

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT 4-2005

The Municipal Council of the Regional Municipality of Niagara met in Committee of the Whole in the Council Chamber, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Thursday, September 22, 2005, commencing at 4:10 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Council: Regional Chair Partington; Councillors Almas; Angelone; Baty; Bentley; Bodner; Brock; Burroughs; Casselman; Eke; Goulbourne; Harry; Heit; Hildreth; Hodgson; Leavens; Marshall; Martin; Redekop; Rigby; Salci; Saracino; Smeaton; Timms, Trombetta; Zimmerman.

Staff: Messrs. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Cambray, Commissioner, Planning & Development; Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services; Diakow, Acting Commissioner, Corporate Services Department; Neville, Commissioner, Public Works; Mr. Nicol, Commissioner, Human Resources; Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Gilroy, Regional Clerk/Associate Director, Corporate Strategy; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

Staff:
(Other): Mr. Lockyer, Treasurer/Director, Financial Management & Planning; Ms. Manzer, Council Support; Mr. Miron, Corporate Health Services Manager; Ms. Pilon, Legislative Assistant; Ms. Ricci, Administrative Assistant.

32. Regional Chair Partington called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

RESOLVE INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

33. Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That this Council do now resolve into Committee of the Whole.

Carried.

PROPOSED COUNCIL/COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

34. Council Organization Review Committee (CORC)

Slide Presentation

Councillor Brian Baty, presented background information on the work of the Council Organization Review Committee (CORC) and the process followed to reach the proposed "Committee Structure". This included an extensive review of past Committee and Council agendas, considering nature of decisions as in Professor Dick Tindal's categorization (e.g. planning & priority setting/management by exception/information; visitations to Waterloo, York, Durham, Halton and Peel by political and staff representatives; and the Piloted use of "Planning and Priority Week" for special purpose meetings April – June 2005.

Councillor Baty noted the following fundamental lessons learned:

- Council must own the outcome of this process, as part of its governance role
- Council needs to streamline the various decision types, committee approaches, rules regarding delegations, agenda management and spending authority for staff

The potential Committee Structure was developed as follows:

- Public Health and Community Services – referred to as "Citizen Services"
- Planning Services and Public Works – referred to as "Community Services"
- Human Resources and Corporate Services – referred to as "Corporate Services"

Agenda Management was categorized as follows:

- Planning and Priority Setting
- Management by Exception
- Communication and Information

Logistical considerations were presented as follows:

- Agenda setting for all Standing Committees to be centrally coordinated in Clerk's office.
- Current Committee Chairs join new structure as "Co-Chairs" and "Vice-Chairs"
- Assure universal usage of the common calendar of meetings, events and notify public of changes
- Address spending authority of staff via Procurement By-law update

Next Steps

- Dialogue so that final recommendations can be presented to Council on October 13, 2005
- Co-Chair merger will be effective January '06, with full implementation the next term of Council
- Councillors will be asked to reserve the Thursday of every Planning and Priority Week for special purpose meetings, as necessary
- Review of sub-committees, ad hoc committees and task forces
- Review of the use of technology

Sample agendas were reviewed for three committee structures:

- Citizen Services
- Community Services
- Corporate Services

Also distributed for information was:

- A summary of information from other Regions
- Committee Statistics 2000-2004-2005
- Six month comparison
- Draft schedule of regular meetings

Following the slide presentation, the following comments were made by Committee of the Whole members:

- 1) The Citizens Committee should be the Community Services Committee (confusing to the public)
- 2) Proposed Community Services Committee being Public Works and Planning Services would be too large with meetings being long and onerous
- 3) Do not want to structure Regional Committees for persons that don't work - proposed structure is an impediment to those Councillors that have full time jobs
- 4) Structure will eliminate general populous from seeking Council
- 5) Consideration be given to holding evening meetings
- 6) EMS, Ambulance, Police and Human Resources should be under Finance
- 7) Do not alter spending authority – elected officials should have control of expenditures
- 8) Review public portion of planning to determine if this could be structured differently (public meetings held separately)
- 9) Concerned with merging Human Resources with Corporate Services – collect information on how many other Regions have this structure

- 10) A review of agenda management very important
- 11) Would like to revisit the logic as to why Public Health was decided to be a stand alone committee – take into consideration the Campbell Report for discussion at the Planning & Priority meeting
- 12) Supportive of a review of the spending authority – provide a full review of internal control to ensure that the right staff are approving the right amounts
- 13) Discussion of agenda important – concerned about how Council does business in public, lack of meaningful discussion around business at hand
- 14) Need to address the number of sub-committees
- 15) Length of meetings may not be an issue if there are changes to agenda management
- 16) Proposed committee structure more integrated/co-ordinated – will allow opportunities to plan for future
- 17) Change in structure may increase cooperation of municipalities with Region and other levels of government
- 18) Does this structure take into consideration attendance of the public – public perception of the Region is not good – no idea how important the Region is and the services it provides – should be structured to encourage public to come to meetings
- 19) Structure should permit representation regardless of social/economic status
- 20) Concerned over suggestion of evening committee meetings
- 21) More information and review is required prior to Committee structure decision

Following discussion, it was:

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Goulbourne

That the presentation from Councillor Brian Baty, Chair, Council Organization Review Committee, be received.

Carried.

Regional Chair Partington and members of Council commended Councillor Baty and CORC committee members for their excellent work.

RISE FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

35. Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Smeaton

That this Council do now rise from Committee of the Whole.

Carried.

STAFF DIRECTIONS

That staff be directed to:

- (i) Collect information on how many other Regions have Human Resources under the Corporate Services Department.
- (ii) Review logic of why Public Health Services Committee was developed as a stand alone committee.

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee of the Whole adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Peter Partington
Regional Chairman

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk