

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL

REPORT CL 5-2004

The Municipal Council of the Regional Municipality of Niagara met in the Council Chamber, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Thursday, March 4, 2004 commencing at 6:45 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Council: Regional Chairman Partington; Councillors Almas, Bailey; Baty, Bentley, Burroughs, Casselman, Collins, Davidson, Gabriel, Goulbourne, Harry, Heit, Hodgson, Leavens, Marshall, Martin, Mastroianni, Nicholson, Redekop, Rigby, Salci, Saracino, Smeaton, Timms, Trombetta.

Staff: Messrs. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Bacchus, Commissioner of Corporate Services Department; Cambray, Commissioner of Planning Services & Development Department; Cousins, Director, Transportation Services; Ms. Gilroy, Acting Regional Clerk; Mr. Nicol, Commissioner Human Resources Department; Ms. Reid, Commissioner, Community Services Department; Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

Staff

(Part-Time): Administration: Mr. Patrick Robson, Director, Corporate Strategy.
Clerk's Department: Ms. Hepplewhite, Records Manager/Deputy Clerk.
Community Services: Mr. Bakewell, Director, Operational Support Services; Mr. Hutchings, Director Social Assistance & Employment Opportunities.
Corporate Services: Ms. Crowley, Budget Coordinator; Mr. Lockyer, Treasurer; Ms. Murphy, Manager, Current and Capital Budgets.
Public Works: Mr. Roach, Manager, Financial Services, P.W.

Police: Chief Nicholls, Ms. Southall, C.A.O., Ms. George, Manager, Financial Services, N.R.P.S.; Mr. Magnacca, Chair, Ms. Morton, Executive Director, Police Services Board.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

88. Moved by Councillor Trombetta
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That this Council do now move into Closed Committee of the Whole for the purposes of receiving information of a confidential nature relating to personnel matters.

Carried.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Councillor Partington declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to any budget matters relating to the Public health Department as his spouse is an employee of that department, and he therefore vacated the Council Chambers, and took no part in, the discussion of, or voting, on these matters.

Councillor Nicholson, as Acting Regional Chair, assumed the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, RISE AND REPORT

89. Moved by Councillor Martin
Seconded by Councillor Bentley

That this Council do now rise without report.

Carried.

Regional Chair Partington assumed the Chair following the conclusion of the Closed Session business.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Councillor Bailey declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to any matters relating to the Niagara Regional Housing as his daughter is an employee of the Corporation, and he therefore took no part in the discussion of, or voting, on these matters.

Councillor Casselman declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to any matters relating to the Human Resources Department Budget as a family member is an employee of a consulting firm that does business with the Region.

Councillor Heit declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to those organizations that deal with Wireless Communication as he is employed by a wireless communication company and to waste management matters with respect to Modern Collection, as they are a client of his, and he therefore took no part in the discussion of, or voting, on these matters.

Councillor Marshall declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to any matters relating to the Niagara Health System, as he is an employee of the Niagara Health System, and he therefore took no part in the discussion of, or voting, on these matters.

Councillor Partington declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to any budget matters relating to the Public health Department as his spouse is an employee of that department, and he therefore took no part in the discussion of, or voting, on these matters.

Regional Chair Partington declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to Minute Item # 21, Report 2-2004, Smarter Niagara Steering Committee minutes of February 11, 2004 respecting the Comments on the Official Plan and Zoning Amendments NHS (SCG Site)/HDH Co-Location Health Complex, Fourth Avenue and First Street in the City of St. Catharines, as he is the property owners legal representative, and he therefore took no part in the discussion of, or voting on, this matter.

Councillor Smeaton declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to any matters related to the Homes for the Aged, as he is an employee of a Seniors Home, and he therefore took no part in the discussion of, or voting, on these matters.

Following Committee of the Whole, Council met in regular session, commencing at 7:15 p.m. with an Invocation by Councillor Burroughs followed by the singing of O' Canada.

90. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Moved by Councillor Nicholson
Seconded by Councillor Martin

That Council Agenda CL 5-2004 be amended and adopted to deal with the following Committee Reports first: Budget Review Committee; Planning Services Committee; Public Health Services Committee; and Committee of the Whole.

Carried.

91. **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Regional Chairman Partington -

- Thanked Jeffery's Greenhouses Inc. for the lovely fuchsia and white cyclamen in the Council Chambers
- Advised that the Federal government has assured local M.P.s that the Region will receive a GST Rebate as promised in Throne speech

- Advised Federal government has also increased its funding to the Niagara Economic and Tourism Corp.
- The Regional Chair has had several meetings in the Community and met with Minister Bradley about tourism and its importance to the Region
- The Regional Chair, together with Councillors Saracino and Casselman and James Lee from the St. Catharines Arts Council, toured Northland Pointe, commenting on the excellent new facility
- The Regional Chair will be hosting an “open door” meeting in Pelham to meet residents, answer their questions and learn of their concerns - this is the first in a series of meetings that he will hold across the Region during the course of the year
- At the next Council meeting we will learn about the public engagement activities that staff is planning for the end of the month - these activities are undertaken as part of the grant the Region received from Environment Canada - the full schedule of activities will be announced at the Smarter Niagara Conference on March 25th

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

92. Report 4-2004

Moved by Councillor Mastroianni
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Report 4-2004, being the minutes of the Proceedings of Council of Thursday, February 19, 2004, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

93. The following Communications were received and dealt with as follows:

C6213 Memorandum to Regional Chairman and Members of Council from Pam Gilroy, Acting Regional Clerk (February 27, 2004) advising that Councillor Zimmerman is unable to continue to serve on the Board of Niagara Regional Housing – Councillor Hildreth has asked to be her replacement on the Board.

Received and approved with Councillor Hildreth appointed to the Board of Niagara Regional Housing to replace Councillor Zimmerman.

C6214 Regional Councillor William Smeaton (February 25, 2004) respecting correspondence from Paul Leon, Chair, Board of Trustees and Debbie Sevenpifer, President and C.E.O. of the

Niagara Health System including an information briefing regarding the St. Catharines General/Hotel Dieu Co-location initiative.

Received.

- C6215 Media Release announcement by the Honourable Joseph Volpe, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, and Kim Craitor, MPP Niagara Falls respecting a \$4 million allocation to the Niagara Region for affordable Housing for low-income people.

Received.

- C6216 Moved by Councillor Saracino
Seconded by Councillor Martin

City of Port Colborne resolution (February 9, 2004) respecting New Revenue Streams for Municipalities and that Prime Minister Martin and Premier McGuinty be petitioned to immediately instruct their respective administrations to develop, in consultation with municipalities, the necessary legislative framework for a comprehensive new financial deal that will assist municipalities with their funding dilemma.

Supported.

- C6217 Peter Partington, Regional Chairman (February 27, 2004) respecting Resolutions from other Municipalities.

Region of Peel resolution (February 12, 2004) requesting that the Prime Minister of Canada appoint a Cabinet Minister with a clear focus on Federal Housing Policy and Delivery.

Received.

City of Sarnia resolution (February 18, 2004) respecting a percentage of the revenue realized by the 8 percent PST and 7 percent GST, be negotiated between representatives of all governments.

Received.

Moved by Councillor Salci
Seconded by Councillor Goulbourne

That Communications C6213 to C6217, be received and dealt with as directed by this Council and as noted in these minutes.

Carried.

PRESENTATION

94. Lack of Cardiac Rehabilitation Funding
From the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care

Karen Stearn and Dr. Stafford Dobbin, Heart Niagara, attended Council to apprise members and the public of the lack of Cardiac Rehabilitation Funding from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. The Niagara Region is the largest population in Ontario with no regional access to Ministry funded cardiac rehab or advanced cardiac services. Council was advised that Heart Niagara will never be able to provide the level or quantity of cardiac rehab services required to meet Niagara's demand without funding. Heart Niagara requires Ministry of Health and Long Term Care funding for cardiac rehab services immediately to elevate Niagara to the standard that is present in 23 other Ontario communities. In December 2003 Heart Niagara re-submitted the proposal for regional cardiac rehab funding supported by all key stakeholder organizations in Niagara. Heart Niagara has raised dollars from the community of Niagara to provide limited cardiac rehabilitation services to the Niagara Region for over twenty five years. Dr. Dobbin requested Regional Council's assistance to address the inequity of cardiovascular services in Niagara.

Councillor Smeaton gave "Notice of Motion" that a formal resolution, to be formulated with the Medical Officer of Health, together with the assistance of Heart Niagara and the District Health Council, will be brought to the next Council meeting for support for submission to the Ministry of Health regarding the inequity of cardiac services in the Niagara Region and the limited access to cardiac rehab and to request a meeting with the Minister on this crucial matter.

Moved by Councillor Smeaton
Seconded by Councillor Davidson

That a formal resolution be drafted for the next Council meeting for submission to the Ministry of Health regarding the inequity of cardiac services in the Niagara Region and the limited access to cardiac rehab and to request a meeting with the Minister of Health on this crucial matter.

Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councillor Peter Partington vacated the Chair and Councillor Nicholson, as Acting Regional Chair, assumed the Chair.

BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE

95. Report 5-2004

Moved by Councillor Martin
Seconded by Councillor Collins

That Report BRC 5-2004, being the minutes of the Budget Review Committee meeting of Thursday, February 19, 2004, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

96. Report 6-2004

Moved by Councillor Martin
Seconded by Councillor Collins

That Report BRC 6-2004, being the minutes of the Budget Review Committee meeting of Thursday, February 26, 2004, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

PLANNING SERVICES COMMITTEE

97. Report 4-2004

Moved by Councillor Trombetta
Seconded by Councillor Smeaton

That Report PS 4-2004, being the minutes of the Planning Services Committee meeting of Wednesday, February 25, 2004, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

98. Report 4-2004

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Report PHSC 4-2004, being the minutes of the Public Health Services Committee meeting of Monday, February 23, 2004, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

99. Moved by Councillor Martin
Seconded by Councillor Saracino

That the decisions made in the Committee of the Whole meeting of Thursday, March 4, 2004, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

Regional Chair Partington assumed the Chair.

**JOINT CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE AND PUBLIC
WORKS AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE**

100. Report CFS6/PW 7-2004

Moved by Councillor Martin
Seconded by Councillor Saracino

That Report CFS 6/PW7-2004, being the minutes of the Joint Corporate and Financial Services Committee and Public Works and Utilities Committee meeting of Wednesday, February 25, 2004, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

101. Report 7-2004

Moved by Councillor Martin
Seconded by Councillor Saracino

That Report CFS 7-2004, being the minutes of the Corporate and Financial Services Committee meeting of Wednesday, February 25, 2004, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

102. Report 4-2004

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Gabriel

That Report CSC 4-2004, being the minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting of Monday, February 23, 2004, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE

103. Report 6-2004

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That Report PW 6-2004, being the minutes of the Public Works and Utilities Committee of Tuesday, February 24, 2004, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

104. Smarter Niagara Summit

Councillor Gabriel reminded Council that a Smarter Niagara Summit will be held at White Oaks on March 25th, 2004 and invited everyone to attend.

105. Northland Greenhouses

Councillor Rigby apprised Council of the initiative taken by Northland Greenhouses who are developing an organic flower pot, made of peat and fibre. This pot can be recycled or planted in the garden where it will disintegrate. Northland is involving other growers and suppliers in order to accomplish this project and to try and meet the target of 65% recycling.

106. AMO Countries and Regions Meeting in Niagara

Councillor Collins advised that the Region of Niagara has been approved for the October 2005 Association of Counties and Regions Conference (ACRO) to be held in the City of Niagara Falls, Ontario. Councillor Collins also suggested that if Niagara is interested in hosting AMO's Annual Conference in 2008, lobbying should start now.

BY-LAWS

107. Moved by Councillor Saracino
Seconded by Councillor Martin

That the following bills be now read and do pass:

Bill 23

A by-law to adopt, ratify and confirm the actions of the Regional Council at its meeting held on the 4th Day of March, 2004.

Carried.

108. Moved by Councillor Trombetta
Seconded by Councillor Salci

That the following bills be now read and do pass:

Bill 24

A by-law to provide for the regulation of traffic on Regional highways in the City of St. Catharines.

Bill 25

A by-law regulating the use by the public of the Glenridge Quarry Naturalization Site.

Bill 26

A by-law to authorize debenture financing in the amount of \$15,000,000 for the funding of the City of Niagara Falls' share for the construction of the Community Centre.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Peter Partington
Regional Chairman

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Acting Regional Clerk