

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA**  
**CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**REPORT 9-2005**

Minutes of a meeting of the Corporate and Financial Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Wednesday, June 1, 2005, commencing at 10:10 a.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

- Committee: Councillors Martin, Chair; Partington, Regional Chair; Burroughs; Hildreth; Leavens; Martin; Saracino; Zimmerman.
- Staff: Messrs. Bacchus, Commissioner, Corporate Services; Lockyer, Treasurer/Director of Financial Management and Planning; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.
- Staff  
(Part-time): Ms. Chamberlain, Capital Analyst; Ms. Hepplewhite, Acting Regional Clerk; Mr. Kyne, Director, Legal Services; Mr. Murphy, Manager, Policy & Development; Ms. Murphy, Manager, Budgets and Reporting; Mr. Sidawi, Director, Operational Support Services; Ms. Williams, Senior Financial Analyst.
- Others: Ms. Beckwith, General Manager, Niagara Regional Housing; Ms. Drake, Manager of Housing Programs, Niagara Regional Housing; Ms. McCormack, Account Manager, Municipal Relations; Ms. Christie, Municipal Relations Representative, MPAC.

**PRESENTATIONS**

118. “Regional Chair for a Day”  
Regional Chair Partington introduced Matt Onyskow, this year’s “Regional Chair for a Day”. The Regional Chair for a Day is an annual event and this is the Region’s twelfth year. The event takes place as part of the Region of Niagara’s ongoing participation in the Adopt-a-School Partnership with Kernahan Park Secondary School. Matt was chosen by his teachers for his helpfulness, kindness, thoughtfulness and his cooperative nature. He is a Grade 10 student whose school interests include auto mechanics and welding, food services, math and english. Matt played on the volleyball team and was selected to go to Camp Maple Leaf, a leadership training camp. Matt will tour Fleet Services, Emergency Services and the Sign Shop and will enjoy lunch with Chief Southall at Niagara Regional Police Headquarters. He will attend Regional Council on June 9, 2005.

119. Arts, Culture & Heritage Steering Committee

Councillor Judy Casselman introduced Dr. Rosemary Hale, Dean of Humanities and Earl Rowe, Fort Erie Arts Council, who attended to apprise Committee of what has transpired to date through the Arts, Culture & Heritage Task Force. Dr. Hale advised that a group of stakeholders convened to explore the various issues and opportunities surrounding arts, culture and heritage in and around Niagara. Dr. Hale thanked Councillors Angelone, Casselman, Goulbourne and Salci for their participation, as well as staff members: Anne Hepplewhite, Catherine Bianco, Marisa Conte, Patrick Gedge and Patrick Robson. The task force agreed that there was a need for a Steering Committee to oversee the development and refinement of a region-wide framework regarding arts, culture and heritage and a Terms of Reference has been developed to guide the process. Also, distributed was a copy of the Ad prepared for local newspapers to invite applications from Niagara citizens to form an Arts, Culture and Heritage Committee.

120. Terms of Reference for Arts, Culture & Heritage Steering Committee, and Authorization to Pursue Recruiting Community Representatives

Moved by Regional Chair Partington  
Seconded by Councillor Leavens

That Report CAO 12-2005, June 1, 2005, respecting Terms of Reference for Arts, Culture & Heritage Steering Committee and Authorization to Pursue Recruiting Community Representatives, be received.

That the Terms of Reference, for a Regional Niagara Arts, Culture & Heritage Steering Committee, attached as Appendix 1 to this Report, be approved;

That the process of advertising for volunteer community members to sit on the anticipated Steering Committee be authorized;

That consistent with the provisions of the Terms of Reference (as in Appendix 1) Council members be assigned to serve on the Steering Committee; and

That, as the work of the Arts, Culture & Heritage Task Force has come to an end and said Task Force is effectively disbanded, that Council, through the Regional Chairman and the Chair of the Task Force, extends appropriate appreciation to the community members of the Task Force.

Carried.

121. Bethlehem Projects of Niagara

Gail Richardson and Dick Haverson attended to advise that Bethlehem Housing Projects of Niagara has been successful in obtaining a conditional allocation to develop 40 units through Niagara Regional Housing under the Federal/Provincial Affordable Housing Program. Ms. Richardson advised they have qualified for \$25,000 per unit from the Federal government and \$2,000 per unit of Provincial funds. The project has also received contributions from the Canadian Auto Workers 199 in the form of committee volunteer labour valued at over \$450,000 and \$200,000 in pending assistance from Human Resources and Skills Development Canada. They also have an ongoing community fund raising effort to raise \$700,000. Ms. Richardson outlined the challenges facing them in order to obtain the required funding. Committee was asked to assist Bethlehem in getting a loan by providing a guarantee that will enable them to secure CMHC mortgage insurance and adequate financing to support this project.

Committee members suggested that this project be coordinated with the appropriate Planning Department and Niagara Regional Housing staff.

Moved by Councillor Hildreth  
Seconded by Councillor Zimmerman

That Communication CFS 49-2005 from Bethlehem Projects of Niagara be referred to staff for report at the next Corporate and Financial Services Committee meeting of June 22, 2005.

Carried.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

122. “Breaking the Barriers” Award – Councillor Bob Saracino

Councillor Martin, Committee Chair, on behalf of Committee, congratulated Councillor Bob Saracino who received an Ontario March of Dimes “Breaking the Barriers” Award for his work with Inter-Municipal Transit.

123. Introduction – Mr. Michael Kyne, Director, Legal Services

Mr. Bacchus, Commissioner, Corporate Services, introduced Mr. Michael Kyne, the Region’s new Director of Legal Services. Mr. Bacchus provided background information on Mr. Kyne’s qualifications as follows:

Mr. Kyne has approximately 14 years of legal experience both in private practice and in the public sector. After articling as a Law Clerk at the Federal Court of Appeal, he built a litigation practice based primarily on insurance, labour/employment, police and commercial law. He was appointed as a Federal Crown Agent and as such regularly appeared before several Ontario courts,

arbitrators and tribunals. While employed with the Region of Peel he held the position of Senior Counsel in addition to assuming the responsibility of Acting Director of Human Resources. His scope of responsibility included a variety of litigation and regulatory issues; significant risk management, contract, policy and bylaw development responsibilities; as well as providing legal opinions and advice to Regional Council, the Peel Police Services Board and Peel senior management.

Councillor Martin, Chair, on behalf of Committee, welcomed Mr. Kyne to the Niagara Region.

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

124. Wind Energy Niagara Partnership

Moved by Councillor Leavens  
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That Report CSD 73-2005, June 1, 2005 (PWA 93-2005, May 31, 2005), respecting Wind Energy Niagara Partnership, be referred to a Joint Meeting of the Public Works and Utilities Committee and Corporate and Financial Services Committee.

That the Committee members receive the previous report containing the background information on the Wind Energy Partnership.

Carried.

125. Transfer of Funds for  
Waste Management Capital Programs

Moved by Councillor Leavens  
Seconded by Councillor Saracino

That Report CSD 72-2005, June 1, 2005 (PWA 92-2005, May 31, 2005) respecting Transfer of Funds for Waste Management Capital Programs, be received and that the financing be approved.

Carried.

(Refer to staff direction on page CFS 94.)

126. Request for Capital Budget Allocation By-law  
And Financing Approval for Projects  
Included in the Approved Capital Budgets

Moved by Councillor Leavens  
Seconded by Councillor Saracino

That Report CSD 76-2005, June 1, 2005 (PWA 102-2005, May 31, 2005) respecting Request for Capital Budget Allocation By-law and Financing Approval for Projects included in the Approved Capital Budgets, be received and that the financing be approved.

Carried.

127. Transfer of Funding for Project ZRC0016  
Widening of Regional Road 57 (Thorold Stone Road)  
From Kalar Road to Davis Road, City of Niagara Falls

Moved by Councillor Leavens  
Seconded by Councillor Saracino

That Report CSD 83-2005, June 1, 2005 (PWA 104-2005, May 31, 2005) respecting Transfer of Funding for Project ZRC0016 Widening of Regional Road 57 (Thorold Stone Road) from Kalar Road to Davis Road, City of Niagara Falls, be received and that the financing be approved.

Carried.

### **CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

128. Social Housing Benchmarks

Lora Beckwith, General Manager, and Karen Drake, Manager of Housing Programs, Niagara Regional Housing, attended to provide background information and financial implications with respect to Social Housing Benchmarks and to seek approval of the Benchmarks approved by the Niagara Regional Housing Board of Directors.

Moved by Councillor Hildreth  
Seconded by Councillor Saracino

That Report CSD 82-2005, June 1, 2005, respecting Social Housing Benchmarks, be received.

That the recommended Benchmarks outlined in the attached report (Appendix "A") and its appendices be approved; and

That the recommended Benchmarks be forwarded to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) for approval.

Carried.

129. Tax Arrears and Collection Experience  
Of the Area Municipalities for 2003

Moved by Councillor Burroughs  
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

That Report CSD 68-2005, June 1, 2005, respecting Tax Arrears and Collection Experience of the Area Municipalities for 2003, be received and forwarded to the area municipal councils for information.

Carried.

(Refer to staff direction on page CFS 94.)

130. Summary of Quotations, Tenders and Authorizations  
First Quarter 2005-06-02

Moved by Councillor Burroughs  
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

That Report CSD 69-2005, June 1, 2005, respecting Summary of Quotations, Tenders and Authorizations First Quarter 2005, be received for information.

Carried.

131. Capital Projects  
March 2005 Variance Report

Moved by Councillor Burroughs  
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

That Report CSD 70-2005, June 1, 2005, respecting Capital Projects March 2005 Variance Report, be received.

That this report be forwarded to Public Works Committee for information.

Carried.

132. 2005 Reimbursable Mileage Rate

Moved by Councillor Burroughs  
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

That Report CSD 71-2005, June 1, 2005, respecting 2005 Reimbursable Mileage Rate, be received.

That the reimbursable mileage rate payable to Regional employees who use their personal automobiles on Regional business be established at \$0.422 per kilometer effective January 1, 2005.

That the Regional clerk be directed to ensure that the appropriate by-law be prepared for presentation to Regional Council.

Carried.

133. Substitution of Long-term Financing on Capital Projects

Moved by Councillor Burroughs  
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

That Report CSD 75-2005, June 1, 2005, respecting Substitution of Long-term Financing on Capital Projects, be received.

That transfers of \$4,203,142 from the Wastewater Reserve fund and \$13,142,849 from the Water Reserve Fund and \$895,210 from the Water Development Charge Reserve be approved to fund long-term financing substitutions as detailed in Appendix 1.

That \$80,000 transfer from the Community Services Reserve be approved for substitution of unfunded debt for project ZSC0302, Upper Canada Lodge Roof Replacement.

That this report be circulated to the Public Works and Utilities and the Community Services Standing Committee for information.

Carried.

134. Multiyear Financial Plan 2004-2007

Mr. Bacchus advised that the purpose of this report is to provide Committee and Council with a Multiyear Financial Plan for Regional Niagara. The plan is to integrate goal setting and budgetary process and should be viewed as a framework for the Region's future spending needs. It is anticipated that the results of the Multiyear Financial Plan will assist Council in reviewing and updating their Business Plan on a regular basis and provide direction to staff in the preparation of their annual operating budgets.

Moved by Councillor Burroughs  
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

That Report CSD 77-2005, June 1, 2005, respecting Multiyear Financial Plan 2004 – 2007, be received.

That the attached Multiyear financial Plan be approved in principle.

Carried.

Committee members commended staff on an excellent and comprehensive report.

135. Forecast of Year-End Results and Budget to Actual Comparison for the Month Ended April 2005

Moved by Councillor Burroughs  
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

That Report CSD 79-2005, June 1, 2005, respecting Forecast of Year-End Results and Budget to Actual comparison for the Month Ended April 2005, be received for information purposes only.

Carried.

136. 2005 Ontario Budget

Moved by Councillor Burroughs  
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

That Report CSD 80-2005, June 1, 2005, respecting 2005 Ontario Budget, be received for information.

Carried.

**CLOSED SESSION**

137. Moved by Councillor Hildreth  
Seconded by Councillor Leavens

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

Carried.

138. Final Settlement with Hotel Dieu  
Re: Niagara Emergency Medical Services  
(Land Ambulance Operations)

Moved by Councillor Zimmerman  
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That Report CSD 78-2005, June 1, 2005, respecting Final Settlement with Hotel Dieu Re: Niagara Emergency Medical Services (Land Ambulance Operations), be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Carried.

139. Moved by Councillor Zimmerman  
Seconded by Councillor Leavens

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

**STAFF DIRECTIONS**

That Staff be directed to:

- (i) Provide a table on project balances and where overages occur. (Refer to minute 125.)
- (ii) Provide a schedule that shows the percentage of Regional portion of each municipality. (Refer to minute 129.)

**ADJOURNMENT**

Committee adjourned at 11:20 a.m. to meet again on Wednesday, June 22, 2005, at 10:00 a.m. in Committee Room 4, Regional Headquarters.

Doug Martin  
Chair

Gail Reilly  
Legislative Assistant

Anne Hepplewhite  
Acting Regional Clerk