

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 2-2008

Minutes of a meeting of the Corporate Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Wednesday, January 30, 2008, commencing at 9:05 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Martin, Co-Chair; Collins, Co-Chair; Augustyn; Partington, Regional Chair; Badawey; Burroughs; Bylsma; Casselman; D'Angela; Henderson; Puttick; Saracino; Zimmerman.

Staff: Mr. Bergsma, Commissioner, Corporate Services; Mr. Nicol, Commissioner, Human Resources; Ms. Gilroy, Regional Clerk; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

Staff

Part-Time: Administration: Mr. McQueen, Director, Administration.
Corporate Services: Mr. Kaas, Capital Analyst; Mr. Roach, Manager, Public Works Financial Services.
Human Resources: Mr. Armstrong, Manager, Organizational Development; Ms. Balfour, Coordinator Education & Development.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

17. Authorization for the Issue of Debentures
For the City of Niagara Falls
CSD 08-2008

Moved by Councillor Puttick
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That Report CSD 08-2008, January 30, 2008, respecting Authorization for the Issue of Debentures for the City of Niagara Falls, be received.

That debenture financing in the amount of \$29,500,000 for the City of Niagara Falls be approved for the funding of a 4-Pad Arena Complex.

Carried.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

18. 2008 Corporate Learning Calendar

Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Regional Chair Partington

That Report HR 02-2008, January 30, 2008, regarding the “2008 Corporate Learning Calendar” be received for information.

Carried.

MINUTES

19. RDC 1-2008

Moved by Councillor Saracino
Seconded by Councillor Badawey

That Report RDC 1-2008 being the minutes of the Regional Development Charges Task Force meeting of January 9, 2008, be approved.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Conflict of Interest

Councillor Collins declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to any matters relating to the Police as he has a family member employed by the Niagara Regional Police Services and he therefore took no part in the discussion of, or voting on, these matters.

20. Moved by Councillor Badawey
Seconded by Councillor Augustyn

That Communication CSC 3-2008 from Deb Morton, Executive Director, Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board (December 19, 2007) regarding Project Initiation – PO9802 S.P.I.R.I.T. (Supporting Police in Records Information Technology) 249.2007, be received and approved.

Carried.

21. Moved by Councillor Badawey
Seconded by Councillor Augustyn

That Communication CSC 4-2008 from Deb Morton, Executive Director, Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board (December 19, 2007) regarding NRPS Vehicles – Award of Tenders – Hybrid Vehicle Purchases 254.2007, be received.

Carried.

22. Moved by Councillor Badawey
Seconded by Councillor Augustyn

That the following communications be received:

- CSC 5-2008 Deb Morton, Executive Director, Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board (December 19, 2007) regarding NRPS Variance Report – to October 31, 2007 – 247.2007
- CSC 6-2008 Deb Morton, Executive Director, Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board (December 19, 2007) regarding NRPS 2008 Vehicle Replacements 252.2007
- CSC 7-2008 Deb Morton, Executive Director, Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board (December 19, 2007) regarding NRPS Capital Projects – Update 248.2007
- CSC 8-2008 Deb Morton, Executive Director, Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board (December 19, 2007) regarding NRPS Vehicles – 2007 Vehicle Replacements 255.2007
- CSC 9-2008 Deb Morton, Executive Director, Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board (December 19, 2007) regarding Police Services Board - 2008 Proposed Meeting Schedule 257.2007
- CSC 14-2008 Memorandum from Gord Lockyer, Treasurer/Director Financial Management (January 24, 2008) regarding Comparison of Niagara's 2008 Levy Increase with Other Jurisdictions

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests.)

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

23. Update on N.R.P.S. and Niagara Region Capital Budgets

A discussion ensued on the status of the Police and Niagara Region Capital Budgets. Councillor Martin, Committee Chair, advised that the Police Services Board is meeting on January 31, 2008 to receive the report on the Long Term Accommodations Plan and information on the Police Capital Budget. He commented that it is anticipated that the Police's Capital Budget would not be approved at the meeting as it is the Board's first look at the report and that another meeting has been scheduled for February 11th, 2008.

Mr. Bergsma provided background information on funds previously approved for Police accommodations noting that last year \$47 million was approved with approximately \$12 million slated for Grimsby and Fort Erie and the balance for unspecified requests. He commented that it is likely that any funds allocated for Police accommodations in 2008 will not be spent until 2009.

Committee members expressed the importance of understanding the Police's long term capital needs and its impact on the Regional Budget prior to approval of the Capital Budget.

The Commissioner commented that the 2008 Capital Budget, excluding the police central accommodation project, is proposed at \$119 million. Mr. Bergsma reiterated the desirability of approving the Regional Capital Budget in a timely manner due to tendering and capital project timelines, noting that approval of the Capital Budget is required to initiate capital spending.

Mr. Bergsma advised that a report will be coming to Corporate Services in late March or early April to provide information on the 2009 Budget process and timelines. He commented that they are hoping to achieve budget approvals by November this year.

24. Bi-Centennial Celebration

Members of Committee discussed the Bi-Centennial Celebration commenting that there are many organizations and groups who are already involved or wish to participate in the celebration and that it is important to include them in coordinating and providing input into the many events and activities planned. Staff was asked to provide a report on how the \$200,000 will be spent and an update on the status of this project.

25. Municipal Infrastructure Investment Initiative

Mr. Bergsma advised that the deadline for funding applications to the Province for a share of the \$300 million Municipal Infrastructure Investment Initiative is February 15th. An application will be submitted in an amount up to \$2.5 million for the Region's Enviro Centre Green Retro-fit project. Some concerns were expressed that not all municipalities were involved in the selection process and that in future all municipalities should be included in the consultation process.

26. Niagara District Airport

Committee requested that any reports going forward on the Niagara District Airport matter be prepared as a joint report to both the Planning and Public Works and Corporate Services Committees. Mr. Bergsma commented that he has been working closely with Mr. Brothers on this matter and the Corporate Services Committee would be included in any deliberations on this matter.

CLOSED SESSION

27. Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Badawey

That this Committee do now meet in Closed Session for purposes of receiving information of a confidential nature relating to personnel, property and legal matters.

Carried.

Conflict of Interest

Councillor Collins declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to any matters relating to the Police as he has a family member employed by the Niagara Regional Police Services and he therefore vacated the Committee Room and took no part in the discussion of, or voting on, these matters.

28. Moved by Councillor Badawey
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That the following communications be received:

CSC 10-2008 Deb Morton, Executive Director, Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board (December 19, 2007) regarding – Purchasing – Capital Project PO0605 C.309.2007

CSC 11-2008 Deb Morton, Executive Director, Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board (December 19, 2007) regarding Capital Project Status Report – PO0509 Project C.307.2007

CSC 12-2008 Deb Morton, Executive Director, Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board (December 19, 2007) regarding Lease Approval – Ridgeway

CSC 13-2008 Deb Morton, Executive Director, Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board (December 19, 2007) regarding Purchasing – C308.2007

Carried.

29. Moved by Councillor Bylsma
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

COUNCILLOR INFORMATION REQUESTS

- (i) That staff amend the Comparison to Peer Municipalities Chart to include an asterisk beside the Regions that have approved their levy and proposed rate program increases. (Collins) Refer to minute 22.

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 10:25 a.m. to meet again on Wednesday, February 20, 2008, at 9:00 a.m. in Committee Room 4, Regional Headquarters.

Doug Martin
Co-Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Michael Collins
Co-Chair

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk