr. Lockyer, Treasurer; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

Staff
(Part-time): Mr. Banting, Director, Legal Services.

CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

62. Electronic Land Registration (e-reg)
Authorization for Registration of Electronic Documents

Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Councillor Goulbourne

That Report CSD 38-2004, March 10, 2004 (PWA 43-2004, March 9, 2004), respecting Electronic Land Registration (e-reg) Authorization for Registration of Electronic Documents, be received.

Carried.

63. Final Report on Required Transfers for the
Year Ended December 31, 2003- Current Operations

Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Councillor Leavens

That Report CSD 39-2004, March 10, 2004, respecting Final Report on Required Transfers for the Year Ended December 31, 2003 – Current Operations, be received.

That \$1.0 million of "reduction surplus" be transferred to replenish the Winter Control Reserve in order to provide emergency funding for unusually high Winter Control costs later in 2004 or beyond.

That of the total interest income and taxation account surpluses of \$2.7 million, \$1.5 million be allocated to address the 2003 Social Assistance/ODSP deficit with the remainder of \$1.2 million used to offset taxation in 2004 as noted in this report.

That \$.28 million be transferred to the Seniors Capital Reserve to replenish the reserve for the amount taken to fund the Adams Centre project.

That remaining surplus of \$200,000 for Niagara Regional Housing, left after achieving the Region's reduction target of \$518,000, be returned to NRH reserves.

That \$1.3 million received as compensation for lost property tax revenue relating to power dams be transferred to the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve, in order to fund an equivalent transfer from the reserve in the 2004 budget.

That the outstanding Paramedic wage settlement be accounted for in 2003, as requested by our auditors, in the manner recommended in the proposed 2004 budget.

That consistent with prior years, the net results from long term spending areas be transferred to or from the appropriate reserves or reserve funds as indicated in this report.

That the Regional Clerk ensure that the appropriate by-law(s) are prepared for consideration at Regional Council on March 18, 2004.

Carried.

(Refer to staff direction on page CFS 40.)

CORRESPONDENCE

64. Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Councillor Heit

That Communication CFS 9-2004 from Bruce Galway, seeking support for a resolution calling for a New Assessment Process providing stable values, be received; and

That the Commissioner of Corporate Services prepare a report in conjunction with the Area Treasurers on the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) and various tax related issues and concerns.

Carried.

Mr. Bacchus, Commissioner of Corporate Services, apprised Committee of the discussions that have taken place with the Regional Finance Commissioners, Area Treasurers and Chief Administrative Officers regarding MPAC and mutual tax related issues and concerns. He advised that he has been asked to prepare a comprehensive report on their behalf on this matter. Once this report is completed, it will be submitted to Committee and made available to Regional and local municipalities.

65. Moved by Councillor Saracino
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That Communication CFS 10-2004 from Victoria Leskie, County Clerk, County of Prince Edward, seeking support for its resolution requesting the Minister of Revenue to pass a regulation to exempt the "omitted assessment" for trailers for the 2003 taxation year, be supported.

Carried.

66. Moved by Councillor Leavens
Seconded by Councillor Heit

That the following communications be received:

CFS 8-2004 Provincial Government Media Release respecting "\$56 Million Allocated for Affordable Housing in Ontario"

CFS 11-2004 John Gerretsen, Minister, Office of the Minister of Municipal Affairs/Minister Responsible for Housing/Minister Responsible for Seniors (February 10, 2004) reaffirming the provincial position on the GST rebate for municipalities announced in the federal throne speech.

Carried.

Conflict of Interest

Councillor Heit declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to the Accounts Payable Expense Summary for the period ended January 31, 2004 with respect to payments to Telus Integrated Communications and Telus Mobility as he is employed by a similar wireless communication company; and to Modern Landfill as they are a client of his, and he therefore took no part in the discussion of, or voting on these matters.

ACCOUNTS

67. Moved by Regional Chair Partington
Seconded by Councillor Saracino

That Accounts Payable Expense Summary for the period ending January 31, 2004 in the following amounts be approved:

Administration & Corporate Services	\$ 683,846.87
Community Services	2,995,381.06
Planning & Development	9,636.04
Public Health	1,905,787.67
Public Works	5,516,798.14
Police Service	1,279,935.48
Outside Board's & Agencies	0.00
Non Departmental	<u>24,192,937.40</u>
Total	36,584,322.66
G.S.T. Rebate	<u>818,605.82</u>
Total Expense Payable	37,402,928.48
Holdback Amount	<u>3,101,084.55</u>
Total Expenses Paid	<u>\$ 34,301,843.93</u>

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

68. Niagara Region Broadband Network

Councillor Saracino requested a progress report on the Niagara Region Broadband Network.

69. BMA Consultants

Councillor Goulbourne advised that BMA Consultants did a presentation at a Welland Council meeting on the Municipal Tax Study. He commented that it was excellent and very well received, and thanked Mr. Bacchus for his assistance.

CLOSED SESSION

70. Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Councillor Leavens

That this committee do now meet in Closed Session for purposes of receiving information of a confidential nature relating to legal matters.

Carried.

71. Per Diem License Agreement with
Her Majesty the Queen
P.O.A. Court – 4635 Queen Street
City of Niagara Falls

Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Councillor Goulbourne

That Report CLK 05-2004, March 10, 2004 (PWA 51-2004, March 9, 2004),
respecting Per Diem License Agreement with Her Majesty the Queen P.O.A.
Court – 4635 Queen Street, City of Niagara Falls, be received and the
recommendations contained therein be approved.

Carried.

72. Moved by Councillor Saracino
Seconded by Councillor Goulbourne

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

STAFF DIRECTIONS

That staff be directed:

- (i) That future reports regarding “required transfers” include an explanatory
spread sheet. (Minute item 63.)

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 10:55 a.m. to meet on Wednesday, March 24, 2004, at
10:00 a.m. in Committee Room 4, Regional Headquarters.

Doug Martin
Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Acting Regional Clerk