

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
REPORT 8-2010 BUDGET

Minutes of a meeting of the Budget Review Committee of the Whole held in Council Chambers, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Thursday, February 4, 2010, commencing at 4:10 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

- Committee: Councillors Martin, Chair; Regional Chair Partington; Councillors; Augustyn; Badawey, Bentley; Burroughs; Bylsma; Casselman; Cordiner; D'Angela; Forster; Gabriel; Garcia; Goulbourne; Greenwood; Henderson; Hodgson; Katzman; Lepp; Marshall; McMullan; Puttick; Rigby; Salci; Saracino; Smeaton; Timms; Trombetta.
- Staff: Mr. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Mr. Bergsma, Commissioner, Corporate Services; Mr. Brothers, Commissioner, Public Works; Mr. Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services; Mr. Robson, Commissioner, Integrated Community Planning; Mr. Jones, Director, Administrative Services, PH; Mr. Bain, Regional Clerk; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.
- Staff (Others): Corporate Services: Mr. Bernard, Associate Director, Court Services; Ms. Crowley, Current Budget Analyst; Mr. Diakow, Director, IT Solutions; Mr. Kyne, Director, Legal Services; Mr. Lockyer, Treasurer/Director, Financial Management & Planning; Ms. Murphy, Associate Director, Current & Capital Budgets; Mr. Roach, Manager, Public Works Financial Services; Ms. Rose, Court Supervisor; Mr. Pilon, Associate Director, Service Quality & Improvement.
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. Cunnane, Director, E.M.S; Mr. Van Valkenburg, Deputy Chief/Associate Director, EMS; Mr. McKay, Associate Director, Administration EMS.
Public Works: Mr. Cousins, Director, Transportation; Mr. Steele, Associate Director, Strategic Business Management.
Community Services: Ms. Cousins,

Others: Niagara Regional Police: Chief Wendy Southall; Deputy Chief Matthews; Mr. Fuentes, C.A.O.; Ms. George, Director, Business Services.
Niagara Economic Development Corporation: Mr. Gedge, CEO.
Niagara Regional Housing: Ms. Beckwith, General Manager; Ms. Mino, Financial Program Analyst, Niagara Regional Housing.
Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority: Mr. D'Amario, CEO.

CALL TO ORDER

50. Councillor Martin, Chair, Budget Review Committee of the Whole, called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS

51. Mr. Dave Marcaccio, KPMG
Re: Harmonized Sales Tax (HST)

Mr. David Marcaccio, Senior Manager, KPMG, provided a presentation on the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) outlining the impact on all businesses and organizations and subsequent advantages and disadvantages.

The KPMG Harmonization Approach was described as follows:

- Phase 1: Impact Analysis
 - Evaluate existing processes
 - Review 2010 budget and cash flow requirements
 - Review timing of large purchases and contracts
- Phase 2: Implementation Strategy
 - Identify tax criteria for software upgrades
 - Consult with your Implementation Committee
- Phase 3: Training
 - GST refreshers
 - Full scope GST/HST training
 - Develop and deliver customized training modules
- Phase 4: Post-Implementation Review
 - Systems, tax matrix and compliance testing
 - Review actual to estimates on impact analysis
 - Test compliance to reduce audit risks

A copy of Mr. Marcaccio's presentation regarding Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) is attached to the minutes.

52. 2010 Consolidated Operating Budget

Mr. Bergsma, Commissioner, Corporate Services, provided a presentation on the remaining issues of the 2010 Budget.

Moved by Councillor Bylsma
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That staff be directed to reduce the net tax levy from 0.43% to 0%, after assessment growth, and to provide a report to the Budget Review Committee of the Whole on February 11, 2010, with recommendations to achieve this objective.

Carried.

A copy of Mr. Bergsma's presentation regarding the 2010 Consolidated Operating Budget is attached to the minutes.

Committee recessed at 6:20 p.m.

Committee reconvened at 6:50 p.m.

53. 2010 Council Priorities/Business Planning Sessions

Mr. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer, presented the 2010 Council Priorities and Potential Council Business Planning Sessions.

Following review of the information, Committee members suggested that separate meetings be held to deal with the Water & Wastewater Common Rate Structure and the Inter-Municipal Transit matters.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

54. KPMG Presentation
Harmonization Sales Tax

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Katzman

That the presentation by Mr. David Marcaccio, KPMG regarding Harmonization Sales Tax, be received.

Carried.

55. 2010 Budget
CSD 22-2010

Moved by Councillor Trombetta
Seconded by Councillor Casselman

That Report CSD 22-2010, February 4, 2010, respecting 2010 Budget, be received for information.

Carried.

56. 2010 Council Priorities/Potential Council Business Planning Sessions

Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Councillor D'Angela

That the presentation by Mr. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer, respecting the 2010 Council Priorities and Potential Council Business Planning Sessions, be received and approved.

Carried.

57. Development Charges – Budgeting for Relief
ICP 8-2010

Moved by Councillor Badawey
Seconded by Councillor D'Angela

That Report ICP 8-2010, February 4, 2010, respecting Development Charges – Budgeting for Relief, be received.

That staff be directed to allocate up to \$100,000 on a one time basis, from the Final 2009 Year End Transfer report, for the 2010 operating budget which is intended to fund potential Development Charge relief beyond the existing discounts and exemptions in the Development Charges by-law;

That any such relief must meet the interim relief criteria previously endorsed by Council and attached as Appendix I of this report; and

That staff be directed to review the need for this allocation and report through the Regional Development Charges Task Force upon completion of the Phase 2 Development Charges Review.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

58. Moved by Councillor Salci
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That the following communications be received:

BRCOTW(C) 10-2010 Memorandum from Gord Lockyer, Treasurer/Director,
Financial Management & Planning (January 7, 2010)
regarding Impact of Harmonized Sales Tax

BRCOTW(C) 11-2010 Memorandum from Mike Trojan (January 28, 2010)
re: Response to Citizen Inquiry

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The Budget Review Committee of the Whole adjourned at 7:35 p.m. to meet again on February 11, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Doug Martin
Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Kevin Bain
Regional Clerk