

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE

REPORT 11-2004

Minutes of a meeting of the Public Works and Utilities Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Tuesday, April 27, 2004 commencing at 1:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Rigby, Chair; Regional Chair Partington, Bailey, Bodner, Burroughs, Eke, Goulbourne, Harry, Hodgson, Leavens, Redekop, Salci, Trombetta.

Staff: Messrs. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Sidawi, Director, Operational Support Services; Brcic, Director, Water & Wastewater Services; Ms. Ralph, Manager, Solid Waste Policy & Planning; Ms. Pilon, Legislative Assistant.

Staff (Part-Time): Messrs. Bacchus, Commissioner, Corporate Services; Nicol, Commissioner, Human Resources; Hughes, Associate Director, Transportation Engineering; Gilroy, Coordinator Properties; Bowles, Executive Assisting to the Regional Chair; Flora, Transportation Engineer; Barr, Consultant; Ms. Smith, Legal Services Assistant.

ADMINISTRATION

169. Tender Award for Contract RN 04-07
John Street Elevated Water Tank Replacement
Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
Project ID ZCW0115/CW0115
PWA 83-2004

Mr. Brcic advised the Committee that the recommendations have been **amended** to address the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's concerns surrounding the construction schedule during tourist season.

Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Report PWA 83-2004, April 27, 2004, respecting the Tender Award for Contract RN 04-07, John Street Elevated Water Tank Replacement in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Project ID ZCW0115/CW0115, be received.

That Contract RN 04-07, John Street Elevated Water Tank Replacement, be awarded to Nexterra Substructures Incorporated at their bid price of \$3,407,860.50, **subject to a construction schedule and phasing acceptable to Niagara Region.**

That a contingency amount of \$300,000.00 be provided for this project.

That the engineering assignment with Totten Sims Hubicki Associates (TSH) be extended to provide the related engineering services in the amount of \$180,156.00.

That the Regional Clerk be directed to ensure that the appropriate by-law(s) are prepared for submission to Regional Council 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 ID ZCW0115/CW0115.
(Water & Wastewater Services)

Carried.

170. Revised Inter-Municipal Transit Action Plan
PWA 79-2004

Regional Chair Partington noted that the By-law attached to the report, page 9 notes "AND WHEREAS a majority of the Councils of all the lower-tier municipalities forming part of the Regional Municipality of Niagara have passed resolutions giving their consent to the by-law;" and then on page 10, item number six (6) (a) A majority of the Councils of all of the lower-tier municipalities forming part of The Regional Municipality of Niagara have passed resolutions giving consent to this by-law; and", which contradict each other and therefore, the By-law requires editing before being approved by Regional Council.

Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Report PWA 79-2004, April 27, 2004, respecting the Revised Inter-Municipal Transit Action Plan, be received.

That subject to Triple Majority approval (Part v, Section 189 of the *Municipal Act*) staff be authorized to proceed with the implementation of Inter-municipal Specialized Transit services as outlined in this report;

That Regional Council pass the attached **amended** By-law (Appendix I); and

That Regional Council circulate the attached **amended** By-law to the Lower-tier Municipalities and ask them to pass resolutions giving their consent to the **amended** By-law. (Transportation Services)

Carried.

For Committee Consideration

The Committee considered the following staff recommendations contained in the PWA Summary, April 27, 2004:

171. Expropriations – Roberts Street Gateway Project
City of Niagara Falls

PWA 74-2004 (CSD 60-2004)

That Report PWA 74-2004 (CSD 60-2004), April 27, 2004, respecting Expropriations – Roberts Street Gateway Project, City of Niagara Falls, be received.

That Regional Council refer the matter of the expropriation of 5248 Roberts Street, Niagara Falls, to the Chief Inquiry Officer pursuant to the Expropriations Act;

That Regional Council approve the expropriation of 5086 Roberts Street, Niagara Falls and authorize staff to obtain and register an expropriation plan and pursue the remaining steps in the expropriation process;

That the Regional Clerk be requested to ensure the necessary by-laws are prepared and presented to Council to authorize these steps. (Operational Support Services) (Corporate Services Department – Legal Division)

(Please note that Report PWA 74-2004 (CSD 60-2004) is attached to the Corporate and Financial Services Committee minutes)

172. Bicycle Tourism and Public Outreach Initiatives
by the Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee

PWA 75-2004 (DPD 58-2004)

That Report PWA 75-2004 (DPD 58-2004), April 27, 2004, respecting the Bicycle Tourism and Public Outreach Initiatives by the Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee, be received and forwarded to the Minister of Tourism, the Niagara Economic and Tourism Corporation, Niagara Falls Tourism, the Waterfront Regeneration Trust, all local municipalities, the Niagara Freewheelers Bicycle Touring Club, the Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee and the Greater Niagara Circle Route Committee for their information. (Transportation Services Department) (Planning Department)

(Please note that Report PWA 75-2004 (DPD 58-2004) is attached to the Planning Services Committee minutes)

173. Capital Budget Allocation Bylaw for Projects
In the 2004 Buildings and Equipment Capital Program

PWA 76-2004 (CSD 62-2004)

That Report PWA 76-2004 (CSD 62-2004), April 27, 2004, respecting the Capital Budget Allocation Bylaw for Projects in the 2004 Buildings and Equipment Capital Program, be received.

That Debenture financing (1-10 years) be approved for Project ZGD0203 Building Improvement Program for Regional Facilities included in the 2004 Buildings and Equipment Capital Program for \$550,000 gross and net amounts.

That Capital Levy financing be approved for Project ZGD0403 Ontario Disabilities Act Renovations included in the 2004 Buildings and Equipment Capital Program for \$250,000 gross and net amounts.

That Capital Levy financing be approved for Project ZRE0310 Wind Power EA Implementation included in the 2004 Buildings and Equipment Capital Program for \$75,000 gross and net amounts.

That the Regional Clerk be directed to ensure that the appropriate bylaw(s) are prepared for presentation to Regional Council on May 6, 2004.
(Operational Support Services) (Corporate Services Department)

(Please note that Report PWA 76-2004 (CSD 62-2004) is attached to the Corporate and Financial Services Committee minutes)

174. Glass Grinding System

PWA 77-2004 (CSD 66-2004)

That Report PWA 77-2004 (CSD 66-2004), April 27, 2004, respecting the Glass Grinding System, be received.

That staff enter into negotiations with Niagara Recycling to develop the terms and conditions for a draft partnership agreement to own and operate a new glass grinding system to manage recyclable glass from Niagara and possibly from outside the Region.

That the details of these negotiations and the draft agreement between the Niagara Region and Niagara Recycling be presented to Council for their approval. (Waste Management Services) (Corporate Services Department)

(Please note that Report PWA 77-2004 (CSD 66-2004) is attached to the Corporate and Financial Services Committee minutes)

175. Addition of New Committee Members and the
Amendments to Terms of Reference for Two
Regional Landfill Site Public/Citizens Liaison Committees
PWA 78-2004

That Report PWA 78-2004, April 27, 2004, respecting the Addition of New Committee Members and the Amendments to Terms of Reference for Two Regional Landfill Site Public/Citizens Liaison Committees, be received.

That Regional Council approve of the recommended amendments to the Terms of Reference for the Line 5 Landfill Site (Niagara-on-the-Lake) Public Liaison Committee and The Niagara Road 12 (West Lincoln) Citizens' Liaison Committee, as outlined in this Report, and;

That Regional Council approve the appointment of the recommended candidates to the Line 5 Landfill Site Public Liaison Committee and the Niagara Road 12 Landfill Site Citizens Liaison Committee, as outlined in this Report. (Waste Management Services)

176. Ontario Parcel – Map License Agreements

PWA 80-2004

That Report PWA 80-2004, April 27, 2004, respecting the Ontario Parcel – Map License Agreements, be received.

That the Region enter into Ontario Parcel Agreements with Teranet Enterprises Inc. and the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) to license property and assessment mapping respectively. (Operational Support Services)

177. Agreement – Advertising Benches, Kiwanis Club
City of Niagara Falls

PWA 81-2004

That Report PWA 81-2004, April 27, 2004, respecting the Agreement – Advertising Benches, Kiwanis Club in the City of Niagara Falls, be received.

That the City of Niagara Falls and Kiwanis Club of Stamford enter into a tri-party agreement with the Region for the placement or replacement of advertising benches along Regional road allowances within the City of Niagara Falls;

That the City of Niagara Falls be authorized to act on behalf of the Region with respect to these benches;

That this agreement be prepared by the Region's Solicitor to the satisfaction of the Commissioner of Public Works;

And that the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute this agreement on behalf of the Region. (Operational Support Services)

178. 2004 Roads Rehabilitation Program

PWA 82-2004

That Report PWA 82-2004, April 27, 2004, respecting the 2004 Roads Rehabilitation Program, be received.

That the proposed 2004 strengthening and resurfacing list as detailed in Appendix "1" and Appendix "2", be approved;

That staff be authorized to proceed forthwith with tender calls for the strengthening and resurfacing contracts covering the streets listed in Appendix "1";

That the project costs be charged to Parent Project ID ZRC0401, 2004 Road Rehabilitation Program. (Transportation Services)

179. Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That the PWA Summary, dated April 27, 2004, and the foregoing recommendations of Reports PWA 74-2004 (CSD 60-2004) to PWA 78-2004, PWA 80-2004 to PWA 82-2004 inclusive, be received and accepted.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

180. Communications listed in Report PWC Summary, dated April 27, 2004, were received and dealt with as follows:

PWC 21-2004 – (April 5, 2004) – **Ms. Suzanne McInnes**, Watershed Planning Co-ordinator, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, to Acting Regional Clerk Pam Gilroy, regarding the Conservation's watershed plans for the Twelve Mile Creek and Twenty Mile Creek.

-- Received and refer to presentation listed under Minute Item # 191.

PWC 22-2004 (PD 27-2004)– (April 13, 2004) – **Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee** (Chair – Mayor/Regional Councillor Ronald W. Leavens). Comments from the Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee (RNBC) on an Environmental Assessment review involving a proposed Roundabout (RAB) at Glenridge Avenue and Glen Morris Drive in St. Catharines. While the RNBC had concerns about the proposed location and design, there is general support for a RAB as a demonstration project in other locations involving the integration of bicyclists into the roadway design itself. (Refer to correspondence item Final Report – Glenridge Review Sub Committee – Regional Niagara Bicycle Committee)

-- Received for information

181. Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That the contents of the PWC Summary, April 27, 2004, be received and dealt with as directed by this Committee and as noted in these minutes.

Carried.

PROGRESS REPORTS

182. Construction Progress Report
Transportation Services

Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Trombetta

That Report PWP 22-2004, April 27, 2004, respecting the Construction Progress Report, Transportation Services, be received for information.

Carried.

CLOSED SESSION

183. Moved by Councillor Trombetta
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.

184. Property Matter

Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That the property matter be deferred to the May 11, 2004 Public Works and Utilities Committee meeting to obtain further information.

Carried.

185. Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Redekop

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

MINUTES

186. Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee Meeting of Thursday, March 11, 2004

Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That the minutes of the Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee meeting, of Thursday, March 11, 2004, be received and the recommendations contained therein be referred to staff for comment.

Carried.

187. Transportation Strategy Steering Committee Meeting of Tuesday, April 13, 2004

Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That the minutes of the Transportation Strategy Steering Committee meeting of Tuesday, April 13, 2004, be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Carried.

188. Smarter Niagara Steering Committee Meeting of Wednesday, April 14, 2004

Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That the minutes of the Smarter Niagara Steering Committee meeting of Wednesday, April 14, 2004, be received for information.

Carried.

ACCOUNTS

189. Moved by Councillor Trombetta
Seconded by Councillor Leavens

That the accounts list for the period ending February 29, 2004 in the amount of \$4,452,239.38 and March 31, 2004 in the amount of \$4,571,500.85, be approved for payment.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

190. Introduction of Regional Chair's Executive Assistant

Regional Chair Partington introduced Andrew Bowles, his new Executive Assistant. Mr. Bowles will be working directly with the Regional Chair Partington on many important political and regional issues.

191. 2004 Roads Rehabilitation Program

Councillor Redekop referred to Report PWA 82-2004, the 2004 Roads Rehabilitation Program and noted that a portion of Dominion Road was omitted from the list, it was therefore:

Moved by Councillor Redekop
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That the Dominion Road from Ridge Road to Burleigh Hill, be added to the list.

Carried.

PRESENTATIONS

192. Watershed Plans for Twelve Mile Creek and Twenty Mile Creek

Ms. Suzanne McInnes, Watershed Planning Coordinator and Mr. Tony D'Amario, Director, Water Management of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority provided the Committee with a presentation to inform the Niagara Region of the preparation of Watershed Plans for Twenty Mile Creek and Twelve Mile Creek. The preparation of Watershed Plans for Twelve Mile Creek and Twenty Mile Creek were recommended within the Niagara Water Quality Protection Strategy.

A Watershed Management Plan is a proactive document created cooperatively by government agencies and the community to manage the water, land/water interactions, aquatic life and aquatic resources within a particular watershed to protect the health of the ecosystem as land uses change.

The implementation of a Watershed Management Plan will provide municipalities with a framework to implement it through the land use planning process, and will identify opportunities for stakeholder groups and individuals to implement the recommendations on the ground. It will also address the feasibility of landowner grants/funding etc. to complete restoration projects, public agency land acquisition programs, conservation easements and other non-traditional approaches.

Ms. McInnes extended an invitation to the Niagara Region to recommend a municipal representative to participate on each of the Study Steering Committees.

Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority's presentation on Watershed Plans for Twelve Mile Creek and Twenty Mile Creek, be received.

Carried.

193. Transportation Issues for the Hospitality Sector in Niagara

Mr. Peter Wadsworth, Vice President, Human Resources, Canadian Niagara Hotels Inc., Ms. Caslin, Senior Human Resources Manager, Vintage Inns and Chair, Niagara Association of Hospitality Human Resources Professionals and Ms. Nancy Sutton, Project Manager, Niagara Tourism Human Resources Council, Niagara College provided the Committee with a presentation on the transportation issues for the Hospitality sector in Niagara.

Ms. Sutton provided the Committee with a showing of a video, which will be distributed to five-hundred schools in Niagara Region, to raise the awareness of the careers in the tourism sector.

Mr. Wadsworth advised the Committee that from a Human Resources perspective, there are challenges in Niagara Region in attracting and retaining a workforce due to a number of barriers, one being the lack of transportation in Niagara Region, for seniors; individuals re-entering the workforce; new immigrants and individuals dependent on the services of Community Services being able to get to the jobs that are available in Niagara Region.

The Committee was advised the Committee that the pay rates and benefit plans in place are competitive, however, the hospitality industry has and will continue to experience a workforce shortfall, if transportation is not available.

Mr. Wadsworth provided the Committee with an example of the shortage by noting the need for eight-hundred (800) cleaners for the new Casino and five-hundred (500) room attendants for the hospitality sector and if some of those job are not filled, some of the establishments in Niagara Region will be forced to close for the season, rather than provide tourists with accommodations below average standards.

Mr. Wadsworth noted that the labour shortage in Niagara Region is not just a hospitality sector issue; there are many businesses in the Niagara Region who are experiencing the lack of a qualified/skilled workforce to meet their employment requirements.

The Committee asked Mr. Wadsworth if there was a possibility for obtaining a portion of the costs for the initiation of an inter-municipal transit system from private corporations, Mr. Wadsworth's Association has been in contact with.

Mr. Wadsworth noted that an inter-municipal transit system is required for all business in Niagara Region and falls under the jurisdiction of the Niagara Region.

Mr. Wadsworth noted that the hospitality industry would encourage the use of transit within their workforce by creating a disincentive for driving their vehicles to work through the charging for parking and offering the employees payroll deduction transit fees, if there was a level playing field in Niagara Region.

The Committee noted that the demand has to be in place, prior to initiating an inter-municipal transit system and would therefore require the completion of a number of comprehensive studies.

The Committee thanked the presenters for their presentation.

Moved by Councillor Bodner
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That the presentation by the Niagara Association of Hospitality Human Resources Professionals, be received.

Carried.

CLOSED SESSION

194. Moved by Councillor Trombetta
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 legal matters.

Carried.

195. Wastewater Billing

Moved by Councillor Redekop
Seconded by Councillor Trombetta

That the proposed settlement for the Wastewater billing error in the City of Welland, be approved.

Carried.

Moved by Councillor Redekop
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That the oral report on the Wastewater billing error in the City of Niagara Falls, be received; and

That staff continue to work with the City of Niagara Falls.

Carried.

196. Moved by Councillor Trombetta
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 3:50 p.m., to meet again in Committee Room 4, May 11, 2004 at 1:30 p.m.

Tim Rigby
Chair

Janet Pilon
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Acting Regional Clerk