

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 8-2005

Minutes of a meeting of the Corporate and Financial Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Wednesday, May 11, 2005, commencing at 10:00 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

Staff: Messrs. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Bacchus, Commissioner, Corporate Services; Lockyer, Treasurer/Director of Financial Management and Planning; Ms. Gilroy, Regional Clerk/Associate Director of Corporate Strategy.

Staff
(Part-time): Messrs. Fuentes, Associate Director, Niagara Ambulance Communication Service; Murphy, Manager, Policy & Development; McQueen, Transition Manager, Niagara Ambulance Communication Service; Ms. Murphy, Manager, Budgets and Reporting; .Messrs. Sidawi, Director, Operational Support Services; Weaver, Corporate Effectiveness Manager.

ADMINISTRATION

104. Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Quality of Life Reporting System

Mr. Trojan, CAO, provided an overview of Report CAO 11-2005, explaining that it summarizes trends in 20 large Canadian municipalities related to environmental issues, changes in population density and economic infrastructure, and highlights results specific to Niagara. He briefly highlighted Niagara's position as depicted on various tables showing household growth, 1991-1996, and 1996-2001; low density housing as a percentage of all housing starts; changes in consumer bankruptcies per 1000 population; and the percentage of users of public transit, 1996-2001. Mr. Trojan pointed out that this background information will assist in the development of longer term strategies, and a further report is expected in 2006.

Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Saracino

That Report CAO 11-2005, May 11, 2005, respecting Federation of Canadian Municipalities Quality of Life Reporting System, be received for information.

Carried.

(Refer to Staff Directions.)

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

105. Mapping Infrastructure Systems Reserve

Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Councillor Leavens

That Report CSD 60-2005, May 11, 2005 (PWA 73-2005, May 10, 2005) respecting Mapping Infrastructure Systems Reserve, be received.

That the Mapping Infrastructure Systems Reserve be established for the purpose of providing a source of revenue for acquiring and updating the digital aerial photography and mapping.

That the initial allocation of \$145,683 to the reserve be funded from the surplus closure of capital projects as summarized in appendix A.

That the capital projects listed be closed following the transfer to the reserve.

That the Regional Clerk/Associate Director of Corporate Strategy be directed to ensure that the appropriate by-law(s) are prepared for presentation to Regional Council.

Carried.

(Refer to Staff Directions.)

CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

106. 2005 Debenture Issue

Mr. Bacchus, Commissioner of Corporate Services, outlined the purpose of Report CSD 66-2005, which is to request the authority to negotiate the sale of Regional debentures to raise the necessary funds for financing capital requirements of the Region and certain area municipalities in 2005.

Mr. Tim Van Alstyne, RBC Capital Markets, accompanied by David Berner, National Bank Financial, provided an overview of a handout, "Capital Markets Update", which included an economic update on the interest rate forecast, the current interest rate environment, and indicative pricing of debentures. He provided details on interest rates, citing comparisons to the U.S. market, and discussed the impact of the auto market. He concluded that the timing and receptivity of the market for purchasing debentures at this time was favourable, as an increase in interest rates is anticipated in the fall.

Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report CSD 66-2005, 2005 Debenture Issue, May 11, 2005, be received.

That the Region's Fiscal Agents, through its lead manager RBC Capital Markets, be authorized to negotiate on the Region's behalf the sale of debentures for financing requirements in 2005 for the Region and certain area municipalities.

That the amount to be debentured shall not exceed \$75,410,000 and that the timing, term and interest costs be determined by the Region's Commissioner of Corporate Services in consultation with the Region's Chief Administrative Officer, the Region's Chair and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Corporate and Financial Services Committee.

That the relevant details be presented to Regional Council for information upon finalization of the issue.

That the Region's Commissioner of Corporate Services execute an agreement on behalf of the Regional Municipality of Niagara for the issue and sale of said Regional Debentures with the term and interest costs as determined by the authorization stated in recommendation #2.

That the Regional Clerk ensure that the necessary by-law(s) be prepared to effect the sale and issue of the debentures and that the by-law(s) be presented to Regional Council for approval.

That Council authorize an extension of the Fiscal Agency agreement to govern the 2005 debenture issue as amended to reflect the new commission structure as agreed to between Regional staff and the Fiscal Syndicate

That staff be directed to finalize a new Fiscal Agency agreement and report back to Committee and Council.

107. Closure of Capital Projects

Mr. Bacchus, Commissioner of Corporate Services, explained the purpose of Report CSD 64-2005, which was to obtain approval for the closeout of completed capital projects and the substitution of previously approved debenture financing for capital projects. He advised that none of the projects are in deficit and any surplus funds will be transferred to reserves.

Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

That Report CSD 64-2005, May 11, 2005, respecting the Closure of Capital Projects, be received.

That total net transfers of \$72,830 from the Capital Levy Reserve (0035-0960) be approved to accommodate the substitution of previously approved debenture financing and the closure of Roads, Community Services and Corporate and Technology capital projects as shown in Appendix 1 and 2.

That total net transfers to the Community Services Building Standards Reserve (0035-0942) of \$481,188 be approved to accommodate the closure of the capital projects for the redevelopment of long-term care homes as shown in Appendix 2.

That total net transfers to the Niagara Regional Housing Owned Units Capital Reserve Fund (0030-0967) of \$2,195 be approved to accommodate closure of Niagara Regional Housing capital projects as shown in Appendix 2.

That total net transfers to the General Property Acquisition Reserve (0035-0955) of \$27,903 be approved to accommodate closure of Properties capital projects as shown in Appendix 2.

That total net transfers to the Water Operations Capital Reserve Fund (0030-0962) of \$566,574 and total net transfers to the Water Development Charge Reserve Fund of \$895,210 be approved to accommodate substitution of previously approved debenture financing and the closure of Water capital projects as shown in Appendix 3.

That total net transfers to the Wastewater Operations Capital Reserve Fund (0030-0961) of \$1,267,096 be approved to accommodate substitution of previously approved debenture financing and the closure of Wastewater capital projects as show in Appendix 3.

That total net transfers to the Solid Waste Reserve Fund (0030-0970) of \$9,289 be approved to accommodate substitution of previously approved debenture financing and the closure of Waste Management capital projects as shown in Appendix 3.

That project closures be completed as indicated in Appendix 1, 2 and 3.

That a copy of this report be circulated to the Public Works and Utilities and the Community Services standing committees for information.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

108. Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That the following communications be received:

- CFS 33-2005 Deb Morton, Executive Director, Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board (April 18, 2005) regarding Niagara Regional Police Service Multi-Year Operating Budget Forecast 2005 – 2007.
- CFS 34-2005 AMO Alert “Municipal Leaders are Urged to Contact their Federal MPs to Support the Passage of the Federal Budget Bill.
- CFS 35-2005 AMO News Release “Parliament Urged to Make Passage of Budget a Priority.
- CFS 36-2005 Letters to The Honourable Mr. Justice Donald A. Ebbs, The Honourable Michael J. Bryant, Attorney General and The Honourable Brian Lennox, Chief Justice from Denis Kelly, Regional Clerk, Regional Municipality of York, regarding the “Availability of Justices of the Peace” and the responses from the Ministry of the Attorney General and Donald A. Ebbs, Associate Chief Justice.
- CFS 37-2005 Cheryl Milette, Town Clerk, Town of Pelham, regarding its Council’s resolution supporting the Town of East Gwillimbury resolution requesting financial assistance from the Province of Ontario in the amount of \$705,000 for the 2005 fiscal year to prevent both a potential property tax increase in excess of the average rate of inflation and a reduction in the Town’s level of service to its businesses and residents.
- CFS 41-2005 Deb Morton, Executive Director, Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board (May 3, 2005) regarding Purchasing – Vehicle Accessories.

CFS 42-2005 Deb Morton, Executive Director, Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board (May 3, 2005) regarding NRPS Headquarters Accommodation Project – Proposed Headquarters Parking Feasibility Study.

CFS 43-2005 Deb Morton, Executive Director, Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board (May 3, 2005) regarding NRPS Variance Report to March 31, 2005.

--Receive.

CFS 44-2005 Miriam J. Heinz, Regulator Coordinator, Enbridge (April 15, 2005) regarding “Notice of Application – 2006 Test Year Rate Case”.

CFS 47-2005 Government of Canada News Release (April 25, 2005) “Governments Partner to make Infrastructure Investment – City of St. Catharines residents benefit from local infrastructure improvements”.

CFS 48-2005 Government of Canada News Release (April 25, 2005) “governments Partner to Make Infrastructure Investments – city of Niagara Falls and town of Niagara-on-the-Lake residents benefit from improvements to local infrastructure

Carried.

109. Moved by Councillor Hildreth
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Communication CFS 38-2005 from Anna M. Knowles, Deputy Clerk, Town of Gwillimbury (April 15, 2005) seeking support for its resolution regarding Canada-Ontario Municipal and Rural Infrastructure Fund (COMRIF), be received and supported.

Carried.

110. Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

That Communication CFS 39-2005 from Anna M. Knowles, Deputy Clerk, Town of Gwillimbury (April 15, 2005) seeking support for its resolution regarding Gasoline Tax Rebate, be received and supported.

Carried.

111. Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Communication CFS 40-2005 from Donna L. Besman, Executive Assistant – Deputy Clerk, Town of Parry Sound (April 26, 2005) seeking support for its resolution regarding Policing Cost be referred to the Niagara Regional Police Services Board for consideration.

Carried.

112. Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Communication CFS 45-2005 regarding Computers for Truong THCs Tran Quoc Toan School, Tuy Hoa, Viet Nam - Partnership Support Activity Niagara Region – Tuy Hoa Municipal Partnership Program, be received and supported.

Carried.

113. Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That Communication CFS 46-2005 from Kathryn J. Vout, Town Clerk (April 26, 2005) Town of Grimsby (April 26, 2005) regarding Municipal Private Property Assessment, be received.

Carried.

TILE DRAINAGE

114. Moved by Councillor Hildreth
Seconded by Councillor Leavens

WHEREAS By-law No. 5988-90 authorizes the Regional Municipality of Niagara to borrow an amount not exceeding \$4,657,000 and to issue debentures therefore, payable to the Treasurer of Ontario pursuant to The Tile Drainage Act, 1971, as may be directed by resolution of the Regional Council upon application of an area municipality from time to time;

BE IT RESOLVED THEREFORE THAT the Regional Chair and the Treasurer be and they are hereby authorized to issue a debenture of The Regional Municipality of Niagara payable to the Treasurer of the Province of Ontario to borrow on behalf of the area municipalities listed below the amounts specified for such area municipalities respectively, for the purpose of The Tile Drainage Act.

Township of Wainfleet

\$32,100.00

Carried.

CLOSED SESSION

115. Moved by Councillor Hildreth
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

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

Carried.

116. Niagara Ambulance Communication Service – Progress Report

Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report CSD 65-2005, May 11, 2005 (PHD 29-2005, May 9, 2005/HR 18-2005, May 10, 2005) respecting Niagara Ambulance Communication Service – Progress Report, be received for information; and

That the Chief Administrative Officer proceed as directed by the Committee and report back to Regional Council on May 19, 2005.

Carried.

117. Moved by Councillor Hildreth
Seconded by Councillor Leavens

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

STAFF DIRECTIONS

That Staff be directed to:

- send a copy of Report CAO 11-2005, Federation of Canadian Municipalities Quality of Life Reporting System, to the Transportation Steering Committee (Refer to Minute Item 104.)
- provide details of the cost sharing arrangement for aerial photography (Refer to Minute Item 105.)

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 11:10 a.m. to meet again on Wednesday, June 1, 2005, at 10:00 a.m. in Committee Room 4, Regional Headquarters.

Doug Martin
Chair

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk/Associate Director of
Corporate Strategy