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THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE

REPORT 5-2003

Minutes of a meeting of the Public Works and Utilities Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Tuesday, March 11, 2003 commencing at 1:45 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Badaway, Chair; Buroughs, Eke, Forster, Harry, Konkle.

Staff: Messrs. Neville, Commissioner of Public Works; Cousins, Director, Transportation Services Division; Brcic, Director, Water & Wastewater Services Division; Sidawi, Director, Operational Support Services; Payne, Director, Waste Management Services; Watson, Operation Technologist; Ms. Pilon, Legislative Assistant.

Other: Councillor Martin.

There being a lack of ordinary quorum at the meeting, the Committee chair determined that the ordinary quorum for the meeting be reduced to five members, pursuant to Part II, Section 11.7 of the Procedural By-law 7174-93.

PRESENTATIONS

101. **Twinning of Highway 406
Port Robinson Road to Beaverdams Road**

Mr. Clement Shim, Senior Project Engineer, Ministry of Transportation provided the Committee with a brief overview of the Ministry's project to twin Highway 406 from Port Robinson Road to Beaverdams Road prior to the Public Information Centre scheduled for March 20, 2003.

Mr. Stanley Ma, Morrison Hershfield, advised the Committee that the project includes: two additional lanes in the project area resulting in a divided highway; a new interchange at Highway 406 and Regional Road 20; the closing of Holland Road at Highway 406; the removal of the bridge at the abandoned rail line; the construction of a pedestrian underpass to maintain the recreational trail access to

this location; upgraded illumination and signing; landscaping as well as improvements to the drainage and culvert extensions.

Mr. Ma provided the Committee with the three stages of the construction project, which will maintain the existing traffic during the construction.

Mr. Shim advised the Committee that the construction will take approximately two years and that the design phase of the project is currently 60% completed, that property needs to be acquired, which should be completed by the end of 2003.

The Committee was advised that the section of Highway 406 from the City of Welland to City of Port Colborne is in the preliminary design phase at the present time.

DEFERRED REPORT

102. Cancellation of the Electronics
Recycling Program
PWA 26-2003

The Committee was provided with the information that was requested at the February 20, 2003 Regional Council meeting, in the form of a memorandum from Catherine Habermebl (PWC 12-2003).

Mr. Payne, Director, Waste Management Services advised the Committee that the recyclable electronics are not considered hazardous and that staff is committed in finding other alternatives for the disposal of old electronics.

The Committee discussed the possibility of segregating these items at the materials handling facility, until another option for the recycling of these items is found.

Moved by Councillor Konkle
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report PWA 26-2003, February 11, 2003, respecting the Cancellation of the Electronics Recycling Program, be referred back to staff for a further report on the Noranda program in August 2003; and

That staff report back to the Committee in a timely manner on an immediate plan to address the Electronics Recycling Program.

Carried.

ADMINISTRATION

103. Vehicle and Equipment Replacement
Program 2003 – Phase I
PWA 37-2003/CSD 32-2003

Mr. Cousins, Director, Transportation Services, provided the Committee with a brief overview of Phase 1 of the Vehicle and Equipment Replacement Program 2003.

The vehicles and equipment scheduled for replacement are determined through a comprehensive evaluation made by Fleet staff on each of the units that are indicated as being due for replacement. Factors such as operating costs, repair costs, costs per hour or the kilometres on the unit, the mechanical condition, body condition, level and type of utilization, replacement costs, salvage value, cost of refurbishing to provide a useful and economical term of life, downtime and loss of productivity to crews are considered prior to recommending the vehicle or equipment for replacement.

Mr. Cousins advised the Committee of the challenge that the winter maintenance contractors are experiencing with obtaining insurance. Staff will be bringing forward a report detailing the Niagara Region's options for winter control in approximately six weeks. Mr. Cousins noted that shared services are among some of the options being considered to facilitate the Regions new multi-year Winter Control contract starting Fall of 2003.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Councillor Badawey declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to PWA 41-2003, March 11, 2003, respecting the Landfill Fees for Residential Self-Hauled Waste, Commercial Haulers, Contractors and Businesses, as his family's business hauls garbage on a periodical basis and therefore took no part in the discussion of or voting on these matters.

104. Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report PWA 41-2003, March 11, 2003, respecting Landfill Fees for Residential Self-Hauled Waste, Commercial Haulers, Contractors and Businesses, be lifted from PWA Summary, March 11, 2003 and dealt with separately at this time.

Carried.

105. Landfill Fees for Residential Self-Hauled Waste,
Commercial Haulers, Contractors and Businesses
PWA 41-2003

Mr. Payne provided the Committee with a brief overview of the Report PWA 41-2003, Landfill Fees for Residential Self-Hauled Waste, Commercial Haulers, Contractors and Businesses, requesting Council's approval to revise the landfill fees charged.

The Committee discussed the present number of incidents of illegal roadside dumping noting that an increase in landfill fees will only increase these occurrences.

Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report PWA 41-2003, March 11, 2003, respecting the Landfill Fees for Residential Self-Hauled Waste, Commercial Haulers, Contractors and Businesses, be received.

That the landfill fees for residential self-hauled waste, commercial haulers, contractors and businesses be approved as set out in Appendices I and II, effective July 1, 2003; and

That Regional Niagara implement a more pro-active public education campaign to promote illegal dumping awareness. (Waste Management Services)

Lost.

For Committee Consideration

The Committee considered the following staff recommendations contained in the PWA Summary and Addendum, March 11, 2003:

106. Vehicle and Equipment Replacement
Program 2003 – Phase I
PWA 37-2003/CSD 32-2003

That Report PWA 37-2003/CSD 32-2003, March 11, 2003, respecting the Vehicle and Equipment Replacement Program 2003 – Phase 1, be received.

That the budget allocation in the gross and net amount of \$1,877,940 from the 2003 Capital Budget be approved for Project ZSS0301, Vehicle and Equipment Replacement Program;

That the financing for the project include capital levy financing of \$223,300 and Fleet Equipment Replacement Reserve Fund financing of \$1,654,640;

That the Public Works Department be authorized to advertise forthwith for equipment recommended for replacement on Schedule "A" attached to this report.

That the Regional Clerk be directed to ensure the appropriate bylaw(s) are prepared for presentation to Regional Council. (Transportation Services)

107. The Mid-Peninsula Transportation Corridor
Environmental Assessment Terms of Reference
PWA 38-2003/DPD 39-2003

That Report PWA 38-2003/DPD 39-2003, March 11, 2003, respecting the Mid-Peninsula Transportation Corridor, Environmental Assessment Terms of Reference, be received.

That the Regional Municipality of Niagara indicate to the Minister of Transportation that it supports the Environmental Assessment procedures outlined in its Terms of Reference document circulated February 3, 2003. (Transportation Services)

108. Resolution of Support for the Proposed
Mid-Peninsula Transportation Corridor
PWA 39-2003/DPD 40-2003

That Report PWA 39-2003/DPD 40-2003, March 11, 2003, respecting the Resolution of Support for the Proposed Mid-Peninsula Transportation Corridor, be received.

That Council adopt the following resolution of support for the Mid-Peninsula Transportation Corridor and forward it to the Ministers of Transportation and Environment, with copies to all members of the Provincial legislature;

WHEREAS 16% of all Canada-U.S. Trade passes through the Niagara Region without stopping;

WHEREAS Niagara's tender fruit land is threatened by urban pressures along the QEW corridor;

WHEREAS development pressures will result in the QEW being widened to 8-lanes if no alternative is found;

WHEREAS more than 90% of Niagara's visitors arrive by auto;

WHEREAS the Mid-Peninsula Transportation Corridor is only one component of a comprehensive transportation strategy which includes rail, marine, air, cycle and pedestrian components and was developed through a wide consultative process by the Regional Municipality of Niagara with the participation of local municipalities;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Council of the Region of Niagara supports the building of a Mid-Peninsula Transportation Corridor extending through Niagara, past the John C. Munro Hamilton International Airport, and connecting to a 400-series highway to be determined by the Environmental Assessment process, to create an alternative route for international trade passing through Niagara; to divert truck traffic away from the QEW; to divert development pressures away from the tender fruit areas north of the escarpment; and to encourage economic development in South Niagara; and

That Council call on the provincial government, through a letter to the Ministers of Transportation and the Environment copied to all Members of the Ontario Provincial Parliament, to move without delay through the Environmental Assessment, Design, Financing, Property Acquisition and Construction of the Mid-Peninsula Transportation Corridor.

That Council forward the above resolution to the Councils of local municipalities within Niagara and the Councils of the City of Hamilton and Counties of Haldimand and Norfolk, and request that they adopt the resolution or a similar resolution of support for the proposed Mid-Peninsula Transportation Corridor. (Transportation Services)

109. Water and Wastewater Services Division
Vulnerability Assessment of Wastewater Systems
PWA 40-2003

That Report PWA 40-2003, March 11, 2003, respecting the Water and Wastewater Services Division, Vulnerability Assessment of Wastewater Systems, be received.

That the firm of Utility Services Inc., 115 Main Street South, Georgetown, Ontario be retained to provide a vulnerability and security assessment of the Region's Wastewater Facilities and Systems at an upset limit cost of \$44,000.00, plus GST.

That the Regional Clerk be directed to ensure that the appropriate by-laws are prepared for submission to Regional Council, including authorizing the Regional Chair and Regional Clerk to execute the contract on behalf of the Regional Municipality of Niagara.

That all project costs be charged against Project I. D. SW0304 which has a total budget of \$500,000. (Water & Wastewater Services)

110. New Municipal Act
Impact on Highway Closings
PWA 42-2003

That the lower-tier municipalities be requested to continue to notify the Region of their proposed stopping up and closing of highways. (Operational Support Services)

111. Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That the PWA Summary and Addendum, dated March 11, 2003, and the foregoing recommendations of Reports PWA 37-2003 (CSD 32-2003) to PWA 40-2003 inclusive, PWA 42-2003 and PWA 44-2003, be received and accepted.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

112. Communications listed in Report PWC Summary, dated March 11, 2003, were received and dealt with as follows:

PWC 12-2003 – (March 4, 2003) – **Catherine Habermebl**, Manager, Collection and Diversion Operations, to Councillors Konkle and Haeck, being a response to questions raised at the February 20th Council meeting on disposal costs versus recycling costs for electronics.

-- Received and referred to during the discussion on deferred report
PWA 26-2003

113. Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That the PWC Summary, March 11, 2003, be received and dealt with as directed by this Committee and as noted in these minutes.

Carried.

PROGRESS REPORTS

114. Regional Road Maintenance Costs and Network Impacts –
A Ten-Year Comparative Analysis

Mr. Neville, Commissioner, Public Works, provided the Committee with a brief presentation on the comparative financial impacts related to Regional Roads between 1993 and 2002.

The Committee was advised that at the present time the Niagara Region has utilized 69% of their total winter control budget, within the first eight weeks of 2003, while November and December and the spring clean are left to complete. The depth of the frost penetration this winter will contribute to above normal break up of Regional Roads where resurfacing may not be sufficient in repairing the damage. Some staff will be monitoring the situation over the next several weeks and will keep Committee updated on the extent of projected problem and related cost impacts.

Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Konkle

That Report PWP 22-2003, March 11, 2003, respecting the Regional Road Maintenance Costs and Network Impacts – Ten-Year Comparative Analysis, be received for information; and

That the Regional Chair's office forward a request for a percentage of the gas tax from the federal and provincial governments to provide needed assistance to the Niagara Region for their road need costs.

Carried.

115. Truck Traffic at the Anger Avenue
WPCP, Town of Fort Erie

Councillor Martin advised the Committee that the truck traffic in the area of the Anger Avenue WPCP, has resulted in numerous complaints from residents.

Mr. Brcic, Director, Water & Wastewater Services, advised the Committee that truck traffic to the Anger Avenue WPCP travels along Central Avenue to the Niagara Parkway to Anger Avenue and the alternatives are limited.

Mr. Brcic advised the Committee that in 2002 the volume of truck traffic significantly increased through an emergency related to Biosolids storage and that issue has been corrected. Further redirection in truck traffic will occur as a result of the Regions new alternate Biosolids management plan. Mr. Brcic advised that staff are preparing a follow up report, which will be more specific to the positive impact of these changes to area residents.

Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That Report PWP 26-2003, March 11, 2003, respecting the Truck Traffic at the Anger Avenue WPCP in the Town of Fort Erie, be received.

Carried.

(Refer to Staff Directions)

116. Construction Status Report
Waste Management Services

Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Konkle

That Report PWP 23-2003, March 11, 2003, respecting the Construction Status Report, Waste Management Services, be received.

Carried.

117. Public Works Staff Comments on
Development and Related Proposals

Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Konkle

That Report PWP 24-2003, March 11, 2003, respecting the Public Works Staff Comments on Development and Related Proposals, be received for information.

Carried.

(Refer to Staff Directions)

118. Public Works Staff Comments on
Municipal Servicing Applications

Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Konkle

That Report PWP 25-2003, March 11, 2003, respecting the Public Works Staff Comments on Municipal Servicing Applications, be received for information.

Carried.

MINUTES

119. Minutes of the Smarter Niagara Steering Committee
Meeting of Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That the minutes of the Smarter Niagara Steering Committee meeting held on Wednesday, February 12, 2003, be received and the recommendations contained therein approved.

Carried.

120. Minutes of the Waste Management Planning Steering Committee Meeting of Tuesday, February 25, 2003

Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That the minutes of the Waste Management Planning Steering Committee meeting held on Tuesday, February 25, 2003, be received and the recommendations contained therein approved.

Carried.

CLOSED SESSION

121. Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Eke

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

Carried.

122. Lease to Niagara Falls Bridge Commission
Portion of High Rate Treatment Facility Site
Buttrey Street
City of Niagara Falls
PWA 43-2003 CONFIDENTIAL

Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That Report PWA 43-2003, March 11, 2003, respecting the Lease to Niagara Falls Bridge Commission, Portion of High Rate Treatment Facility Site, Buttrey Street in the City of Niagara Falls, be received and the recommendations therein approved.

Carried.

123. Moved by Councillor Konkle
Seconded by Councillor Forster

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

STAFF DIRECTIONS

Staff was requested to:

- in the future communicate the circumstances surrounding higher truck traffic volumes to residents in the area. (Refers to Minute Item # 114) **Water & Wastewater**
- Provide the Town of Fort Erie with a presentation on the hauled waste study upon its completion, to provide the residents with an opportunity to voice their opinions at that time. (Councillor Martin) (Refers to Minute Item # 114) **Water & Wastewater**
- Advise Councillor Buroughs of the circumstances that would allow for a project to be approved, if there were concerns raised by staff, in particular, the project on Page 9 of PWA 24-2003. (Refers to Minute Item # 116) **Commissioner of Public Works**

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 4:05 p.m., to meet again in Committee Room 4 on March 25, 2003 at 1:30 p.m.

Vance Badawey
Chair

Janet Pilon
Legislative Assistant

Thomas R. Hollick
Regional Clerk