

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

CL 10-2006

COUNCIL AGENDA

Thursday, July 27, 2006  
6:30 p.m.  
2201 St. David's Road  
Thorold, Ontario

1. Call to Order
2. Committee of the Whole

Closed Session Reports as contained  
In Standing Committee Reports  
For Council Agenda CL 10-2006

3. Invocation 7:00 p.m.
4. Singing of 'O Canada'
5. Adoption of Agenda
  - 5.1 Addition of Items
  - 5.2 Changes in Order of Items
  - 5.3 Conflicts of Interest

6. Presentations

**JILL HILDRETH 1K & 5K FUN RUN/WALK**

*Brian Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services*

7. Chair's Reports, Announcements, Remarks
8. Adoption of Minutes

Council Report CL 9-2006  
Thursday, July 6, 2006

9. Correspondence, Petitions (CA 53-2006)
  - a) Receive and/or Refer to Staff
  - b) For Consideration

10. Resolutions from Other Municipalities
11. Delegations (related to Committee Reports)

**Margaret Walton, PlanScape**

Re: Agricultural Action Plan - Growing the Industry:  
Farm Economic Viability for the Long-Term Report of the Regional  
Chair's Agricultural Task Force - DPD 71-2006

**Betty Konc, Wainfleet Water & Sewer Committee**

Re: Update on Actions Regarding the Wainfleet Servicing  
Class Environmental Assessment (EA)  
in the Township of Wainfleet  
DPD 64-2006/ PWA 126-2006/ PHD 37-2006/ CSD 86-2006

12. Agencies, Boards and Commissions
13. Committee Reports (CA 54-2006)
14. Chief Administrative Officer's Report
15. Motions (CA 55-2006)

**PROPERTY ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION – Councillor Eke**

16. Notices of Motion
17. Other Business
18. By-laws (CA 57-2006)
19. Adjournment

Pam Gilroy  
Regional Clerk

9. Correspondence

a) Receive and/or Refer to Staff

C6794 Card of thanks from Alison Moore, an employee of the Community Services Department, and family, for the kind donation to St. Catharines General Hospital Foundation in memory of her mother-in-law, Patricia Stull.

Recommended Action:

-- Receive.

C6795 Information on the Canada – South Korea Free Trade Agreement from the Niagara Economic Development Corporation.

Recommended Action:

-- Receive for information.

13. Committee Reports

**JOINT REPORTS**

DPD 64-2006/ Update on Actions Regarding the  
PWA 126-2006/ Wainfleet Servicing Class Environmental Assessment (EA)  
PHD 37-2006/ Township of Wainfleet  
CSD 86-2006

***PLEASE NOTE: That the actions taken at each of the Standing Committees respecting the above report is attached to the agenda on yellow paper, for your information.***

**CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Report CSC 10-2006, Wednesday, July 19, 2006

**PLANNING AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

DPD 71-2006 *Agricultural Action Plan – Growing the Industry: Farm  
Economic Viability for the Long-Term*  
Report of the Regional Chair's Agricultural Task Force

Report PPW 11-2006, Wednesday, July 19, 2006

**PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Report PHSS 10-2006, Tuesday, July 18, 2006

15. Motions (Councillor Eke gave notice at the July 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Council meeting)

WHEREAS Ontario has the highest municipal property taxes in Canada and is the only province in Canada where municipal property taxes are used to subsidize provincial health and social services programs to the tune of more than \$3 billion a year, and

WHEREAS the funds needed for investment in infrastructure have been spent on provincial health and social services programs causing a massive municipal infrastructure deficit across Ontario; and

WHEREAS skyrocketing property assessments may jeopardize Ontarians' ability to maintain home ownership, particularly for those on fixed and/or limited incomes, such as seniors and the disabled; and

WHEREAS the existing provincial-municipal fiscal relationship is unsustainable and damaging to Ontario's communities; and

WHEREAS AMO supports the common goal of maintaining a property tax system that is transparent and accountable to taxpayers and municipalities, and

WHEREAS AMO supports the provincial government's cancellation of property reassessments for 2006 and 2007 to allow MPAC time to implement recommendations of the Provincial Ombudsman for ongoing improvements to the property assessment system; and

WHEREAS AMO holds a long-standing position that the key problem with Ontario's property assessment and property tax system is the requirement that over \$3 billion in municipal property taxes are used to subsidize provincial health and social services programs; and

WHEREAS the Niagara Region faces unique challenges with respect to tax burden because of these issues.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Regional Municipality of Niagara strongly supports AMO's long standing position on this issue to urge the province to:

- work with AMO to develop a plan of action to provide a reduction in the cost to municipalities for subsidizing provincial social services and health programs, with a view to their eventual removal from the property tax base; and
- to include in the development of the plan, some form of relief for those areas where assessment has risen at extreme rates; and

- to commit to ensuring that predictable and sustainable revenue options are accessible for all municipalities; and
- to commit to providing a plan to eliminate the municipal infrastructure deficit over time, and
- to ensure that the costs associated with the cancellation of property reassessment for 2006 and 2007 are not borne by the taxpayer; and

THAT Council reiterate its support for Niagara to participate in a pilot project with the Province to address these unique challenges through the use of mitigative strategies, such as the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund, as approved in Report CSD 66-2006; and

THAT this resolution be circulated to Niagara's Area Municipal Councils, local MPs and MPPs, AMO, and Ombudsman Andre Main for support.

18. By-Laws

Bill 64

A By-Law to Further Amend By-Law 18-2006, Being a By-Law to Establish Fees and Charges for Services and Activities Provided by the Regional Municipality of Niagara and for the Use of Its Property.

Bill 65

A By-law to Authorize Long-Term Financing (3-5 Years) in the Amount of \$650,000 for Project ZGD0603, Headquarters Telecom Upgrades

Bill 66

A by-law to adopt, ratify and confirm the actions of the Regional Council at its meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of July, 2006.