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**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
JOINT MEETING OF
CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
AND
PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE
REPORT CFS 3/PW 4-2004**

Minutes of a joint meeting of the Corporate and Financial Services Committee and Public Works and Utilities Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Wednesday, January 28, 2004, commencing at 9:15 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Martin, Co-Chair; Rigby, Co-Chair; Partington, Regional Chair; Bodner; Burroughs; Eke; Goulbourne; Harry; Hodgson; Leavens; Redekop; Saracino; Salci; Zimmerman.

Staff: Mr. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Mr. Bacchus, Commissioner of Corporate Services; Mr. Neville, Commissioner of Public Works; Mr. Brcic, Director, Water and Wastewater Services; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

Staff
(Part-time): Ms. Ralph, Manager, Waste Policy & Planning; Mr. Roach, Manager, Financial Services, P.W.; Mr. J. Murphy, Manager, Policy & Development; Ms. M. Murphy, Manager, Current and Capital Budgets; Ms. Williams, Senior Financial Analyst.

REPORT

2. Water and Wastewater Billing Method/2003 Reconciliation

Mr. Bacchus, Commissioner, Corporate Services, provided background information on the proposal for reconciliation of the 2003 costs and information provided by the Area Treasurers with respect to a permanent method for billing beginning in 2004. The Commissioner commented that the majority of Treasurers determined that the "new" method was unsatisfactory in that some municipalities were being billed a significantly greater amount than otherwise would have occurred under the previous method. Overall, the Treasurers agreed that the traditional method should be reinstated in 2004.

Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Salci

That Report CSD 19-2004, January 28, 2004, respecting Water and Wastewater Billing Method/2003 Reconciliation, be received.

That the 2003 billing be reconciled by apportioning the amount equally in January to June's 2004 billings.

That the method of billing each area municipality on the basis of actual flows used be reinstated in 2004.

That this report be circulated to the Area Municipal Treasurers and Clerks for information.

That the Region negotiate with those municipalities requesting consideration of a different financial arrangement for the reconciliation of the 2003 billings.

Carried.

PRESENTATION

3. Waste Management Budget Presentation

Ms. Ralph, Manager of Waste Policy & Planning, provided a presentation on the 2004 Waste Management Current Budget. Ms. Ralph highlighted the elements from Council's Vision, Goals and Objectives and outlined the division's major goals and objectives and how they link to Council's 2003-2006 Business Plan. The 2004 Proposed Budget Expenditures total \$37,161,531, representing an increase of \$5,124,775 or 16.0% change over the 2003 expenditures. The major factors contributing to the increase are in the areas of Diversion related to base budget increases and program changes related to the new Organic Program. Ms. Ralph also highlighted the 2004 Proposed Budget Revenues noting an increase by \$5,124,775 or 16%.

Ms. Ralph advised that Waste Management Requisition is equivalent to the Water and Waste Water Rates, as it is the means of recovering net waste management costs (after other revenue sources) from the taxbase. The method of apportioning costs in the requisition is currently under review and recommendations from the Regional Niagara Financing Options study will affect final requisition in budget brought forward for approval. The current requisition is based on: Waste disposal costs; waste collection costs; Diversion Program costs and Administration and Planning costs.

The 2004 proposed budget – reserve fund impacts were highlighted with a projected year-end balance of \$6,230,000.

Moved by Councillor Saracino
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That the presentation by Janine Ralph, Manager of Waste Policy & Planning
on the 2004 Waste Management Current Budget, be received.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 11:10 a.m. to meet again at the call of the Chair.

Doug Martin
Co-Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Tim Rigby
Co-Chair

Pam Gilroy
Acting Regional Clerk

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