

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
REPORT 4-2010 BUDGET

Minutes of a meeting of the Budget Review Committee of the Whole held in Council Chambers, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Thursday, November 5, 2009, commencing at 4:23 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Martin, Chair; Partington, Regional Chair; Augustyn; Badaway; Baty; Bylsma; Casselman; Cordiner; D'Angela; Gabriel; Garcia; Goulbourne; Greenwood; Heit; Henderson; Hodgson; McMullan; Puttick; Rigby.

Staff: Mr. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Mr. Bergsma, Commissioner, Corporate Services; Mr. Brothers, Commissioner, Public Works; Ms. Cousins, Director, Operating Services, Community Services; Mr. Robson, Commissioner, Integrated Community Planning; Mr. McQueen, Operating Officer, PH; Mr. Bain, Regional Clerk; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

Staff (Others): Corporate Services: Ms. Brens, Tangible Capital Assets Management; Mr. Diakow, Director, IT Solutions; Mr. Lockyer, Treasurer/Director, Financial Management & Planning; Ms. Murphy, Associate Director, Current & Capital Budgets; Mr. Pilon, Associate Director, Service Quality & Improvement; Mr. Roach, Manager, Public Works Financial Services; Ms. Stranges, Capital Assets Analyst.
Administration: Mr. Roberts, Executive Officer to the Regional Chair; Mr. Weir, Director, Administration.
Integrated Community Planning: Mr. Weaver, Director, Corporate & Community Planning.
Public Health: Mr. Jones, Director, Administrative Services, P.H.; Mr. McKay, Associate Director, EMS.
Public Works: Mr. Cousins, Director, Transportation Services; Mr. Pollock, Director, Waste Management Services; Mr. Steele, Associate Director, Strategic Business Management.

Others: Ms. Beckwith, General Manager, Niagara Regional Housing (NRH); Ms. Mino, Financial Program Analyst, NRH; Mr. D'Amario, CEO, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.

CALL TO ORDER

18. Councillor Martin, Chair, Budget Review Committee of the Whole, called the meeting to order at 4:23 p.m.

PRESENTATION

19. Proposed 2010 Capital Budget

Mr. Bergsma, Commissioner, Corporate Services, provided the Committee with a presentation on the proposed 2010 Capital Budget. The Commissioner advised that an update on the Capital Affordability Plan for 2010 is scheduled for the first Quarter of 2010. This will require an update to all 10 year Capital Plans; the reviewing and refining of all financing sources; redefining financing assumptions and updating unfunded amounts.

The 2010 Actual Affordability for Levy Capital Spending was projected at \$72.8 million. Two funding sources that were highlighted, in particular, are the Capital Levy "Surplus" (sources that were looked at for airport funding) in the amount of \$6 million and Debt Maturities for 2011 (averaged over 2 years to maximize 2010 affordability) in the amount of \$6.9 million. 2010 Capital Budget Requests for all levy supported departments and Agencies, Boards & Commissions (ABCs) totaled \$92.0 million. External Financing, Debt Financing and Own Source Reserves total \$83.6 million resulting in Excess Demand of \$8.4 million.

The 2010 Actual Affordability for Rate Capital Spending was projected at \$45.1 million with 2010 Capital Budget requests for Water, Wastewater and Waste Management also totalling \$45.1 Million versus use of Own Source Reserves are proposed at \$25.1 million and debt at \$20 million.

A draft list of capital projects for the proposed 2010 Preliminary Capital Budget was distributed for review.

The Commissioner highlighted the criteria or filters used for prioritizing budget requests and outlined the proposed deferrals for consideration for a total of \$8.8 million. This proposed deferrals would address the levy shortfall.

(A copy of Mr. Bergsma's presentation on the Proposed 2010 Capital Budget and the list of projects for the 2010 Preliminary Capital Budget are attached to the minutes.)

Following discussion, it was:

Moved by Councillor Puttick
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That the 2010 Capital Budget for Regional Departments and Agencies, Boards and Commissions, as presented and listed below, be approved, subject to project initiation in accordance with the Capital Asset Management Policy.

Total	\$128,285,359
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Carried.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

20. Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Casselman

That Communication TSSC 213-2009 being a letter from R. Bruce Smith, Secretary-Treasurer, Niagara Central Airport Commission (September 15, 2009) and presentation from Cecil E. Vincent, Municipal Accounting Services regarding Niagara Central Airport Commission Application for Funding, be received and referred to Report CSD 156-2009/PWA 110-2009.

Carried.

21. Capital Funding Request from Niagara Central Airport
CSD 156-2009/PWA 110-2009

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That the Region provide the Niagara Central Airport (NCA) with capital funding of 1/3 of the \$1.6 million request subject to NCA securing the remaining 2/3; and

That Corporate Services and Niagara Economic Development Corporation (NEDC) assist the Niagara Central Airport in securing funds from other sources.

(At this point, quorum was lost and this motion was not dealt with.)

COUNCILLOR INFORMATION REQUEST

That staff:

- (i) Advise what residual funds are available for the Thorold Fonthill Spur that is being converted into a trail. (Application has been made to the Waterfront Regeneration Trust for Federal and Provincial funding). (Baty) Refer to minute 19.

ADJOURNMENT

At this point the Budget Review Committee of the Whole lost quorum and the Committee adjourned at 6:35 p.m. to meet again on November 19, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.

Doug Martin
Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Kevin Bain
Regional Clerk