

This report is subject to ratification at the Regional Council Meeting of October 21, 2004.
Following ratification, a link to Council Report will be added.

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 21-2004

Minutes of a meeting of the Corporate and Financial Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Wednesday, October 13, 2004, commencing at 10:00 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Martin, Chair; Eke; Heit; Hildreth; Leavens; Saracino; Zimmerman.

Staff: Mr. Bacchus, Commissioner, Corporate Services; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

Staff
(Part-time): Ms. Elliott, Director, Organizational Development & Compensation Services; Mr. Farley, Director, Planning Services; Mr. Murphy, Manager, Policy Planning & Development; Mr. Nicol, Commissioner, Human Resources.

CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

220. Development Charges Waiver for Mini-Storage Units

Moved by Councillor Heit
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report CSD 141-2004, October 13, 2004, respecting Development Charges Waiver for Mini-Storage Units, be received.

That a 75% waiver of Regional Development Charges be approved for the development of 57 mini-storage units located at 6 Wright Street in the City of St. Catharines.

Carried.

Moved by Councillor Heit
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That staff review the Regional Development Charge Waiver/Exemption Program to refine the criteria with respect to the implementation of Smart Growth principles.

Carried.

221. Priority Sanitary Sewer Trunk Cleaning
Project ZSW0303

Moved by Councillor Hildreth
Seconded by Councillor Saracino

That Report CSD 142-2004, October 13, 2004 (PWA 179-2004, October 12, 2004), respecting the Priority Sanitary Sewer Trunk Cleaning, be received.

That debenture financing (1-10 years) in the gross and net amount of \$400,000.00 be approved for Project ZSW0303 Sewer Cleaning Program as submitted in the 2004 Wastewater Capital Budget.

That the quotation for the Priority Sanitary Trunk Cleaning, be awarded to the low tender, Pipeflo Contracting Corporation, at its bid price of \$218,985.95.

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

Carried.

(Report CSD 142-2004/PWA 179-2004 is behind the Joint Reports Tab in the Blue Book.)

222. Position Paper: A New Funding Framework
For Ontario Municipalities

Mr. Bacchus, Commissioner, Corporate Services, provided an overview of Report CSD 143-2004 which responds to a request by Committee to circulate a report on alternative revenue sources. This report was prepared by the Inter-municipal Team on New Revenue Sources, a sub-group of the Ontario Regional and Single Tier Treasurers and Chief Financial Officers. Mr. Bacchus suggested the Committee review the report and consider the other "non-revenue" strategies to help support sustainable infrastructure investments over the long term.

Moved by Councillor Leavens
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

That Report CSD 143-2004, October 13, 2004, respecting Position Paper: A New Funding Framework for Ontario Municipalities, be received.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

223. Moved by Councillor Zimmerman
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Communication CFS 54-2004 from Eric Martens, St. Catharines (October 8, 2004) respecting Regional Development fees at 6 Wright Street, be received.

Carried.

MINUTES

224. Report 9-2004

Moved by Councillor Hildreth
Seconded by Councillor Leavens

That Report 9-2004, being the minutes of the Regional Development Charges Task Force meeting of Monday, September 13, 2004, be received.

Carried.

- 225.

ACCOUNTS

Conflict of Interest

Councillor Heit declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to any matters related to Wireless Communications as he is employed by a Wireless Communication company and he therefore took no part in the discussion of, or voting on, these matters.

Moved by Councillor Saracino
Seconded by Councillor Zimmerman

That Accounts Payable Expense Summary for the period ending August 31, 2004 in the following amounts be approved:

Administration & Corporate Services	\$ 2,223,088.66
Community Services	3,158,105.13
Planning & Development	7,259.83
Public Health	1,164,605.06
Public Works	4,028,517.70
Police Service	535,762.51
Outside Board's & Agencies	0.00
Non Departmental	<u>23,379,17.93</u>
Total	34,496,956.82
G.S.T. Rebate	<u>1,389,409.15</u>
Total Expense Payable	35,886,365.97
Holdback Amount	<u>1,184,046.56</u>
Total Expenses Paid	<u>\$34,702,319.41</u>

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

226. Funding for Ontario Municipalities

Councillor Zimmerman suggested that a special meeting of Committee be scheduled to review and determine alternative funding sources and initiatives such as those outlined in the position paper of Report CSD 143-2004 and, as well, to carry out a brain storming session for new ideas. This information could be brought forward through Paul Godfrey's Federal Government Committee, as well as through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. This would provide an opportunity to make a special appeal for funding to meet the Niagara Region's unique challenges as they relate to such matters as an aging population; border communities; police issues; Bi-national issues and infrastructure issues such as the Mid Peninsula Corridor. Committee concurred that this would be a worthwhile session.

227. Standard & Poor's

Mr. Bacchus advised that a meeting was held on Friday, October 8, 2004 with representatives of Standard & Poor's and the Regional Chair regarding an update on the Region's credit rating. The Commissioner commented that staff was complimented on providing comprehensive and detailed information on the Region and area municipalities' fiscal situation. It is anticipated that a report on the Region's credit rating will be presented to Committee in about a month's time.

CLOSED SESSION

228. Moved by Councillor Hildreth
Seconded by Councillor Eke

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

Carried.

229. Bi-weekly Pay

Moved by Councillor Zimmerman
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report CSD 140-2004, October 13, 2004 (HR 40-2004, October 12, 2004) respecting Bi-weekly Pay, be received for information and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Carried.

230. Elm Street Landfill Matter

Moved by Councillor Zimmerman
Seconded by Councillor Leavens

That staff of the Public Works Department provide a report on the Elm Street Landfill matter for the next Council meeting on Thursday, October 21, 2004.

Carried.

231. Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Leavens

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS (continued)

232. Sewer Charges

A discussion ensued regarding sewer charges shown on property tax bills. Committee was advised that the removal of sewer charges from the property tax bill to the water bill has been taking place in a phased manner over the past three years.

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 10:45 a.m. to meet on Wednesday, October 27, 2004, at 10:00 a.m. in Committee Room 4, Regional Headquarters.

Doug Martin
Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk
/Associate Director of Corporate Strategy