

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 2-2005

Minutes of a meeting of the Corporate and Financial Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Wednesday, January 26, 2005, commencing at 10:00 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

Staff: Mr. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Mr. Bacchus, Commissioner, Corporate Services; Mr. Lockyer, Treasurer/Director, Financial Management & Planning; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

Staff
(Part-time): Ms. Williams, Senior Financial Analyst.

JOINT REPORTS

**(Joint Reports can be found behind the
Joint Reports Tab in the Blue Book.)**

21. Capital Budget Allocation By-law for
Water Supply for Agricultural Use
Project ID ZCW0401

Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

That Report CSD 15-2005, January 26, 2005 (PWA 16-2005, January 25, 2005) respecting Capital Budget Allocation By-law for Water Supply for Agricultural Use Project ID ZCW0401, be received and the financing be approved and this report referred to Council for final approval.

Carried.

22. Capital Budget Allocation By-law for the
2005 Waste Management Capital Program

Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

That Report CSD 16-2005, January 26, 2005 (PWA 17-2005, January 25, 2005) respecting Capital Budget Allocation by-law for the 2005 Waste Management Capital Program, be received and the financing be approved and this report be referred to Council for final approval.

Carried.

CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

23. Cash Management Activities for the
Fourth Quarter and Year 2004

Mr. Bacchus, Commissioner, Corporate Services, provided an overview of the Cash Management Activities for the Year 2004. He commented that cash management activities surpassed projected interest earnings included in the 2004 budget with general interest earnings totaling \$5.0 million, \$1.5 million over the budget estimate.

Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Regional Chair Partington

That Report CSD 18-2005, January 26, 2005, respecting Cash Management Activities for the Fourth Quarter and Year 2004, be received for information.

Carried.

MINUTES

24. Report PATR 1-2005

Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Councillor Saracino

That Report PATR 1-2005, being the minutes of the Ad Hoc Committee of Council on Property Assessment and Taxation Reform meeting of January 12, 2005, be approved.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

25. Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That Communication CFS 11-2005 from Shafee Bacchus, Commissioner, Corporate Services (January 25, 2005) regarding 2005 Tax Policy Timeline, be received.

Carried.

26. Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

That Communication CFS 12-2005 from Greg Sorbara, Minister of Finance (December 9, 2004) regarding property tax issues, be received.

Carried.

27. Moved by Councillor Leavens
Seconded by Councillor Saracino

That Communication CFS 10-2005 from Shafee Bacchus, Commissioner, Corporate Services (January 24, 2005) regarding 2005 Levy Impact, be received.

Carried.

(Refer to staff directions on page CFS 14.)

28. Moved by Councillor Hildreth
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Communication CFS 9-2005 from Mayor David Burns, The Corporation of the Town of Minto (October 26, 2004) seeking support for its Council's resolution regarding offensive internet material, be received and supported.

Carried.

29. Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Communication CFS 8-2005 from Cheryl Milette, Town Clerk (January 4, 2005), Town of Pelham, seeking support for its Council's resolution regarding CRF Funding, be received and that Regional Council's resolution of January 20th, 2005 on CRF funding be forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs with Pelham Council's resolution attached as supportive information.

Carried.

ACCOUNTS

30. Moved by Councillor Saracino
Seconded by Regional Chair Partington

That Accounts Payable Expenditure Summary for the period ending November 30, 2004, in the following amounts be approved:

Administration & Corporate Services	\$ 1,943,386.07
Community Services	3,080,981.08
Planning & Development	4,888.48
Public Health	658,393.81
Public Works	4,374,561.78
Police Service	570,204.11
Outside Board's & Agencies	0.00
Non Departmental	<u>35,977,183.61</u>
Total to Net Expense to Departments	46,609,598.94
GST Rebate to GST Recoverable from CRA	<u>2,084,041.48</u>
Total Expense Payable to Total	
Payable to Vendor	48,693,640.42
Holdback Amount to Holdback Amount (re: Capital)	<u>17,309,107.84</u>
Total Expenses Paid	<u>\$31,384,532.58</u>

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

31. Budget Process

A discussion ensued regarding the Budget Process and concerns regarding the continuity and flow of information through the Budget Review, Committee of the Whole and Standing Committees. It was suggested that departments provide budget information to standing committees early in the year and on an ongoing basis. It is anticipated that a change to a 3 week cycle for standing committee meetings would provide that opportunity. Mr. Trojan commented that completion of a multi-year plan would help staff and Council in better understanding the challenges and focus for 2006.

32. Provincial Lands

Councillor Burroughs expressed his concerns on the amount of rent paid for Provincially owned lands (ie. Upper Canada Lodge). Mr. Trojan advised that staff would review the terms of the Region's agreement and provide information to Committee on how to address this matter.

STAFF DIRECTIONS

That staff be directed to:

- (i) Provide a summary of major impacts generating the net tax levy burden (3.87%). (Refer to minute 27.)

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 11:20 a.m. to meet on Wednesday, February 9, 2005, at 10:00 a.m. in Committee Room 4, Regional Headquarters.

Doug Martin
Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk
/Associate Director of Corporate Strategy