

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT COTW 2-2010

The Municipal Council of the Regional Municipality of Niagara met in Committee of the Whole in the Council Chamber, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Thursday, January 28, 2010 commencing at 6:31 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Council: Regional Chair Partington; Councillors Augustyn; Baty; Badawey; Bentley; Burroughs; Bylsma; Casselman; Cordiner; D'Angela; Forster; Gabriel; Garcia; Goulbourne; Greenwood; Heit; Henderson; Hodgson; Katzman; Lepp; Martin; Marshall; McMullan; Puttick; Rigby; Saracino; Salci; Smeaton; Timms; Trombetta; Zimmerman.

Staff: Messrs. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Cousins, Director, Transportation Services; Bergsma, Commissioner Corporate Services; Robson, Commissioner Integrated Community Planning; Hutchings, Commissioner Community Services; Kyne, Director Legal Services; Roberts, Executive Officer to the Regional Chair; Bain, Regional Clerk; Ms. McManus, Legislative Assistant.

CALL TO ORDER

7. Regional Chair Partington called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

PRESENTATION

8. Authority to Implement Inter-Municipal Transit

Mr. Cousins, Director Transportation Services provided the Committee of the Whole with a presentation entitled "Authority to Implement Inter-Municipal Transit" to set the context for this evening's discussion regarding Report PWA 12-2010 Authority to Implement Inter-Municipal Transit.

Highlights of Mr. Cousin's presentation were, in part, as follows:

- Background
- Benefits of Transit
- The Need for Better Transit in Niagara
- The Cost of Providing Better Transit
- Recommendations
- Where Do We Go From Here?

(A copy of Mr. Cousin's entire presentation can be found attached to the January 28, 2010 Committee of the Whole minutes)

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests)

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

9. **Authority to Implement Inter-Municipal Transit**
PWA 12-2010

Following a lengthy discussion it was:

Moved by Councillor Badawey
Seconded by Councillor Salci

That Council approve and adopt the public transit vision as follows:

- Public transit services will form an important and integral component of Niagara's transportation system – a key element in growth plans.
- Residents of Niagara will be provided affordable and reliable transit services to conveniently access places of work and major activities in the urban areas.
- Inter-municipal transit services will be provided connecting Niagara residents to the surrounding municipalities, regions, and the Greater Toronto area.
- The cost for providing such a system will be distributed in a fair and equitable manner.

That staff be authorized to retain a consultant team to proceed with Phase 2 of the Inter-Municipal Transit Work Plan, in accordance with the terms of reference outlined in this report;

That Staff investigate and report on a Utility Model Concept as part of the Phase II Study;

That Staff provide report to Regional Council on or before May 1, 2010;

That following a decision by Regional Council, the Municipal Councils' decisions be obtained respecting the triple majority by July 1, 2010; and

That the Commissioner of Public Works be authorized to take any and all necessary actions and to execute all required documents.

Carried.

Councillor Rigby
Councillor Forster

That Staff circulate Report PWA 12-2010 (January 28, 2010) respecting Authority to Implement Inter-Municipal Transit, and the motions approved at the Committee of the Whole meeting January 28, 2010 to area municipalities for their information.

Carried.

Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor McMullan

That the following motion be referred to staff:

That Staff dialogue with the local transit operators; and

That Regional Council commit up to the \$3.1 million earmarked in the 2010 budget for operational expenses for a pilot project of the triangle routes for a period of one year to be contracted to and initiated by the 3 existing municipal operators and private operators as required.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

10. Moved by Councillor Augustyn
Seconded by Councillor Salci

That Communications C7374 and C7390; be received and dealt with as noted in the Council Agenda and Addendum, which reads as follows:

- C7374 A letter from Dean Iorfida, City Clerk, City of Niagara Falls, (December 1, 2009) respecting the Niagara Region Inter-Municipal Transit Initiative.
- C7390 A letter from Colin Briggs, CAO, City of St. Catharines (January 7, 2010) respecting a resolution passed by the City of St. Catharines' Council unanimously endorsing the triangle approach to Regional Transit, involving Niagara Falls, Welland and St. Catharines.
- C7391 A letter from Liz Palmieri, Co-Chair of Niagara Prosperity Initiatives Advisory Committee (January 27, 2010) in support of a Regional Transit service.

Carried.

COUNCILLOR INFORMATION REQUESTS

Staff was requested to:

- Forward the figures that reflect Niagara Specialized Transit ridership in rural areas (Refer to Minute Item #8) (Councillor Henderson)

ADJOURNMENT

The Council meeting adjourned at 11:19 p.m.

Peter Partington
Regional Chair

Lisa McManus
Legislative Assistant

Kevin Bain
Regional Clerk