

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT 7-2005

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, December 15, 2005, commencing at 4:25 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Council: Regional Chair Partington; Councillors Angelone; Bailey; Baty; Bentley; Bodner; Collins; Eke; Gabriel; Goulbourne; Harry; Heit; Hildreth; Hodgson; Katzman; Leavens; Marshall; Martin; Mastroianni; Redekop; Rigby; Salci; Saracino; Smeaton; Timms, Zimmerman.

Staff: Mr. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services; Diakow, Acting Commissioner, Corporate Services Department; Nicol, Commissioner of Human Resources; Cambray, Commissioner of Planning Services; Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health and Commissioner of Public Health; Neville, Commissioner, Public Works; Chief Southall, Niagara Regional Police Service; Ms. Gilroy, Regional Clerk; Ms. Pilon, Legislative Assistant.

Staff:
(Other): Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health; Messrs. Kyne, Director of Legal Services; Bowles, Executive Assistant to the Regional Chair; Roach, Manager, Public Works Financial Services; Sidawi, Director, Operational Support Services; Jones, Director, Administration, Public Health; Brcic, Director, Water & Wastewater Services; Burt, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer, NPCA; D'Amario, Director, Water Management, NPCA; Ms. St. John, Director, Director, Clinical Services; Ms. Murphy, Manager, Current & Capital Budgets; Ms. Chamberlain, Capital Analyst; Ms. George, Niagara Regional Police Service; Ms. Jugley, Manager, Community Mental Health; Ms. Stack, Director, Communications, NPCA.

Others: Councillor Braybrook (Appointed Acting Lord Mayor for Councillor Burroughs, Niagara-on-the-Lake).

47. Regional Chair Partington called the meeting to order at 4:25 p.m.

RESOLVE INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

48. Moved by Councillor Bentley
Seconded by Councillor Harry

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

Carried.

2006 CAPITAL BUDGET

49. 2006 Capital Budget Presentation

Mr. Lockyer provided Committee of the Whole with a presentation respecting the 2006 Capital Budget, which provided an overview of the process, the strategic priorities, affordability targets, capital program results, impact on affordability targets, Standard & Poors observations and the recommendations which include bringing forecast into compliance with a 15% limit prior to the approval of the 2007 budget.

Moved by Councillor Martin
Seconded by Councillor Collins

That the presentation on the 2006 Capital Budget, be received.

Carried.

50. 2006 Capital Budget

Committee of the Whole was advised that the additional \$30,000 for signage on Niagara's trails, should be considered in the Current Budget.

Committee of the Whole then discussed the expenditure for the Discovery Centre, which is included in the 2006 Capital Budget, noting that there are other funding sources that should be explored before Regional Council approves the entire expenditure.

In response to the Committee of the Whole's concerns, Mr. Burt, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer noted that the Discovery Centre expenditure arises from a 1999 partnership the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) formed with the Region and businesses in the area and that it is an initiative of the Region's tourism strategy, as they are anticipating a boost in tourism in the Niagara west area with the opening of this venue.

Mr. Burt also noted that the NPCA has applied for various funding opportunities and if they are successful, any Regional funds would be carried forward to complete the NPCA's Master Plan.

Moved by Councillor Martin
Seconded by Councillor Collins

That Report CSD 175-2005, December 15, 2005, respecting the 2006 Capital Budget, be received.

That the following 2006 Capital Budget be approved in principle and that staff be directed to review the forecast in 2006 with the objective of complying with the Capital Management Policy:

Gross Expenditures:

Corporate & Technology	3,015,620
Buildings & Equipment	3,559,900
Roads	28,716,000
Community Services	500,000
Public Health	1,150,000
Police	25,350,000
N.P.C.A.	4,857,625
N.R.H.	<u>2,485,100</u>
Total Levy	<u>69,319,245</u>
Wastewater	32,690,000
Water	26,150,000
Waste Management	<u>6,078,000</u>
Total Rate	<u>64,918,000</u>
Total Capital	<u>134,237,245</u>

Financing Sources:

Reserves	78,530,844
Long-term Financing	37,484,846
External contributions	<u>18,221,555</u>
Total	<u>134,237,245</u>

That partial financing for the 2006 Capital Budget for ZGC0105, EIS be approved through a transfer of \$175,000 of previously approved long-term financing for ZGC0401, PCs, Printers, Software and a transfer of \$130,000 from the Capital Levy Reserve available as a result of a \$133,769 transfer to the Capital Levy Reserve of surpluses on 2005 Corporate and Technology project close-outs.

That the Regional Clerk be directed to ensure that the appropriate bylaw(s) are prepared for presentation to Regional Council on January 19, 2006.

That the Region Clerk be directed to comply with the notice provisions under the Municipal Act, 2001.

Moved by Councillor Martin
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That the expenditure for the Discovery Centre, be removed from the 2006 Capital Budget.

Defeated.

Upon a vote being taken, the Regional Chair declared the original motion on Report CSD 175-2005 respecting the 2006 Capital Budget, was carried.

ACCOMMODATION NEEDS

51. Update – Headquarters Office Building Addition

Committee of the Whole was provided with an overview of the report containing options to accommodate existing and future staff, which authorizes the Accommodation Steering Committee to explore Alternatives to resolve the accommodation needs of the departments.

Dr. Williams provided Committee of the Whole with an overview of the Public Health Departments future initiatives and the challenges they will be facing.

Dr. Williams noted that the Public Health Department is working with the Public Works Department, to resolve their accommodation needs.

Committee of the Whole was advised that staff would be negotiating rental charges for the 100% funded programs that being housed in the addition.

Moved by Councillor Leavens
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That Report PWP 95-2005, December 15, 2005, respecting the Update – Headquarters Office Building Addition, be received.

That the recommendations contained within Report PHD 77-2005 / PWA 207-2005, December 5, 2005, respecting Public Health Department: Community Mental Health Program and Population Health Division Accommodation Needs, be approved; and

That the Accommodation Steering Committee be given the authority to explore Alternative 2 – Re-allocate Main Floor Record Area.

Carried

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT ACCREDITATION

52. Public Health Department Accreditation 2006

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That PHD 81-2005, December 15, 2005, respecting the Public Health Department Accreditation 2006, be received.

That final approval is granted for the Public Health Department and Regional Council, as the Board of Health, to participate in the 2006 accreditation process at a cost of \$7,971.50.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee of the Whole adjourned at 6:20 p.m. to reconvene at 7:00 p.m. for the regular session of Council.

Peter Partington
Regional Chairman

Janet Pilon
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk