

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL

REPORT CL 14-2006

The Municipal Council of the Regional Municipality of Niagara met in the Council Chamber, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Thursday, October 19, 2006 commencing at 6:35 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

Staff: Messrs. Nicol, Acting Chief Administrative Officer; Cambray, Commissioner, Planning and Development; Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services; Neville, Commissioner of Public Works; Bergsma, Commissioner of Corporate Services; Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Gilroy, Regional Clerk; Ms. Pilon, Deputy Clerk.

Staff

(Part-Time): Messrs. Kyne, Director, Legal Services; McQueen, Director, Administration; Bousfield, Manager Property Management; Bowles, Executive Assistant to the Regional Chair; Ms. Cousins, Business Partner, Community Services.

CLOSED COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

386. Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Almas

That this Council do now move into Closed Committee of the Whole for the purposes of receiving information of a confidential nature relating to legal, personnel and property matters.

Carried.

387. A Matter of Litigation or Potential Litigation Before an Administrative Tribunal

Moved by Councillor Smeaton
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

That staff be authorized to proceed as recommended.

Carried.

CLOSED COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, RISE AND REPORT

388. Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Heit

That this Council do now rise with report.

Carried.

Following Committee of the Whole, Council met in regular session, commencing at 7:00 p.m. with an Invocation by Councillor Collins, followed by the singing of 'O Canada'.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

389. Councillor Almas declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to the October 12, 2006 minutes of the Committee of the Whole respecting Amendment # 31 to the St. Catharines Official Plan, Mixed Use Development in the Commercial Core of Port Dalhousie, Port Dalhousie Vitalization Corporation in the City of St. Catharines as his partner is involved with the project and he therefore took no part in the discussion of, or voting on, these matters.

Councillor Heit declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to any matters that deal with wireless communication as he is employed by a wireless communication company and he therefore took no part in the discussion of, or voting on, these matters.

Councillor Zimmerman declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to any matters that deal with Rolling Meadows, as she has an interest in the development and she therefore took no part in the discussion of, or voting on, these matters.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

390. Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Mastroianni

That the Council Agenda CL 14-2006 be approved and adopted as presented.

Carried.

PRESENTATIONS

391. 2006 Niagara Regional Chair's Charity
Golf Tournament Cheque Presentations

Regional Chair Partington announced that the Regional Chair's Annual Charity Golf Tournament which was held at Legends on the Niagara on September 14, 2006 raised approximately \$93,000 for local charitable donations.

Regional Chair Partington presented the Niagara Community Foundation; West Lincoln Memorial Hospital Foundation; Women's Place of South Niagara – Nova House Campaign; YMCA – Youth Programs; Salvation Army - Booth Centre; Niagara Symphony Association; Scouts Canada; Chorus Niagara; Niagara Peninsula Children's Centre and Niagara District Baseball Association – Team Niagara (Ontario Summer Games) with cheques from the proceeds raised.

392. Governor General's Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
Exemplary Service Medals

Regional Chair Partington; Councillor Baty, and Mr. John Cunnane, Director Emergency Services congratulated Henry Bosch, Neal Roberts and Dennis Delano of St. Catharines, Denise Mazza of Smithville, Sylvain Lepine of Fonthill, and Al Brooks of Welland, six paramedics with the Niagara Emergency Medical Services who were presented with the Governor General's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Exemplary Service Medal in recognition of their career accomplishments in the field of emergency services and paramedicine on Thursday, September 21, 2006 at the annual conference of the Association of Municipal Emergency Services of Ontario in Windsor, Ontario.

The Governor General's EMS Exemplary Service Medal recognizes 'professionals in the provision of pre-hospital emergency medical services who performed their duties in an exemplary manner, characterized by good conduct, industry and efficiency.'

As criteria for the award, winners must have completed a minimum of twenty years of exemplary service with EMS, of which ten were in the performance of duties involving potential risk.

393. Niagara Anaphylaxis Support and Knowledge (NASK)

Ms. Karen Pental and Mr. Matthew Sandig thanked Regional Council on behalf of Niagara Anaphylaxis Support & Knowledge (NASK) for being instrumental in making Sabrina's Law a reality.

394. Niagara Physician Recruitment & Retention Program

Ms. Jill Cappa, Family Physician Recruitment Co-ordinator provided Regional Council with an update on Niagara's Physician Recruitment and Retention Program, which is in place as a single portal for Niagara's twelve communities to recruit Family Physicians to support the local communities and retain the existing Family Physicians.

The program to date has recruited sixty new doctors, providing coverage for 88,000 plus residents, with fifteen of those new doctors being recruited in 2006, which has kept the program on track for 2006. The economic impacts of the program have resulted in fifteen to twenty million dollars in revenue to the Niagara Region, through the hiring of staff, property rentals, home and other retail purchases. Many industries assess the availability of physicians and medical facilities when contemplating relocation.

Regional Council was advised that Niagara Region remains on the under serviced list with the Ministry of Health, however, there are signs of progress with the new medical school in the north; the new spaces in Niagara (2001/2012 through McMaster University); Brock University's Med Plus Program; Ontario Medical schools have realized a twenty three per cent increase in spaces; new Family Physicians in five years plus; an increase in International Medical Graduates (IMG's) going through the "system" and the first fall graduates of the IMG Ontario program seeking Return of Service community; the introduction of Family Health Teams (FHT's), which Niagara Region has six including allied health services fully funded by the Ministry of Health for their patients; the introduction of Community Health Centres, presently in existence in Welland with new approvals pending in Fort Erie, Port Colborne, St. Catharines and Niagara Falls.

The challenges facing Niagara Region is the decline of fifty to twenty-five percent of the medical students choosing family medicine; the competition with many under serviced communities that are able to sign the Return to Service with the International Medical Graduates; the increase in full time salaried recruiters for priority focus on recruitment; the lack of employment for spouses; the lower wages; the lack of rental housing; the limited affordable clinic space available and the limited Family Health Team spaces.

The programs strengths are Niagara's close proximity to the GTA; a beautiful, vibrant community; the excellent quality of life; cultural diversity; strong marketing strategy and strong regional leadership.

395.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Regional Chair Partington thanked Peter Bulk Greenhouses of Welland for the beautiful roses on display in Council Chambers.

Regional Chair Partington congratulated Councillor Brock and the City of Thorold on the announcement of the \$473 million co-generation project that will be undertaken by Abitibi Consolidated and Northland Power, as a result of years of hard work.

Regional Chair Partington commended the citizens of the Town of Fort Erie and of the City of Port Colborne; regional and municipal staff and our community partners for pulling together for the common good and assisting those in need as a result of unseasonable and destructive weather.

Regional Chair Partington informed Regional Council of the Food Drive that has been organized by Regional employees to assist the Food Bank of Fort Erie.

Councillor Redekop recounted the events that took place in the Town of Fort Erie on the afternoon of October 12th and during the day on October 13th which resulted in declaring a "State of Emergency" due to the number of residents without power.

Councillor Redekop and Councillor Bodner thanked everyone who came to the aid of the Town of Fort Erie and the City of Port Colborne noting that the effort put forth showed that the Niagara Region is one effective area of cooperation!

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

396. Report 6-2006

Moved by Councillor Gabriel
Seconded by Councillor Mastroianni

That Report 6-2006, being the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting of Thursday, September 28, 2006, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

397. Report 13-2006

Moved by Councillor Redekop
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Report 13-2006, being the minutes of the Regional Council meeting of Thursday, September 28, 2006, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

398. Report 7-2006

Moved by Councillor Katzman
Seconded by Councillor Saracino

That Report 7-2006, being the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting of Thursday, October 12, 2006, be approved and adopted.

Upon a recorded vote being requested, Council voted as follows:

Voting for the Motion:

Angelone	Hodgson	
Baty	Katzman	
Bailey	Leavens	
Bodner	Mastroianni	
Brock	Redekop	
Eke	Rigby	
Gabriel	Saracino	
Goulbourne	Smeaton	
Harry	Timms	(18)

Voting against the Motion:

Burroughs	Hildreth	
Casselman	Marshall	
Collins	Zimmerman	(7)
Heit		

Upon the recorded vote being taken, the Regional Chair declared that the motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

399. Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Collins

That Communications C6810 to C6814, be received:

C6810 A thank you letter from Connie Wiecha, thanking Regional Council for honouring her, as a Brock University Bursary runner-up and for the \$250.00 which has been put towards the cost of her text books.

C6811 George Smitherman, Minister, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (October 3, 2006) respecting the introduction of *the Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2006*, into the Legislature.

- C6812 The Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander, Chair, Ontario Heritage Trust (September 29, 2006) inviting Niagara Regional Council to participate in the 2006 Heritage Community Recognition program.
- C6813 Card of thanks from Wendy Stewart, an employee of the Community Services Department, for the kind donation to Cornwall Dialysis Unit in memory of her mother Pauline Brown.
- C6814 Written submissions from David Bergen, President and Carlos Garcia, Executive Vice-President, PROUD, October 19, 2006; N. Jane Pepino, Aird & Berlis, October 12, 2006 and Dan Schneider, Senior Policy Advisor, Policy Branch, Ministry of Culture respecting the Official Plan Amendment No. 31 Amendment No. 31 to the City of St. Catharines Official Plan, Mixed Use Development in the Core Port Dalhousie, Port Dalhousie Vitalization Corporation in the City of St. Catharines.

Carried.

AGENCIES, BOARD AND COMMISSIONS

400. Niagara Regional Housing Quarterly Report
April 1, 2006 – June 30, 2006
NRH 03-2006

Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Report 03-2006, October 19, 2006, respecting the Niagara Regional Housing Quarterly Report, April 1, 2006 – June 30, 2006, be received for information.

Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLANNING AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

401. Report 15-2006

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Smeaton

That Report 15-2006, being the minutes of the Planning and Public Works Committee meeting of Wednesday, October 11, 2006, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE

402. Report 14-2006

Moved by Councillor Collins
Seconded by Councillor Saracino

That Report 14-2006, being the minutes of the Corporate Services Committee meeting of Wednesday, October 11, 2006, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

(Refer to Staff Directions)

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

403. Report 14-2006

Moved by Councillor Hildreth
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report 14-2006, being the minutes of the Public Health and Social Services Committee meeting of Tuesday, October 10, 2006, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

ACCOMMODATION STEERING COMMITTEE

404. Report 12-2006

Moved by Councillor Leavens
Seconded by Councillor Collins

That Report 12-2006, being the minutes of the Accommodation Steering Committee meeting of Friday, September 22, 2006, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

405. Moved by Councillor Heit
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That the decisions made by the Committee of the Whole meeting of Thursday, October 19, 2006, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

NOTICE OF MOTION

406. **Rebate a Percentage of the Land Transfer Tax**

Councillor Angelone advised Regional Council that she would be bringing forward a motion at the next Regional Council meeting to ask the Provincial government to rebate a percentage of the land transfer tax back to the local municipalities to alleviate the tax burden.

OTHER BUSINESS

407. **\$473 Million Investment in Niagara**

Councillor Brock advised Regional Council that after years of working with Abitibi, the City of Thorold has been successful in acquiring a \$473 million investment for the city and for Niagara. The co-generation project is set to begin construction in the first quarter of 2007 and be providing energy to Ontario residents in 2009.

408. **Meeting with Minister Cansfield**

Councillor Leavens provided Regional Council with an update respecting the meeting with Minister Cansfield, in which, she noted that there would be no shortcuts taken, in the Niagara GTA Corridor Environmental Assessment, however, there are tasks that can be performed while the Environmental Assessment is being completed to make the process time efficient.

409. **Additional Committee/Regional Council Meeting – December 2006**

Councillor Collins requested that the Regional Clerk prepare a report that provides Regional Council with dates for an additional Committee/Regional Council meeting within the approved meeting schedule for December 2006.

410. **Waste Reduction Week in Canada – October 16 – 22, 2006**

Councillor Eke advised Regional Council that October 16 – 22, 2006 is Waste Reduction Week in Canada, which is an educational program encouraging waste reduction and minimization initiatives across Canada. The theme "Too Good to Waste" is intended to raise public consciousness about waste and its environmental and social ramifications. Tours of the Niagara Recycling Centre (4935 Kent Ave., Niagara Falls) will be available to the public on Friday, October 20 at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Participants must be eight years of age or older and proper attire must be worn including long pants and close-toed shoes. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Space is limited so participants must call the Waste Management Services Info Line at 905.356.4141 or 1.800.594.5542 to register.

The Region will also be holding their second Environment Day event of 2006 on October 21st, in conjunction with Waste Reduction Week, at Seaway Mall, back parking lot at 800 Niagara Street, Welland from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

411. Family Violence Prevention Task Force – Video Presentation

Councillor Baty advised Regional Council that he will be requesting an opportunity in the new year to provide Regional Council with the showing of a video that is followed by a training program to address family violence in Niagara Region.

BY-LAWS

412. Moved by Councillor Bodner
Seconded by Councillor Hodgson

That the following bills be now read and do pass:

Bill 90

A By-law to establish part of lots 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 13, Plan TP 180, in the City of St. Catharines as part of Regional Road No. 72 (Louth St)

Bill 91

A By-law to establish part of lots 450, 451 and 466, Corporation Plan No.6, in the City of St. Catharines as part of Regional Road No.89 (Glendale Avenue)

Bill 92

A By-law to Authorize Long-Term Financing (1-10 Years) in the Amount of \$340,000 for Project ZGC0303, Resident Care Plans and Trust Systems.

Bill 93

A By-law to Authorize Long-Term Financing (1-10 Years) in the Amount of \$2,500,000 for Project ZSW0204/ZSW0416, Oxford Atlas Wellington Sanitary Sewer – Phase 1 in the City of Welland, and Long-Term Financing (1-10 Years) in the Amount of \$500,000 from Project ZSW0414, Ontario Street Pumping Station and Forcemain Extension

Bill 94

A By-law to Authorize Long-Term Financing (1-10 Years) in the Amount of \$2,101,000 for Various Projects in the 2005 and 2006 Roads Capital Program Budgets.

Bill 95

A by-law to adopt, ratify and confirm the actions of the Regional Council at its meeting held on the 19th of October, 2006.

Carried.

413. Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That the following bills be now read and do pass:

Bill 96

A By-law to Establish Criteria for Applications for Tax Deferrals by Low-Income Seniors and Low-Income Disabled Persons

Bill 97

A By-law to Remove a Highway from the Regional Road System in the Town of Pelham.

Bill 98

A By-law to Remove a Highway from the Regional Road System in the City of Welland.

Bill 99

A By-law to Add a Portion of a Lower-Tier Highway to the Region's Highway System and to Establish Such Portion in the City of Welland as Part of Regional Road No. 54 (Rice Road)

Bill 100

A By-law to Add a Portion of Lower-Tier Highway to the Region's Highway System and to Establish such Portion in the Town of Pelham as Part of Regional Road No. 54 (Rice Road)

Carried.

STAFF DIRECTIONS

Staff was requested to:

- review "4 b)" of the by-law attached to report CSD 132-2006 and Bill 96 in order to determine whether it should also read "per year". (Refers to Minute Item # 402)
- check the effective date of the by-law, as well as the reference to the 1998 in the first Whereas. (Refers to Minute Item # 402)
- distribute a copy of Mr. Taylor's presentation that was presented to the Corporate Services Committee to all Regional Councillors. (Refers to Minute Item # 402)

ADJOURNMENT

The Council meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Peter Partington
Regional Chairman

Janet Pilon
Deputy Clerk

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk