

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT 9-2010 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 11, 2010, commencing at 4:08 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

- Committee: Councillors Martin, Chair; Regional Chair Partington; Councillors; Augustyn; Badawey, Baty; Bentley; Burroughs; Bylsma; Casselman; Cordiner; D'Angela; Forster; Gabriel; Garcia; Goulbourne; Greenwood; Heit, Henderson; Hodgson; Katzman; Lepp; Marshall; McMullan; Puttick; Rigby; Salci; Saracino; Smeaton; Timms; Trombetta; Zimmerman.
- 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. McQueen, Operating Officer (Health); Mr. Bain, Regional Clerk; Ms. Pilon, Deputy Regional Clerk.
- Staff (Others): Corporate Services: Mr. Bernard, Associate Director, Court Services; Mr. Diakow, Director, IT Solutions; 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. Jones, Director, Administrative Services, PH; 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, Director, OSS, Community Services
- Others: Niagara Economic Development Corporation: Mr. Gedge, CEO.

CALL TO ORDER

59. Councillor Martin, Chair, Budget Review Committee of the Whole, called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

PRESENTATION

60. 2010 Operating Budget

Mr. Bergsma, Commissioner, Corporate Services, provided a presentation on the 2010 Operating Budget, which provided the Committee with funding options to reduce the 2010 Operating Budget to 0% after assessment growth:

Reduce Regional Programs	\$1.2M
Reduce Police budget	\$1.2M
Unallocated from year end surplus	\$1.2M
From Social Assistance Reserve	\$1.2M
NEDC	\$0.2M

Following a lengthy discussion, it was:

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 through the use of the unallocated year end surplus.

Committee recessed at 6:00 p.m.

Committee reconvened at 8:15 p.m.

Upon a recorded vote being requested, the Committee was divided on the aforementioned motion as follows:

Voting for the Motion:

Councillor Bentley	Councillor Hodgson
Councillor Bylsma	Councillor Lepp
Councillor Burroughs	Councillor Marshall
Councillor D'Angela	Councillor McMullan
Councillor Forster	Councillor Puttick
Councillor Garcia	Councillor Salci
Councillor Greenwood	Councillor Saracino
Councillor Heit	Councillor Timms
Councillor Henderson	Councillor Trombetta

(18)

Voting Against the Motion:

Councillor Augustyn	Councillor Katzman
Councillor Baty	Councillor Martin
Councillor Casselman	Regional Chair Partington
Councillor Cordiner	Councillor Rigby
Councillor Gabriel	Councillor Smeaton
Councillor Goulbourne	Councillor Zimmerman (12)

Upon the recorded vote being taken, the Chair declared the motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Zimmerman
Seconded by Councillor Goulbourne

That funding to NEDC in the amount of \$230,000, be removed from the 2010 Current Budget.

Carried.

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

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

55. 2010 Budget (Amended)
CSD 22-2010 Amended

Moved by Councillor Augustyn
Seconded by Councillor Heit

That Report CSD 22-2010 Amended, February 11, 2010, respecting 2010 Budget (Amended), be received ***as amended***.

That the 2010 NRPS Operating Budget be approved at \$134,497,316 gross, and \$120,835,193 net (subject to any further revisions as determined by Council),

That the NEMS Transitions amount of \$3.1M be approved with anticipated funding of \$3.1M from the Province,

That in the event that full funding is not received from the Province, that funding of up to \$1.5M be funded from Regional Reserves,

That Year End Surplus and Reserve Rationalization Funding be allocated as follows:

2010 Base Budget	\$1.4M
NHS (CSD 75-2009)	\$0.7M
NRPS Temp. Accommodation Plan	\$2.0M
Social Assistance Reserve	\$3.1M
Emerald Ash Borer	\$0.2M
NEMS one time funding	\$1.5M
One time levy reduction	\$1.2M

That funding for the following business cases be approved:

SAEO Program Management	\$138K
IT Recovery Shortfall	\$74K
Niagara Specialized Transit	\$343K
Storm Sewer System Maintenance	\$200K
Accessibility Advisory Co-ordinator	\$32K
EMS – collective agreements etc.	\$363K
NEDC – restore base funding	\$230K
Waste Management Leaf & Yard Waste	\$100K
Water Reserve Shortfall Water & Wastewater	\$1,500K
Property Taxes	\$400K

That Niagara’s interest income budget be increased by \$2M
 and,

That Regional Council approve the 2010 Operating Budget estimates and associated by-law relating to the Regional Departments Boards & Agencies:

• Net Expenditure	\$303,944,558
• Net Revenue	(21,394,859)
• Net Tax Levy	282,549,699
• Net Tax Levy Change 2009/10	2,292,316
• Waste Management Requisitions	33,122,337
• Waste Management Requisitions Change 2009/10	1,061,818

Carried.

Councillors Baty, Casselman and Rigby requested that they be recorded as opposed to the aforementioned motion.

ADJOURNMENT

The Budget Review Committee of the Whole adjourned at 9:23 p.m. to meet again May 13, 2010 at a time to be determined in Council Chamber.

Doug Martin
Chair

Janet Pilon
Deputy Regional Clerk

Kevin Bain
Regional Clerk