

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 4-2009

Minutes of a meeting of the Corporate Services Committee held in Council Chambers, Regional Municipal Building, 2201 St. David's Rd., Thorold, Ontario, on Monday, March 23, 2009, commencing at 9:06 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Martin, Co-Chair; Augustyn, Co-Chair; Partington, Regional Chair; Badawey; Burroughs; Bylsma; Casselman; Greenwood; Heit; Henderson; Puttick; Saracino.

Other
Councillors: Councillors Hodgson; Marshall; Rigby.

Staff: Mr. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Mr. Bergsma, Commissioner, Corporate Services; Ms. Pilon, Deputy Clerk; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

Staff
Others: Corporate Services: Ms. Casement, Manager, Employee Relations; Mr. Diakow, Director, IT Solutions; Ms. Elliott, Director, Human Resources; Ms. Maleszyk, Purchasing Manager; Ms. McCutcheon, IT Web Services Administrator; Mr. Moffatt, Manager, Property Management; Ms. M. Murphy, Associate Director, Current & Capital Budgets; Mr. Pilon, Associate Director, Service Quality & Improvement; Ms. Rae, Legal Counsel; Mr. Roach, Manager, Public Works Financial Services; Ms. Stranges, Capital Assets Analyst.
Administration: Mr. Roberts, Executive Officer to Regional Chair.
Community Services: Mr. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services.
Public Works: Ms. Koz, Manager, Fleet Operations.

PRESENTATION

55. Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) and
Uploaded Region of Niagara Social Program Costs

Councillor Hodgson attended to speak to the issue arising from the Provincial uploading of Region of Niagara Social program costs and the loss of Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) Combined Benefit Stable Funding Guarantee for 2010. The Councillor provided an historical background on the Provincial downloading programs and the Provincial Municipal Fiscal Service Delivery Review report and subsequent

efforts to reduce the burden on property taxpayers by uploading the cost of some regionally delivered programs. The implementation of this program is set over ten years (2009-2018) and Niagara property taxpayers will see \$64,386,000 in operating cost reductions. A chart was provided depicting the impact of uploading on local municipalities based on the percentage of Regional levy paid in 2008. The Councillor commented that there is an urgency to mitigate the potential new burden for property taxpayers in 2010, noting that while uploading and the adjustments to OMPF social grants will be phased in over ten years, the OMPF stable funding guarantee loss is not phased-out. This results in a loss of \$8.5 million in the base operating revenue for the 2010 budget year.

A chart comparing the 2009 total OMPF Funding Upload for the Regions of Halton, Durham, York and Niagara was presented and it was noted that those Regions outside Niagara have engaged in discussions to share the Upload, Niagara has not had any discussions with municipalities on this matter. A chart was also presented detailing the estimated municipal tax levy impact of the OMPF loss for the 12 municipalities.

Councillor Hodgson commented that Provincial ministries have made it known that mitigation of OMPF losses for 2010 is a two-tier municipal responsibility and that a clear, fair and transparent multi-year plan is needed to address this problem.

In conclusion, Councillor Hodgson urged the following:

- A plan must be put in place that distributes the uploaded benefit to taxpayers by Oct. 1, 2009.
- Distributing the savings from uploaded costs to property taxpayers will facilitate a fair solution.
- This will also provide a mitigation tool so affected municipalities can absorb the loss of the OMPF stable funding guarantee without placing a new burden on property taxpayers.

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Heit

That the presentation from Councillor Hodgson regarding the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) and Uploaded Region of Niagara Social Program Costs, be referred to the Commissioner and staff of the Corporate Services Department for a report to the Corporate Service Committee meeting of April 29, 2009 (two cycles).

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests.)

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

56. Initiation of Projects Included
in the 2009 Capital Program
CSD 47-2009 (PWA 24-2009)

Moved by Councillor Heit
Seconded by Councillor Augustyn

That Report PWA 24-2009(CSD 47-2009), March 23, 2009 respecting Initiation of Projects Included in the 2009 Capital Program, be received;

That financing in the amount of \$54,665,000 gross and \$44,460,000 net be approved from the 2009 capital program for Water, Wastewater, Waste Management and Roads and allocated to the individual projects as summarized in Appendix A;

That approval be given to fund the projects with both Regional and external financing as summarized in Appendix A;

That the Regional Clerk be directed to ensure that the appropriate by-laws are prepared for submission to Regional Council.

Carried.

(Please note that Report CSD 47-2009 (PWA 24-2009) can be found behind the Joint Reports Blue Book Tab)

57. Initiation of 2009 Community Services Capital Program
CSD 49-2009 (COM 16-2009)

Moved by Councillor Bylsma
Seconded by Councillor Heit

That Report CSD 49-2009 (COM 16-2009), March 23, 2009, respecting Initiation of 2009 Community Services Capital Program, be received.

That a capital budget allocation in the gross and net amount of \$750,000 be approved for the Community Services Capital program as submitted in the 2009 Capital Budget and summarized in Appendix I. (Attached)

That approval be given to fund the projects with \$750,000 from the Capital Levy Reserve Fund.

That the Regional Clerk be directed to ensure that the appropriate by-laws are prepared for presentation to Regional Council.

Carried.

(Please note that Report CSD 49-2009 (COM 16-2009) can be found behind the Joint Reports Blue Book Tab)

58. Initiation of Projects in the 2009 Information
Technology Capital Program
CSD 50-2009

Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Councillor Bylsma

That Report CSD 50-2009, March 23, 2009, respecting Initiation of Projects in the 2009 Information Technology Capital Program, be received.

That financing in the amount of \$800,000 gross and net be initiated and approved from the Technology Capital Program and allocated to the individual projects as summarized in Appendix A.

That approval be given to fund the Technology projects with financing consisting of \$200,000 Capital Levy Reserve and \$600,000 Long Term Financing (1-5 years).

That the Regional clerk be directed to ensure that the appropriate by-law(s) are prepared for presentation to Regional Council.

Carried.

59. Redevelopment of Deer Park Villa Long-Term Care Home
Grimsby: Initiation of Capital Project ZSC0809
CSD 51-2009 (COM 13-2009)

Moved by Councillor Badawey
Seconded by Regional Chair Partington

That Report CSD 51-2009 (COM 13-2009), March 23, 2009, respecting Redevelopment of Deer Park Villa Long-Term Care Home, Grimsby: Initiation of Capital Project ZSC0809, be received.

That approval be given to the recommended option outlined in this report, for redeveloping the Deer Park Villa long-term care home, with the corresponding funding plan, up to the amount of \$7.9 million.

That an exception to the Capital Management Policy be granted and that approval be given to increase the gross and net budget for Project ZSC0809 Deer Park Villa in the amount of \$2.4 million (consisting of \$1.6 million Long Term Debt financing and of \$800,000 from the Seniors Services Building Reserve Fund), raising the project total from \$5.5 million (2008 Capital Budget) to \$7.9 million.

That the additional Long Term Debt financing amount of \$1.6 million be funded by the Province through per diem subsidies over 25 years as outlined in this report.

That the approval be given to initiate \$7.9 million of the Capital Budget for ZSC0809 Deer Park Villa, with revised total Long Term Financing (20 years) of \$7.1 million and \$800,000 from the Seniors Services Building Reserve Fund. (Appendix A)

That the Regional Clerk be directed to ensure that the appropriate by-laws are prepared for submission to Regional Council.

That staff be authorized to communicate Niagara Region's intention to proceed with the redevelopment of Deer Park Villa to the Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) and the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant (HNHB) Local Health Integration Network (LHIN).

Carried.

(Please note that Report CSD 51-2009 (COM 13-2009) can be found behind the Joint Reports Blue Book Tab)

60. Recommended Funding for Niagara College
- Building Futures Master Plan
CSD 52-2009

Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Councillor Augustyn

That Report CSD 52-2009, March 23, 2009, respecting Recommended Funding for Niagara College – Building Futures Master Plan, be received.

'That financial support in the amount of \$1.1 million be provided for Niagara College's Building Futures Plan.

This investment aligns closely with the 2007-2011 Council Business Plan objective concerning "economic prosperity", and the identified action to "work with post-secondary institutions to build skills and expertise in identified areas". Additionally, this would support the Region's Economic Growth Strategy (Navigating our Future: Niagara's Economic Growth Strategy 2005-2010), and the objective 6.1 to "expand the focus and capacity of Niagara's post-secondary institutions, with enhanced linkages to strategic economic sectors".'

That the funding be provided by way of an initial lump sum contribution in the amount of \$550,000, funded from the approved 2008 Capital Budget allocation for Council Strategic Initiatives, and the remaining \$550,000 funded from the current budget through annual principal and interest payments of \$95,000 per year for 7.2 years with assumed financing at approximately 5.5%.

That staff be authorized to execute an appropriate memorandum of understanding with Niagara College to reflect the above, and

That the Regional clerk be directed to ensure that the appropriate bylaws(s) are prepared for presentation to Regional Council.

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests.)

61. Bank Tower Appeal – Determination of Current Value
CSD 53-2009

Moved by Regional Chair Partington
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That Report CSD 53-2009, March 23, 2009, respecting Bank Tower Appeal – Determination of Current Value, be received.

That Niagara Region support the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation's (MPAC) definition of current value assessment under the Assessment Act and request the Province to enact a legislative amendment to the definition of "current value" in support of MPAC's position.

That this report be circulated to local Members of Provincial Parliament.

That this report be circulated to the Area Treasurers and local Area Municipal Councils for information.

Carried.

62. Municipal Immigration Information On-line Program, Phase II Funding
CSD 54-2009/COM 19-2009

Moved by Councillor Saracino
Seconded by Councillor Augustyn

That Report CSD 54-2009 (COM 19-2009), March 23, 2009, respecting Municipal Immigration Information On-line Program, Phase II Funding, be received.

That, upon conditional approval from the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration (MCI), the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to enter into an agreement to receive Phase II funding for the Municipal Immigration Information On-line Program, to improve the content of the Niagara Immigration Portal www.niagaraimmigration.ca.

That this report be distributed to local Niagara municipalities and economic development agencies.

Carried.

(Please note that Report CSD 54-2009 (COM 19-2009) can be found behind the Joint Reports Blue Book Tab)

63. Niagara Specialized Transit – Municipal Funding
Calculation and Cost Sharing for 2009 Budget
CSD 29-2009 (PWA 11-2009) Revised
PWC 14-2009 – memorandum

Moved by Councillor Badawey
Seconded by Councillor Augustyn

That Revised Report CSD 29-2009 (PWA 11-2009), March 23, 2009 respecting Niagara Specialized Transit – Municipal Funding Calculation and Cost Sharing for 2009 Budget, be received and approved **as amended as outlined in PWC 14-2009;**

That the amended Option 3 (Appendix C) in this report be approved and that the operating deficit for Niagara Specialized Transit in 2009, and future years, be funded sixty percent (60%) from local municipal contributions and forty percent (40%) from the Provincial Gas Tax allocation apportioning the cost based on assessment **funded by the Regional tax levy;**

That Regional staff investigate alternate options to re-opening the 2009 budget process;

That this report be forwarded to the Treasurer of each of the local municipalities to advise them of their share of this operating deficit for the 2009 budget year.

Moved by Councillor Henderson
Seconded by Councillor Casselman

That Report CSD 29-2009 (PWA 11-2009), March 23, 2009 respecting Niagara Specialized Transit – Municipal Funding Calculation and Cost Sharing for 2009 Budget, be deferred for further information.

Defeated.

Upon a vote being taken, Councillor Martin, Co-Chair, declared the original motion, as amended, approved.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests.)

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

64. Statement of Remuneration and Expenses for
Members of Council and Council Appointees
CSD 44-2009

Moved by Councillor Puttick
Seconded by Councillor Martin

That Report CSD 44-2009, March 23, 2009, respecting Statement of Remuneration and Expenses for Members of Council and Council Appointees, be received for information only.

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests.)

65. Summary of Quotations, Tenders and Authorizations
Fourth Quarter 2008 According to Purchasing Policy C3.P02
CSD 45-2009

Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Regional Chair Partington

That Report CSD 45-2009, March 23, 2009, respecting Summary of Quotations, Tenders and Authorizations Fourth Quarter 2008 According to Purchasing Policy C3.P02, be received for information.

Carried.

66. Property Transactions under Delegated Authority
CSD 46-2009

Moved by Councillor Martin
Seconded by Councillor Bylsma

That Report CSD 46-2009, March 23, 2009, respecting Property Transactions under Delegated Authority, be received.

Carried.

MINUTES

67. Joint Advisory Committee on Wainfleet
Water & Wastewater Servicing Project
2-2009 (JAC)

Moved by Councillor Greenwood
Seconded by Councillor Badawey

That Report 2-2009 (JAC) being the minutes of the Joint Advisory Committee on Wainfleet Water & Wastewater Servicing Project meeting of February 23, 2009, be received for information.

Carried.

(Please note that Report 2-2009 (JAC) can be found behind the JNT RPTS Blue Book Tab.)

CORRESPONDENCE

68. Moved by Councillor Martin
Seconded by Councillor Bylsma

That Communication CSC 14-2009 from Janis Lankester, Clerk, Haldimand County, regarding the Justice of the Peace Shortage, be received.

Carried.

69. Moved by Councillor Badawey
Seconded by Councillor Bylsma

That Communication CSC 15-2009 from William Kolasa, Director of Corporate Services/Clerk, Town of Lincoln (March 19, 2009) regarding Uploaded Region of Niagara Social Program Costs, be received.

Carried.

CLOSED SESSION

70. Moved by Councillor Greenwood
Seconded by Councillor Badawey

That this Committee do now meet in Closed Session for purposes of receiving information of a confidential nature relating to the Proposed Acquisition of Land by the Municipality Relocation of Donated House and Acquisition of House and Land for Use by Niagara Regional Housing as Affordable Housing Unit(s); a Matter of Labour Relations Ratification of Collective Agreement CUPE 1263; and an Oral Report from Mike Trojan, C.A.O. regarding a Labour Relations matter.

Carried.

71. Proposed Acquisition of Land by the Municipality
Relocation of Donated House and Acquisition of House
And Land for Use by Niagara Regional Housing
As Affordable Housing Unit(s), City of Niagara Falls
CSD 48-2009

Moved by Councillor Badawey
Seconded by Councillor Bylsma

That Report CSD 48-2009, March 23, 2009, respecting Proposed Acquisition of Land by the Municipality, Relocation of Donated House and Acquisition of House and Land for Use by Niagara Regional Housing as Affordable Housing Unit(s), City of Niagara Falls, be referred to the next Corporate Services Committee meeting of April 8, 2009.

Carried.

Conflict of Interest

Councillor Martin declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to Report CSD 55-2009, A Matter of Labour Relations Ratification of Collective Agreement CUPE 1263 (Long Term Care Homes) Community Services Department, as his spouse is a member of CUPE 1263 so he therefore, vacated the Council Chamber and took no part in the discussion of, or voting on, this matter.

72. A Matter of Labour Relations Ratification of Collective Agreement CUPE 1263 (Long Term Care Homes) Community Services Department
CSD 55-2009

Moved by Regional Chair Partington
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That Report CSD 55-2009, A Matter of Labour Relations Ratification of Collective Agreement CUPE 1263 (Long Term Care Homes) Community Services Department, be received and the recommendations contained therein approved.

Carried.

73. Mike Trojan, C.A.O.
Labour Relations Matter

Mr. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer, provided an oral report on a Labour Relations matter.

74. Moved by Regional Chair Partington
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

75. 2008 Physician Services Agreement

Mr. Trojan apprised Committee of the memorandum from Allison J. Stuart, Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Health Division, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (March 16, 2009) regarding 2008 Physician Services Agreement.

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That the Oral Report by Mr. Trojan, C.A.O. and the memorandum regarding the 2008 Physician Services Agreement be referred for consideration, pending further information, to the Council meeting of Thursday, March 26, 2009.

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests.)

COUNCILLOR INFORMATION REQUESTS

That staff be requested to:

- (i) Provide comments on the presentation from Councillor Hodgson; what is happening in other Regions; and comments on proposed tax levy increase. Provide a brief summary of historical information pertaining to the impact on programs as a result of Provincial downloading and the subsequent Uploading of Programs (PMFSDR consensus report). (Burroughs/Heit/Casselman) (Refer to minute 55.)
- (ii) Provide further information on PILs – what is the practice of other Regions across the Province with respect to the PIL and the educational institutions in their municipalities (colleges, universities). (Marshall/Burroughs). (Refer to minute 60.)
- (iii) Provide a report to Corporate Services Committee providing recommendations on how the remaining \$450,000 in the one-time capital funding allocation can be allocated to Brock University and Niagara College (Burroughs) (Refer to minute 60.)
- (iv) Confirm where approval was given to proceed with Niagara Specialized Transit (following original trial period) (Burroughs). (Refer to minute 63.)
- (v) Provide background information regarding the Sub-Committee of CORC established to review the current and future needs of Councillors with respect to the provision of electronic devices (i.e. Blackberries, Laptops etc.) and the allocation of funds for conferences. (Casselman) (Refer to minute 64.)
- (vi) A legal opinion and further information on employee agreement issues regarding the 2008 Physician Services Agreement. (Casselman/Burroughs). (Refer to minute 75.)

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 10:15 a.m. to meet again on Wednesday, April 8, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. in Committee Room 4, Regional Headquarters.

Doug Martin
Co-Chair

Dave Augustyn
Co-Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk