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**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA**  
**CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**REPORT 9-2003**

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Minutes of a meeting of the Corporate and Financial Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Wednesday, May 7, 2003, commencing at 10:10 a.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

Committee: Councillors Martin, Chair; Zimmerman, Regional Chair; Badawey; Beamer; Bentley; Burroughs; Hildreth; Muir; Saracino; Timms.

Staff: Mr. Bacchus, Commissioner, Cooperate Services; Mr. Hollick, Regional Clerk; Mr. Lockyer, Treasurer; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

Staff  
(Part-time): Mr. Bousfield, Manager, Properties Ms. Chamberlain, Fixed Assets Analyst; Ms. Cousins, Manager, Purchasing and Payables; Mr. J. Murphy, Manager, Policy & Development; Ms. M. Murphy, Manager, Budgets & Reporting; Mr. Nicholson, Senior Policy Coordination Planner; Mr. Roach, Manager of Finance, P.W..

Others: Ms. C. Berecz, Communications Manager, N.R.P.S.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

106. Moved by Councillor Burroughs  
Seconded by Councillor Bentley

That Communication CFS 20-2003, being the minutes of the Staff Task Force on Development Charges meeting of April 25, 2003, be moved forward on the agenda and be dealt with by this Committee at this time.

Carried.

**Conflict of Interest**

Councillor Timms declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to CFS 20-2003 as his family has an interest in a development company and he therefore took no part in the discussion of or voting on this matter.

Mr. Bacchus, Commissioner of Corporate Services, provided an overview of the minutes of the Staff Task Force on Development Charges meeting of April 25, 2003.

Chair Zimmerman advised that Mr. Richardson of Sullivan Mahoney was in attendance to bring forward his perspective with respect to the matter related to the Brock Plaza Corporation and the Region's Development Charges By-law.

Mr. Richardson distributed a presentation booklet regarding the Brock Plaza Corporation and Regional Development Charges By-law 34-2003. The Solicitor provided background information on the Corporation's first lease with Brock University regarding the construction of townhouse dwellings and for the provision of office and classroom space for Brock University and the process to date wherein the project was found exempt from development charges due to its "institutional" use. Mr. Richardson advised that he would be filing an appeal to the OMB relating to the Region's amendment to its by-law as it impacts on Brock Plaza Corporation's second lease with Brock University for construction of another facility. He advised that the Corporation paid the development charge under protest by way of a letter of credit. Mr. Richardson highlighted the ground for this appeal and asked the Region and its solicitor seek opinions on:

- (i) Whether Brock University is exempt from Regional Development Charges
- (ii) Is the Region likely to succeed an O.M.B. Hearing

Moved by Chair Zimmerman  
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That Communication CFS 20-2003 being the minutes of the Regional Development Charges Task Force meeting of April 25, 2003 and the presentation from Mr. Richardson regarding the Brock Plaza Corporation matter be referred to the solicitor to address the issues presented to Committee.

Carried.

### **CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

#### **Additional 2003 911 Staff Complement**

Moved by Councillor Muir  
Seconded by Councillor Badawey

That Report CSD 69-2003, May 7, 2003, regarding Additional 2003 911 Staff Complement, be received.

That the increase in the staff complement for the 911 Emergency Telephone System of one member per platoon for a total of four additional 911 call takers as approved by the Budget Review Committee, be implemented in July 1, 2003,

rather than being phased in with two additional staff on January 1 of each of 2003 and 2004.

Carried.

Funding for The Greater Niagara Circle Route  
Trails System SuperBuild Project

Mr. Bacchus highlighted Report CSD 71-2003/DPD 70-2003 regarding the funding for the Greater Niagara Circle Route Trails System SuperBuild Project. The Commissioner outlined the financial implications for completion of the Trail and provided some approaches to resolving the funding issue.

During discussion of this matter, Committee raised the following questions:

- 1) If we guarantee funding now, does it impact on the 2003 budget and if so, do we have to re-open the budget process as per the New Municipal Act?
- 2) If we guarantee funding out of 2004 budget, will this satisfy SuperBuild Requirements?
- 3) Do we have any guarantee from the Federal Government that they will match the funding?
- 4) What is the timing required for the guarantee, is it needed now?
- 5) Can the available 2002 Capital Budget remaining of \$399,312 be allocated for use towards the Port Colborne Trail? (Rather than used for repayment of loan from Regional Niagara Capital Levy reserve.)

Moved by Councillor Bentley  
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That Report CSD 71-2003/DPD 70-2003, May 7, 2003, respecting Funding for The Greater Niagara Circle Route Trails System SuperBuild Project, be received for information; and

That staff prepare a further report in response to the questions raised by Committee on this matter.

Carried.

107. Capital Projects Variance Analysis Report

Moved by Councillor Burroughs  
Seconded by Councillor Beamer

That Report CSD 72-2003, May 7, 2003, respecting Capital Projects Variance Analysis Report, be received for information.

Carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE** (continued)

108. Moved by Councillor Badawey  
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

That Communication CFS 15-2003 from Louise Gartshore, City Clerk, City of Woodstock (March 11, 2003) seeking support for its Council's resolution regarding their recommendations concerning the need for the Province of Ontario to review its capping program with an aim to eliminate it completely, be received and supported

Carried.

(Councillor Bentley asked that the letter of support also include the previous correspondence sent to the Province regarding this matter.)

Mr. Bacchus advised that he would be bringing forward a report on issues and concerns related to the capping program.

109. Moved by Councillor Muir  
Seconded by Councillor Bentley

That Communication CFS 17-2003 from Deb Morton, Executive Director, Niagara Regional Police Service (April 30, 2003), respecting the renovations to the NRPS Facility at 2 Cushman Road, St. Catharines, be referred to the Police Services Board.

Carried.

110. Moved by Councillor Burroughs  
Seconded by Councillor Bentley

That the following communications be received:

- CFS 16-2003      Shafee Bacchus, Commissioner of Corporate Services (April 29, 2003) respecting the method of disposal for personal computers after they have reached the end of their useful lifespan.
- CFS 18-2003      Memorandum from Shafee Bacchus, Commissioner of Corporate Services (May 5, 2003), regarding 2003 Ontario Budget – Education Tax Relief to Seniors Staff Direction: Minute Item 101, CFS 8-2003
- CFS 19-2003      City Clerk, City of Toronto (April 24, 2003) to all municipalities in Ontario regarding “Improving the Quality of Property Assessment Services Delivered to Ontario Municipalities and Ratepayers” which was adopted by the Council of the City of Toronto.

Carried.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

111. Audit Committee Meeting

Councillor Martin apprised members of the Audit Committee meeting held prior to this Finance meeting and asked that the actions of the Committee be received and referred for approval, together with the minutes of the Corporate and Financial Services Committee meeting, to the Regional Council meeting of May 15, 2003.

Moved by Councillor Burroughs  
Seconded by Councillor Bentley

That Report 2-2003, being the minutes of the Audit Committee meeting of May 7, 2003, be referred for approval, together with the minutes of the Corporate and Financial Services Committee meeting, to the Regional Council meeting of May 15, 2003.

Carried.

112. Community Reinvestment Funding

Councillor Beamer advised that he received a phone call from the Assistant Deputy Minister regarding Community Reinvestment Funding and asked that Pelham, together with the other municipalities and the Region, submit a formula for more equitable funding to the Ministry, commenting that they are looking for a different method of funding with input from municipalities. The Councillor asked that any correspondence received by the Region regarding this matter be referred to Committee.

**CLOSED SESSION**

113. Moved by Councillor Muir  
Seconded by Councillor Saracino

That this Committee do now meet in Closed Session for purposes of receiving information of a confidential nature relating to a property matter.

Carried.

114. Property Purchase from Canada Lands Company CLC Limited  
Long Term Wastewater Servicing Strategy  
City of St. Catharines

Moved by Councillor Muir  
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That Report CSD 70-2003, May 7, 2003 (PWA 76-2003, May 6, 2003) respecting Property Purchase from Canada Lands Company CLC Limited Long Term Wastewater Servicing Strategy, City of St. Catharines, be received, and the recommendations therein approved.

That financing in the amount reported (Wastewater Capital Reserve) be transferred from Project ID SW0010 Sewage System Servicing Assessment to Project ID SW9901 Land Acquisition for Wastewater Facilities to allow for this property purchase.

That all costs associated with the purchase be charged against Capital Works Project SW9901 Land Acquisition for Wastewater Facilities.

Carried.

115. Moved by Councillor Burroughs  
Seconded by Councillor Bentley

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

**OTHER BUSINESS** (continued)

116. West Nile Threat

Councillor Hildreth apprised Committee of a property in the Town of Lincoln which is a potential hazard for West Nile Virus due to a large pile of old tires on the property. Committee recommended that the Councillor bring this matter to the attention of Bjorn Christensen and Sean Bertloff of the Public Health Department.

117. Intersection Greenlane/Durham Road

Councillor Hildreth advised that there is the potential for a dangerous accident at the intersection of Greenlane and Durham Roads due to the situation of a property and its road allowance at the location. The Councillor advised that the property is now up for sale and asked that the Region consider the purchase of this property in order to realign the intersection. Mr. Bousfield advised that this matter is being investigated.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Committee adjourned at 11:50 a.m. to meet on Wednesday, May 28, 2003, at 10:00 a.m. in Committee Room 4, Regional Headquarters.

Doug Martin  
Chair

Gail Reilly  
Legislative Assistant

Thomas R. Hollick  
Regional Clerk