

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT COTW 4-2010

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, March 11, 2010 commencing at 6:36 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Council: Regional Chair Partington; Councillors; Augustyn; Baty; Burroughs; Bylsma; Casselman; Cordiner; D'Angela; Gabriel; Garcia; Goulbourne; Greenwood; Heit, Henderson; Hodgson; Lepp; Puttick; Saracino; Timms; Trombetta.

Staff: Messrs. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Brother, Commissioner, Public Works; Bergsma, Commissioner Corporate Services; Hutchings, Commissioner Community Services; Pollock, Director Waste Management; Roberts, Executive Officer to the Regional Chair; Steele, Associate Director, Strategic Business Management; Mr. D'Arcy, Technology Support Analyst; Ms. Rae, Legal Counsel Real Estate; Ms. Isajiw, Legal Counsel Real Estate; Ms. Habermebl, Associate Director, Collection and Diversion Operations; Ms. Torbicki, Manager, Waste Policy and Planning; Regional Clerk, Mr. Bain; Legislative Assistant, Lisa McManus.

CALL TO ORDER

18. Regional Chair Partington called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

PRESENTATION

19. Introductory Remarks

Mr. Trojan, CAO advised Council members that the purpose of tonight's meeting was to have a discussion about the future of waste management in Niagara Region. He further stated that due to the fact that we were soon going to award a new 7 year contract for collection of waste and recyclables across the Region, it was the perfect time to have the conversation regarding this matter.

Mr. Trojan expressed his appreciation to everyone who had come out to share their thoughts about the future of waste management and stated that the input would be helpful as Council deliberates on these important service level discussions.

Mr. Trojan then introduced Ken Brothers, Commissioner of Public Works and Andrew Pollock, Director Waste Management Services to proceed with their portion of the evening's presentation.

Mr. Brothers highlighted Stakeholder input by advising Council members that the following steps had been taken respecting advertising; Newspaper Ads (St. Catharines Standard, Niagara Falls Review & Welland Tribune on Wednesday, March 3, 2010), Niagara This Week (Thursday, March 4, 2010), Regional website posting (Feb. 26, 2010) and Facebook posting (March 3, 2010).

Mr. Brothers then provided Council members with the following summary of objectives:

How to achieve 65% Waste Diversion

- Service level options
- Customer impacts
- Impact of Waste Diversion Act on Municipalities
- Extended Producer Responsibility
- Disposal levies and bans

Long Term Disposal Planning

- Shift from municipal to contracted landfill capacity
- Update on Alternative Technologies

20. Waste and Recycling Collection Service Options – Strategic Discussion

Mr. Pollock, Director Waste Management Services provided Committee members with a PowerPoint presentation respecting Waste and Recycling Collection Service Options – Strategic Discussion.

Highlights of the slides offered were, in part, as follows:

- Waste Management Strategic Focus
- Current Waste Program Costs
- Achieving 65% Diversion
- Getting to 50% Diversion
- Municipal Successes
- Collection Services RFP
- Customer Service Options and Impacts
- Waste Diversion Act
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
- Future EPR Programs
- Blue Box – Packaging & Printed Paper
- Disposal Bans and Levies
- Implications for Municipalities

- Long Term Disposal Planning
- Alternative Disposal Technologies
- Status of Alternative Technologies
- Factors Affecting Alternative Technologies
- Long Term Waste Management Strategic Plan

In closing Mr. Brothers stated that we have the strategy; now we need to ask ourselves “where do we want to be in the future?”, we need to discuss provisional items and services, and most importantly we have to ensure that we align these things through policy.

Regional Chair Partington opened the floor to Council members who had questions and following a lengthy question period it was:

Moved by Councillor Bylsma
Seconded by Councillor D’Angela

That the Presentation (dated March 11, 2010) respecting Waste and Recycling Collection Service Options – Strategic Discussion, be received for information.

Carried.

(A copy of Mr. Pollock’s Presentation can be found attached to these minutes)

DELEGATIONS

21. **Waste and Recycling Collection Service Options**
Mr. Richard Bell

Mr. Richard Bell, a resident of Fort Erie, provided Committee members with what he stated was “a small, but very important point”. Mr. Bell felt that residents (if we move to Every Other Week Collection) should be able to utilize garbage tags and take any extra items to the Disposal Centres.

Moved by Councillor Augustyn
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That Mr. Bell’s Presentation (dated March 11, 2010) respecting Waste and Recycling Collection Service Options, be received for information.

Carried.

(A copy of Mr. Bell’s Presentation can be found attached to these minutes)

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

22. Moved by Councillor Henderson
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

That the following items be received for information:

- C7427 An email from Sally Wilkie (March 3, 2010)
- C7428 An email from Pam Stewart (March 5, 2010)
- C 7429 An email from Mr. Mario Bevacqua (March 9, 2010)
- C7430 A letter from Mr. Doug Symington, Chair Niagara Region Waste Management Advisory Committee (March 3, 2010)
- C7431 An email from Philip Dyck (March 9, 2010)

DISCUSSION

23. Regional Chair Partington proceeded to open the floor to Council members wishing to have the opportunity to discuss Waste and Recycling Collection Service Options.

The following is a summary of the discussion that flowed:

- West Lincoln appreciates the detailed presentation; but cannot support the Green Bin program or Bi-Weekly Collection
- Should we consider lowering our target of 65% with a gradual increase over a few years
- Looking forward to recommendations that increase diversion and reduce costs
- Want to see an exit strategy from the recycle portion of the contract
- Ensure that we are not double taxed
- Have a policy in place to ensure and reassure tax payers that 100% is returned to them
- Can we have different levels of service in different communities
- Survey persons with disabilities and seniors; inquire as to what we can do to assist them with participating in the programs
- “Drop Offs” would be a solution to costs
- Biosolids Committee formed; when can we initiate a Committee to discuss alternative technology
- Issue with lack of data and information; look for balance with energy

- 10 million dollars, potentially, to be lost if we don't recycle
- Environmental Impact of Tourism; to do the right thing, it costs money. Show the value of recycling
- Need to bring Energy from Waste Committee back
- Don't be timid to lower the diversion % if you're willing to also show alternatives (1 rule Urban, 1 rule for Rural)
- Alter goal of 65%; work towards target
- The slide reflecting "Current Waste Program Costs" does reflect true numbers as it includes "operational" costs only
- Bring back numbers for Waste Management and Landfill costs; municipalities still have landfills that still generate cost
- Disagree with Every Other Week Collection
- Conduct surveys, "Why aren't you recycling?" "Why aren't you in the Organics Program?"
- Education is key
- Grass Ban; can't support because it puts the onus on the citizen
- Garbage pickup used to be a service; now it's an obligation. Make it a service rather than an inconvenience and you'll get public participation

In closing Mr. Brothers stated that staff would be bringing back options for best value (cognizant of costs), easiest participation for customers, ideas for looking at additional depots and residual waste reduction/optimum recycling.

Regional Chair Partington expressed his appreciation for the participation from members of Council, and the supportive and constructive discussion brought forward by all.

COUNCILLOR INFORMATION REQUESTS

Staff was requested to:

- Provide additional information on how the Biosolids Master Plan requirement of refreshing regularly / receiving public and stakeholder input and how the Sub-Committee was formed (Refer to Minute Item #22) (Councillor Burroughs)
- Get municipalities that have achieved 65% to tell us what tonne is going in to those categories / get a Global number / break it out and model it out (Refer to Minute Item #22) (Councillor Gabriel)
- Compile further information regarding the benefit of reaching a 65% diversion target (before we move the target down), get costs numbers (Refer to Minute Item #22) (Councillor Augustyn)
- Provide a list of Landfill sites; where will they be once the current ones are filled? (Refer to Minute Item #22) (Councillor D'Angela)

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

Peter Partington
Regional Chair

Lisa McManus
Legislative Assistant

Kevin Bain
Regional Clerk