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THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
REPORT 16-2003

Minutes of a meeting of the Corporate and Financial Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Wednesday, September 24, 2003, commencing at 10:00 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

Staff: Mr. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Mr. Bacchus, Commissioner of Corporate Services; Mr. Hollick, Regional Clerk; Mr. Lockyer, Treasurer; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

Staff
(Part-time): Mr. Banting, Director, Legal Services; Ms. Chamberlain, Fixed Assets Analyst.

Others: Bill Connor, CEO, NETC; B. Fennessy, Manager, Niagara Trade Centre, NETC; C. Rose, Trade Assistant, NETC.

ADMINISTRATION

229. Status Update –Expediter

Moved by Councillor Saracino
Seconded by Councillor Davidson

That Report CAO 17-2003, September 24, 2003, respecting Status Update – Expeditor, be received for information.

Carried.

CLERK'S DEPARTMENT

230. A By-law Regarding the Giving of Notice Under
Certain Provisions of the Municipal Act

Committee members expressed their concerns with respect to "meeting the minimum requirements" related to the giving of notice. It was suggested that this report and by-law be referred to the Communications Committee to ensure that it is not in conflict with the existing Communications Policy and to be reviewed as part of the discussions on what is the most effective means to disseminate information to the public.

Moved by Councillor Muir
Seconded by Chair Zimmerman

That Report CLK 30-2003, September 24, 2003, respecting A By-law Regarding the Giving of Notice Under Certain Provisions of the Municipal Act, be referred to the Public Information and Communications Advisory Committee.

Carried.

CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

231. Cash Management Activities for the
First Quarter and Second Quarter 2003

Moved by Councillor Bentley
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That Report CSD 132-2003, September 24, 2003, respecting Cash Management Activities for the First Quarter and Second Quarter 2003, be received for information.

Carried.

232. Summary of Quotations, Tenders and Authorizations
Second Quarter 2003

Moved by Councillor Muir
Seconded by Councillor Beamer

That Report CSD 133-2003, September 24, 2003, respecting Summary of Quotations, Tenders and Authorizations Second Quarter 2003, be received for information.

Carried.

233. Capital Project Variance Analysis Report

Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Councillor Bentley

That Report CSD 134-2003, September 24, 2003, respecting Capital Project Variance Analysis Report, be received for information.

Carried.

(Refer to staff direction on page CFS 134.)

234. Municipal Business Corporation

Moved by Councillor Muir
Seconded by Councillor Saracino

That Report CSD 135-2003, September 24, 2003, respecting Municipal Business Corporation, be received for information.

Carried.

(Refer to staff direction on page CFS 134.)

235. Regional Niagara Bikeways Master Plan Final Report

Moved by Councillor Bentley
Seconded by Chair Zimmerman

That Report CSD 137-2003, September 24, 2003 (PWA 151-2003, September 23, 2003) respecting Regional Niagara Bikeways Master Plan Final Report, be received;

That the Regional Niagara Bikeways Network Implementation Priorities and Associated Costs, as recommended in attached Figure 8-6 from Chapter 8 of the Final Report, be subject to review by the Public Works and Utilities and Corporate and Financial Services Committees with respect to the Region's Capital Management Policy; and

That the Regional Clerk forward a copy of the Final Report to all Regional Departments and each local area municipality, the Regional Niagara Cycling Committee, Haldimand County, Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council, Niagara Regional Police Services, Niagara Economic and Tourism Corporation, Niagara Parks Commission, Ministry of Transportation Ontario, Niagara Freewheelers Bicycle Touring Club, Velo Ontario, Waterfront Regeneration Trust and the Hamilton/Burlington Cycling Committees for their information.

Carried.

ACCOUNTS

236. Moved by Councillor Muir
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That Accounts Payable Expense Summary for the period ending July 31, 2003
in the following amounts be approved:

Administration & Corporate Services	\$ 974,509.56
Community Services	2,784,297.38
Planning & Development	24,471.72
Public Health	2,181,977.18
Public Works	4,571,524.62
Police Service	1,186,346.65
Outside Board's & Agencies	339,499.00
Non Departmental	<u>20,586,638.54</u>
Total	32,649,264.65
G.S.T. Rebate	<u>828,804.11</u>
Total Expense Payable	33,478,068.76
Holdback Amount	<u>5,554,592.24</u>
Total Expenses Paid	\$ <u>27,923,476.52</u>

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

237. Police Security – New Casino

Councillor Muir advised Committee that negotiations between the Casino and the Police regarding police security at the new Casino has been completed and an agreement has been finalized that is favourable to the Region.

238. Information – Region's Leased and Owned Properties

Councillor Burroughs thanked staff for the information he requested regarding the Region's leased and owned properties. This information will be forwarded to all members of Committee.

PRESENTATION

239. Cross Border Security

Bill Connor, C.E.O., Niagara Economic and Tourism Corporation, together with Barbara Fennessy, Manager, Niagara Trade Centre, NETC, Megan Toohey, Political and Economic Relations Officer, Consulate General of Canada, Buffalo and Ron Rienas, General Manager, Peace Bridge Authority provided a

presentation on Cross Border Security. Ms. Fennessy provided statistics related to Canada and U.S. Trade, noting it to be the World's largest trade relationship. Trade affected 380 million people with \$1.9 billion cross border trade daily, 11 million commercial releases per year; 6.5 million trucks; 210,000 marine vessels and 44,000 trains. 20% of Canada-U.S. trade crosses Niagara bridges. Niagara Canada Trade Volumes were highlighted as follows:

- Over 50,000 jobs in Niagara depend on export activity
- In 2000, Niagara's International trade of goods was valued at \$10.9 billion
- 87.5% of Niagara's exports sent to U.S.
- The Region's goods-producing sector exports \$5.1 billion to the U.S. each year.
- Yearly import of goods from U.S. valued at \$4.1 billion

Charts were provided outlining the increase in exports as a percent of total manufacturing from 1980 to 2000 and exports as a percent of sales.

Niagara Goods Exports was presented as follows:

Top Five World Export Markets

Country	Exports
U.S.	\$5,107,300,033
U.K.	441,988,678
Belgium	52,070,759
Japan	49,453,739
Mexico	27,647,705

Top Five U.S. State Markets

State	Exports
Michigan	\$1,632,586,484
New-York	653,907,457
Illinois	449,167,821
Pennsylvania	183,874,458
Ohio	174,117,075

In terms of popularity of export markets, U.S. is the first choice and Western Europe the second choice.

Niagara Goods Imports was presented as follows:

Top Five World Export Markets

Country	Exports
U.S.	\$4,121,598,716
Germany	194,099,587
France	77,773,150
U.K.	73,278,364
Mexico	65,725,879

Top Five U.S. State Markets

State	Exports
New York	\$444,477,890
Michigan	386,650,931
Ohio	292,205,236
Pennsylvania	188,313,325
Florida	110,770,544

Ms. Toohey provided an overview of Cross Border Security noting that security is a new fundamental of doing business in North America. The following Cross Border Initiatives were highlighted:

- Smart Border Declaration that encompasses:
 - secure flow of goods
 - secure flow of people
 - secure infrastructure
 - coordination and information sharing to enforce these objectives

- Customs Action Plan – CAP
 - Information – getting the right information to the right people at the right time
 - Technology – making it easier for clients, integrating requirements for tracking
 - Partnerships – engaging OGD's, stakeholders in a cooperative, consultative process
 - Leverage – delivering appropriate sanctions to maintain & improve compliance

- Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT)
 - April 2002, U.S. Customs launched the C-TPAT in an effort to combat terrorism in the U.S.
 - Participation required for those who want to bring goods from Canada into U.S. through FAST lane.
 - Trucking company and driver must also be vetted for security.
 - Seven charter members are BP America, Daimler Chrysler, Ford Motor Co., General Motors Corp., Motorola Inc, Sara Lee Corp. and Target.

- Partners in Protection (PIP)
 - Aims to enlist co-operation of private sector to enhance border security, combat crime and terrorism and increase awareness of border compliance issues.
 - Focus on increased security throughout the production, transportation, importation and exportation processes.
 - Mandatory for eligibility to participate in FAST.

- Partners in Protection (PIP) – Benefits
 - Shipments processed more quickly.
 - Improved security levels.
 - Enhanced reputation for your business.
 - Competitive advantage as supplier to other companies.
 - Improved understanding of customs requirements.
 - PIP clients eligible to participate in FAST program.

- Pre-arrival Processing System (PAPS)
 - The Pre-arrival Processing System (PAPS) is a U.S. Bureau of Customs and Border Protection cargo release mechanism that utilizes barcode technology to expedite the release of

commercial shipments while processing each shipment through Border Cargo Selectivity (BCS) and Automated Targeting System (ATS).

- Customs Self-Assessment (CSA)
 - Self assessment program for importers.
 - Low risk stream.
 - Designed to minimize delays through screening, risk-assessing and pre-approving clients.
 - Shipments entering Canada under CSA will be cleared immediately at the border based on as few as three data elements (driver, carrier, importer) unless the shipment is stopped for a random check.
 - Being rolled out with automotive industry and its carriers and drivers.
- Advanced commercial Information (ACI)
 - Developed for high risk or unknown situations.
 - 25 data elements
 - Mandatory data elements received electronically pre-arrival of goods.
 - Automated targeting tools filter information and provide a risk rating.
- Administrative Monetary Penalty System (AMPS)
 - Graduated penalty system for non-compliance.
 - Penalties are civil, monetary, up to maximum of \$25,000.
- FAST Express
 - Free and Secure Trade, or FAST, is a joint Canada-U.S. program offering expedited clearance processes to pre-approved importers, carriers and drivers.
 - Launched 2002 in Windsor & Niagara. Additional crossings in 2003.
 - Companies certified by customs as being PIP and C-TPAT eligible will have faster access and fewer delays at major border crossings through the FAST program.

Cross Border Initiatives- Secure Movement of People

- NEXUS – Highway
 - The NEXUS program is based on pre-approval processing for frequent, low-risk travelers.
 - NEXUS members are able to use dedicated lanes at various border crossings.

- Can submit their declaration using a drop box, and any duties and taxes owing will be charged to credit card.
- In operation at major land crossings.

- CANPASS – Air
 - Developed for pre-screened travelers who frequently fly into Canada.
 - Members can use automated self-service kiosk at airports.
 - Uses iris recognition biometric technology.
 - Vancouver Int'l Airport, Other Canadian in 2003, 2004.

- NEXUS – Air
 - Joint Canada/U.S. program works much the same as CANPASS – Air; however background checks are done on both sides of border.
 - Spring 2004 pilot at Dorval Int'l airport in Montreal and Macdonald Cartier Int'l in Ottawa.

Ms. Fennessy advised Committee that NETC are attempting to find the means to hold workshops in Niagara to educate companies on the Cross Border Initiatives and Programs.

Mr. Reinas advised that a tentative date of January 1, 2004 has been set by U.S. Customs for exporters to be aware of these programs. The appropriate papers will have to be made available to Customs in advance of the product reaching the border. If appropriate papers are not in place, this could cause delays of approximately 12 to 24 hours. He advised that he would be meeting with the Truckers Association and Chambers of Commerce to apprise them of the new requirements. Mr. Reinas reiterated the importance of businesses understanding what the impact of these programs will be.

Committee asked staff to provide information on what seed money is required to hold these workshops and to ensure that businesses in Niagara are aware of these new cross border initiatives.

Committee also recommended that the Federal and Provincial Governments be lobbied, with the assistance of local M.P.s and M.P.P.s, to acquire funding for this purpose.

STAFF DIRECTION

That Staff be directed to:

- (i). Prepare a one page document providing further clarification to the External Revenue Variance and Project Variance figures. (Refer to minute item 233.)
- (ii) Obtain clarification from the Region's Solicitor on whether there is an opportunity for Public Utility Boards to become a corporation under the New Municipal Act. (Refer to minute item 234.)

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 11:50 a.m. to meet on Wednesday, September 24, 2003, at 10:00 a.m. in Committee Room 4, Regional Headquarters.

Doug Martin
Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Thomas R. Hollick
Regional Clerk