

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE

REPORT 3-2005

Minutes of a meeting of the Public Works and Utilities Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Tuesday, February 8, 2005 commencing at 1:35 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Rigby, Chair; Regional Chair Partington; Bailey, Bodner, Burroughs, Goulbourne, Hodgson, Leavens, Redekop, Trombetta.

Staff: Messrs. Neville, Commissioner, Public Works; Cousins, Director, Transportation Services; Payne, Director, Waste Management Services; Sidawi, Director, Operational Support Services; Brcic, Director, Water and Wastewater Services; Ms. Pilon, Legislative Assistant.

Staff (Part-Time): Messrs. Kellendonk, Associate Director, Water and Wastewater Operations; Ms. Lambe, Business Partner, Strategic Communications.

DELEGATION

70. Water & Wastewater Reorganization

Mr. Steve Leavitt, President, CUPE 1287, advised the Committee of CUPE 1287's concerns with the planned Water and Wastewater Reorganization, which in their opinion contains aspects that risks public safety; are not cost effective; will not improve operations and will impact negatively on the men and women providing the service.

The Committee was advised that CUPE 1287 was invited to be part of the Committee that met a few times early in 2004, however, the Committee was unsuccessful, as Management staff would either be unable to answer or would not answer questions, upon which the meetings were adjourned.

Mr. Leavitt noted that CUPE 1287 is willing to cooperate, however, they are propose improvements to the plan, that would benefit all concerned.

The Committee was advised of the changes the reorganization is proposing and the affect those changes will have on the public and the operators.

CUPE 1287 proposed the following recommendations, for the Committee's consideration:

Continue to place dedicated maintenance staff and operators in each of the water and wastewater plants. Dispatch one or two rotating maintenance crews centrally to assist with exceptional circumstances and emergencies.

Hire additional maintenance staff to allow for more preventive maintenance, which will reduce the need to respond to emergencies.

Use the new Welland facility to set up a machine shop and central stores for standardized technology, parts and equipment. Contract in some parts and equipment manufacturing and repairs. Skilled trades people can perform those functions in the Welland facility. This will increase standardization of equipment and operations, as well as reduce costs.

Offer more specialized training to staff to reduce dependency on outside consultants.

Bring sludge removal and stabilization back in-house. It is an expensive contract and we have been making this cost-saving suggestion for several years.

The Committee thanked Mr. Leavitt for bringing CUPE 1287's concerns forward.

Moved by Councillor Brock
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That Mr. Leavitt's presentation and material, be received and forwarded to staff for a response to this Committee and CUPE 1287.

Carried.

DEFERRED REPORT

71. Retention of Consulting Services for the Baker Road Wastewater Treatment Plant Phase Three Upgrade and Expansion Class EA and Conceptual Design Town of Grimsby and Memo dated February 4, 2005
Containing the Additional Information Requested
PWA 23-2005

Moved by Councillor Trombetta
Seconded by Councillor Bodner

That Report PWA 23-2005, January 25, 2005, respecting the Retention of Consulting Services for the Baker Road Wastewater Treatment Plan, Phase 3 Upgrade and Expansion Class EA and Conceptual Design in the Town of Grimsby and the memorandum dated February 4, 2005 containing the additional information requested at the January 25, 2005 Public Works and Utilities Committee and the February 3, 2005 Regional Council meetings, be received.

That the consulting firm of XCG Consultants Ltd. be retained to provide the Class EA, and conceptual design services for the Baker Road WWTP Phase Three Upgrade and Expansion located in the Town of Grimsby at an estimated cost of \$111,655.00.

That the costs associated with this project be charged against Capital Project SW0006.

Carried.

ADMINISTRATION

For Committee Consideration

The Committee considered the following staff recommendations contained in the PWA Summary, February 8, 2005:

72. Capital Budget Allocation By-law and Financing Approval for Projects
Included in the 2005 Capital Budget
PWA 28-2005 (CSD 23-2005)

That Report PWA 28-2005 (CSD 23-2005), February 8, 2005, respecting the Capital Budget Allocation By-law and Financing Approvals for Projects Included in the 2005 Capital Budget, be received and the recommendations therein, be forwarded to Regional Council for decision.

(Please note that Report PWA 28-2005 (CSD 23-2005) can be found behind the JNT RPTS Blue Book Tab)

73. Additional Engineering Fees
Decommissioning of Port Robinson Lagoons
City of Thorold
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PWA 29-2005

That Report PWA 29-2005, February 8, 2005, respecting the Additional Engineering Fees Decommissioning of Port Robinson Lagoons in the City of Thorold, be received.

That Associated Engineering Group (Ont.) Ltd. be approved for additional scope of engineering and related services relating to the Decommissioning of Port Robinson Lagoons in the City of Thorold, in the amount of \$30,642.00.

That the cost associated with this work be charged against Project I.D. SW0215.

74. Development of Water and Wastewater Database
Model and Application Integration
Pre-Selection of Qualified Consultants
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PWA 30-2005

That Report PWA 30-2005, February 8, 2005, respecting the Development of Water and Wastewater Database Model and Application Integration, Pre-Selection of Qualified Consultants, be received.

That a short list of qualified consultants be invited to submit proposals for the Development of a Water and Wastewater Database Model and Application Integration rather than advertise as normally required by the Procurement By-law.

That the costs associated with this project be charged against Project ID CW0413.

(Refer to Staff Directions)

75. Retention of Consulting Services for the
Analysis of Flow Projection and Capacity Upgrades
Of the Niagara Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant
City of Niagara Falls
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PWA 31-2005

That Report PWA 31-2005, February 8, 2005, respecting the Retention of Consulting Services for the Analysis of Flow Projection and Capacity Upgrades of the Niagara Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant in the City of Niagara Falls, be received.

That the consulting firm of Hydromantis Inc. be retained to provide consulting engineering services for the analysis of flow projection and capacity upgrades of the Niagara Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), in the City of Niagara Falls at an estimated cost of \$39,550.00.

That the costs associated with this project be charged against Capital Project ZSW9205.

(Refer to Staff Directions)

76. Moved by Councillor Redekop
Seconded by Councillor Leavens

That the PWA Summary, dated February 8, 2005, and the foregoing recommendations of Reports PWA 28-2005 (CSD 23-2005), to PWA 31-2005 inclusive, be received and accepted.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

77. Communications listed in Report PWC Summary, dated February 8, 2005, were received and dealt with as follows:

PWC 05-2005 – (February 2, 2005) – **Cam Milne**, Project Manager, Transportation Engineering, to Ministry of the Environment Assessments & Approvals Branch, being a submission regarding a request for a Part II Order for Class EA for the reconstruction of Glendale Avenue, between Mountain Street and Welland Canals Parkways in the City of St. Catharines.

-- Received.

78. Moved by Councillor Trombetta
Seconded by Councillor Leavens

That the contents of the PWC Summary, February 8, 2005, be received and dealt with as directed by this Committee and as noted in these minutes.

Carried.

PROGRESS REPORTS

79. Construction Progress Report
Transportation Services Division

Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Report PWP 10-2005, February 8, 2005, respecting the Construction Progress Report, Transportation Services Division, be received for information.

Carried.

80. Government of Canada Announcement
“New Deal for Cities and Communities”

Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Report PWP 11-2005, February 8, 2005, respecting the Government of Canada Announcement “New Deal for Cities and Communities”, be received for information.

Carried.

MINUTES

81. Waste Management Planning Steering Committee
Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Councillor Goulbourne

That the minutes of the Waste Management Planning Steering Committee meeting of Tuesday, January 25, 2005, be received.

Carried.

ACCOUNTS

82. Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Hodgson

That the accounts list for the period ending January 31, 2005 in the amount of \$5,185,428.38, be approved for payment.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

83. Update on Watermain Emergencies in
Niagara Falls and St. Catharines

Mr. Brcic provided the Committee with an update on the two watermain emergencies, which have taken place in the Cities of Niagara Falls and St. Catharines over the last week.

The Committee was advised that the City of Niagara Falls' watermain emergency consisted of a crack in a twenty-seven inch pipe. The repair of the watermain has been delayed pending the receipt of specialized equipment that would allow staff to repair a pipe under extreme pressure.

The watermain break in the City of St. Catharines was located in the Ridley/Vansickle area. The watermain break consisted of a thirty-six inch pipe and affected North St. Catharines and Vineland and was repaired within the same day.

Committee members extended their appreciation to Regional staff for their cooperation; the work that was performed during the emergencies and for the notice given to residents who may have been affected.

Moved by Councillor Bodner
Seconded by Councillor Brock

That the oral report on the Watermain Emergencies in the Cities of Niagara Falls and St. Catharines, be received.

Carried.

84. Water and Wastewater Servicing Issues
Township of Wainfleet

Mr. Neville advised the Committee that the meeting that was held with Minister Caplan, Mr. Hudak, Councillor Harry, Dr. Williams, was a positive meeting.

Mr. Brcic advised the Committee of the Value Analysis respecting the Township of Wainfleet's, Water and Wastewater Servicing Issues being held in the City of Niagara Falls for the next four days, which consist of forty experts, will lead to the preparation of a group report by Monday, February 14, 2005.

Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Councillor Brock

That the oral report on the Water and Wastewater Servicing Issues in the Township of Wainfleet, be received.

Carried.

STAFF DIRECTIONS

Staff was directed to:

- provide Councillor Burroughs with the budget estimates for both of the projects referred to in the reports. (Refer to Minute items 74 and 75)

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 2:10 p.m., to meet again in Committee Room 4, March 8, 2005 at 1:30 p.m.

Tim Rigby
Chair

Janet Pilon
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk/Associate Director
of Corporate Strategy