

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT 7-2007

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 6, 2007, commencing at 4:05 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Council: Regional Chair Partington; Councillors Augustyn, Badawey, Baty; Bentley; Burroughs; Collins; Cordiner; D'Angela; Forster; Gabriel; Goulbourne; Greenwood; Heit; Henderson; Katzman; Marshall; Martin; McMullan; Puttick; Rigby; Salci; Saracino; Smeaton; Timms, Zimmerman.

Staff: Messrs. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Bergsma, Commissioner, Corporate Services; Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services; Brothers, Commissioner, Public Works; Nicol, Commissioner, Human Resources; Chief Southall, Niagara Regional Police Service; Ms. Gilroy, Regional Clerk; Ms. Pilon, Deputy Clerk.

Staff
(Part-Time): Messrs. Roberts, Executive Assistant to the Regional Chair; Kyne, Director, Legal Services; Diakow, Director, Information Systems.

Other: Mr. Iggulden, Chair, Niagara Regional Police Services Board.

CALL TO ORDER

29. Regional Chair Partington called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

RESOLVE INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

30. Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

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

Carried.

Conflict of Interest

Councillor Collins declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to any matters that deal with the Niagara Polices Services Board, as a family member is an employee of the Police Services, and he therefore took no part in the discussion of, or voting on, these matters.

PRESENTATION

31. Niagara Regional Police Service
Long-Term Accommodations Strategy

Committee of the Whole received a presentation by Mr. Larry Iggulden and Chief Southall respecting the reports on Niagara Regional Police Service Long-Term Accommodations Strategy.

The Committee was advised that the Board in March 2007 committed to Regional Council that they would report back on its facilities plan and the resulting options/recommendations to Regional Council, however, the Board is not at the stage in the process to make any formal recommendations to Council on its facilities and there is still much work to do before the Niagara Regional Police Service makes their recommendations to the Board for their debate. The Board at this time cannot make any comments on the recommendations in the consultants report until the Public Consultation Process has been completed.

The Chief provided the Committee with a brief overview of each of the reports, noting that her primary responsibility is to provide the residents of Niagara Region with adequate and effective police services and ensure the health, wellness and safety of the Police Service.

The Chief encouraged the members of the Committee to forward any concerns, comments and suggestions to her, so that they can be considered as part of the public consultation process.

The Chief noted that the consultants will be present at the public consultations to respond to questions that relate to their reports and that she would be in attendance to respond to operational questions.

The Committee noted that the cost/impact of moving and/or closing facilities in a municipality should be considered; the Region of Waterloo be considered as a model for Niagara Region; Regional Council has a part to play in this and that a collaborative approach should be considered; the staff of the districts in question be in attendance at the public consultation for comment and requested that the reports be corrected to include that the Niagara Region owns the properties where the facilities are located.

The Chief in conclusion advised the Committee that she would be making her recommendations to the Board following the public consultation process and that the Board's decisions on her recommendations would be brought to Regional Council for approval.

The Committee was also advised that the confidential portions of the reports, which were omitted from the reports that were distributed publicly, could be provided to Regional Council as confidential documents.

Moved by Councillor Bentley
Seconded by Councillor Smeaton

That Correspondence Item C6949; the Board Report respecting the Niagara Regional Police Service Long Term Accommodations Strategy (August 23, 2007); the Niagara Regional Police Service Needs Assessment and Accommodation Plan; Cost Benefit Analysis/Accommodations Strategies; Executive Summary and the 6 District Operations Analysis, be received for information as amended to reflect that the Niagara Region owns the property and facilities; and

That the Niagara Regional Police Service provide Regional Council with the confidential portions of the reports in a confidential report.

Carried.

Moved by Councillor Zimmerman
Seconded by Councillor Augustyn

That the presentation by Mr. Iggulden, Chair, Niagara Regional Police Services Board and Chief Southall, Niagara Regional Police Service respecting the Niagara Regional Police Service Long-Term Accommodations Strategy, be received.

(Refer to Staff Directions)

Councillor Collins as per his reported conflict, requested that it be noted that he did not participate in the vote.

RISE FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

32. Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

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

Carried.

STAFF DIRECTIONS

Staff were instructed to:

- investigate a mechanism that provides for a collaborative approach to the implementation of the Niagara Regional Police Service Long-Term Accommodations Strategy and at the same time respecting the authority and responsibilities of the Niagara Regional Police Services Board and the Niagara Region.

ADJOURNMENT

Committee of the Whole adjourned at 5:30 p.m. to meet again at the call of the Chair.

Peter Partington
Regional Chair

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk

Janet Pilon
Deputy Clerk