

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 10-2005

Minutes of a meeting of the Corporate and Financial Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Wednesday, June 22, 2005, commencing at 10:05 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Martin, Chair; Partington, Regional Chair; Angelone; Eke; Hildreth; Leavens; Saracino; Zimmerman.

Staff: Mr. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Mr. Lockyer, Treasurer/Director of Financial Management and Planning; Ms. Reilly, Acting Deputy Clerk.

Staff
(Part-time): Mr. Bousfield, Manager, Property and Facility Management; Ms. Chamberlain, Capital Analyst; Mr. Cousins, Director, Transportation Services; Mr. Forgeron, Senior Planner; Mr. Gummo, Senior Policy Coordination Planner; Mr. Kyne, Director, Legal Services; Ms. Murphy, Manager, Budgets and Reporting; Mr. Roach, Manager, Financial Services, P.W..

Others: Ms. Beckwith, General Manager, Niagara Regional Housing; Ms. Elliott, Acting Director, N.R.P.S.; Ms. George, Manager of Finance, N.R.P.S., Ms. Morton, Executive Director, Police Services Board.

PRESENTATIONS

140. Leo Bonomi regarding Bethlehem Project

Leo Bonomi attended to apprise Committee of the concerns of Downtown residents with the proposed Bethlehem Project. Mr. Bonomi depicted a comparison of Bethlehem Place versus Bethlehem Project, commenting that Bethlehem Place provided people with a support system to assist them with life skills including temporary housing for up to one year, while the proposed Bethlehem Project is intended to provide permanent housing for low income persons. Mr. Bonomi commented that the Downtown area was not the best location for the permanent social housing project as the area already provides many social programs and services and that there is an over concentration of social programs in the area. He urged diversification and recommended smaller projects at various locations throughout the city rather than concentrating on one area. Mr. Bonomi urged Committee and Council to

abstain from guaranteeing the loan pending further review of the project by staff.

141. Leslie Landolt regarding Bethlehem Project

Leslie Landolt attended on behalf of home owners in the Downtown area to express their concerns on the proposed Bethlehem Project. Ms. Landolt commented that the Downtown area should be a safe place to shop, dine, play and live as suggested by the City's flags exhibited in the area. She commented that this is not the case as there is an increase of violence in the area and expressed residents' frustrations in their attempts to get rid of negative influences detrimental to the neighbourhood. Ms. Landolt requested that Committee and Council not approve the guarantee of the loan to Bethlehem Project until an impact study is completed by the City of St. Catharines.

142. Tom and Gail Richardson regarding Bethlehem Project

Tom and Gail Richardson attended in support of the Bethlehem Project. Mr. Richardson provided background information on the land purchase, noting that the property is currently owned by the City of St. Catharines and that the city has accepted the offer by Bethlehem Projects. Mr. Richardson commented that Bethlehem had been approached by Opportunities Niagara to partner in this project initially and that the project has the support of the Niagara Regional Housing Corporation.

Ms. Richardson provided information on the proposed project. She advised that the project is not a high rise unit since it involves only 40 units and noted that it will be located on a site that has been vacant for over 20 years. She commented that Bethlehem Housing Projects of Niagara is a respected and well run community based agency. The proposed project will have a Tenants Association and will be developed with "best practices" in mind and be a good community neighbour. Ms. Richardson commented that there would be full time support staff and superintendent on site to take care of the building. Mr. and Mrs. Richardson urged Committee to support the report which authorizes staff to investigate the viability of the Region of Niagara guaranteeing a loan for Bethlehem Projects as outlined in the report.

CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

143. Moved by Regional Chair Partington
Seconded by Councillor Zimmerman

That Report CSD 94-2005, June 22, 2005, respecting Loan Guarantee Request for Bethlehem Projects of Niagara, be received.

That the Commissioner of Corporate Services be directed to investigate the viability of the Region of Niagara guaranteeing a five year loan in an amount not to exceed \$700,000 for Bethlehem Projects of Niagara and further, if the

Commissioner of Corporate Services concludes that this loan agreement is viable that he negotiate all appropriate terms and conditions of the guarantee and report back to Council on the results of these negotiations.

Carried.

JOINT REPORTS
**(Joint Reports can be found behind the
Joint Reports Tab in the Blue Book)**

144. Initiation & Approval ZPL0201
Waterfront Trail Construction:
Investing in the Lake Ontario
Waterfront Trail: Phase 3 to Support
Healthy Communities through Partnerships

Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Saracino

That Report CSD 88-2005/DPD 92-2005, June 22, 2005, respecting Initiation & Approval ZPL0201, Waterfront Trail Construction: Investing in the Lake Ontario, Waterfront Trail: Phase 3 to Support Healthy Communities through Partnerships, be received and that financing be approved.

Carried.

- 145 Retention of Consulting Services to
Develop a Pollution Control and
Infrastructure Plan for the City of Port Colborne

Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Saracino

That Report CSD 89-2005, June 22, 2005 (PWA 109-2005, June 21, 2005) respecting Retention of consulting Services to develop a Pollution Control and Infrastructure Plan for the City of Port Colborne, be received and the financing be approved.

Carried.

146. Request for Capital Budget Allocation By-law and
Financing Approval for Projects in the 2004 and 2005
Water and Wastewater Capital Programs

Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Saracino

That Report CSD 91, 2005, June 22, 2005 (PWA 110-2005, June 21, 2005) respecting Request for Capital Budget Allocation By-law and Financing Approval for Projects in the 2004 and 2005 Water and Wastewater Capital Programs, be received and the financing be approved.

Carried.

147. Sign Manufacturing Equipment Purchase

Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Saracino

That Report CSD 96-2005, June 22, 2005 (PWA 115-2005, June 21, 2005) respecting Sign Manufacturing Equipment Purchase, be received and the financing be approved.

Carried.

148. Contract RN 05-26 Tender Award
Reconstruction of Regional Road 83 (Carlton Street)
From Lake Street to Kernahan Street in the
City of St. Catharines, Project ZRC0232/RC0232

Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Saracino

That Report CSD 97-2005, June 22, 2005 (PWA 116-2005, June 21, 2005) respecting Contract RN 05-26 Tender Award, Reconstruction of Regional Road 83 (Carlton Street) from Lake Street to Kernahan Street in the City of St. Catharines Project ZRC0232/RC0232, be received and the financing be approved.

Carried.

CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT (continued)

149. Allocation of Additional Niagara Regional Housing
(NRH) Surplus from 2004

Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report CSD 84-2005, June 22, 2005, respecting Allocation of Additional Niagara Regional Housing (NRH) Surplus from 2004, be received.

That additional unallocated surplus in the amount of \$1,641,281 arising from NRH operations from 2004 and prior, be transferred to the Niagara Regional Housing Reserve Fund; and

That the amount be considered, during the 2006 budget process, for use to mitigate the impact of increasing Social Housing costs, as suggested in CSD 82-2005 "Social Housing Benchmarks" (June 1, 2005).

Carried.

150. 2006 Current and Capital Budget Guidelines

Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report CSD 86-2005, June 22, 2005, respecting 2006 Current and Capital Budget Guidelines, be received.

That the attached timetable for completing the 2006 Budget estimates be approved.

That all Departments, Boards and Agencies funded by the Region be instructed to prepare 2006 Current and Capital Budget estimates in accordance with the attached guidelines.

That the 2006 Current and Capital Budget estimates be submitted for consideration to Committee of the Whole in accordance with the attached Budget Timetable.

Carried.

151. Payments-in-Lieu – Heads and Beds

Moved by Councillor Hildreth
Seconded by Councillor Leavens

That Report CSD 90-2005, June 22, 2005, respecting Payment-in-Lieu – Heads and Beds, be deferred.

Carried.

152. Cash Management Activities for the First Quarter 2005

Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

That Report CSD 87-2005, June 22, 2005, respecting Cash Management Activities for the First Quarter 2005 be received for information.

Carried.

153. Follow up Item from CSD 45-2005 "Year End Transfer Report"
re: Police 2005 Surplus

Moved by Councillor Hildreth
Seconded by Councillor Zimmerman

That Report CSD 93-2005, June 22, 2005, respecting Follow up Item from CSD 45-2005 "Year End Transfer Report" re: Police 2005 Surplus, be received.

That the excess benefit costs in the amount of \$1.5 million, included in the 2005 base budget, be removed, thereby reducing the 2005 Police Base Budget by \$1.5 million, and applied to reduce the 2006 tax levy through the mechanism recommended in this report.

Carried.

MINUTES

154. Moved by Councillor Hildreth
Seconded by Councillor Zimmerman

That Report 2-2005, being the minutes of the Regional Development Charges Task Force meeting of Tuesday, May 24, 2005, be approved.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

155. Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

That the following communications be received:

CFS 50-2005 Deb Morton, Executive Director, Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board (June 1, 2005) respecting Award of Quotation 2005-Q-28 – Supply of Digital Camera Kits, Forensic Services Unit

CFS 51-2005 Deb Morton, Executive Director, Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board (June 1, 2005) respecting NRPS Novell Yearly Software Licence & Maintenance Upgrade Agreement.

- CFS 52-2005 Deb Morton, Executive Director, Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board (June 1, 2005) respecting High Speed Telecommunications Infrastructure Upgrade – Initiation of Project ZPO0504 Data Communication Line Upgrades.
- CFS 53-2005 Deb Morton, Executive Director, Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board (June 1, 2005) respecting Initiation – Project ZPO0502 – IT Equipment Replacement
- CFS 55-2005 Shafee Bacchus, Commissioner of Corporate Services (June 22, 2005) regarding Mapping Infrastructure Systems Reserve Staff Direction: CSD 60-2005, May 11, 2005, item #105.
- CFS 56-2005 Deb Morton, Executive Director, Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board (June 1, 2005) respecting NRPS Financial Variance Report.
- CFS 57-2005 Deb Morton, Executive Director, Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board (June 1, 2005) respecting OMERS Contribution Rate Review – HR 16-2005/CSD 56-2005
- CFS 58-2005 David W. J. Calder, Commissioner of Public Access & Council Services (May 17, 2005) The Corporation of the City of Cambridge regarding Volunteer and Municipal Trails and requesting that municipalities pass similar resolutions of support.
- CFS 59-2005 Memorandum from Shafee Bacchus, Commissioner, Corporate Services (June 14, 2005) respecting Staff Direction Corporate & Financial Services Committee – June 1, 2005 Minute Item 125 – Waste Management.

Carried.

CLOSED SESSION

156. Moved by Councillor Zimmerman
Seconded by Councillor Leavens

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

Carried.

157. Communication CFS 54-2005
Niagara Regional Police Services Board

Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Leavens

That Communication CFS 54-2005 from Niagara Police Services Board Initiation – Project ZPO0510, Police Service Telephone System Upgrades & Project ZPO0506, Radio System Infrastructure & Equipment, be received.

Carried.

158. Temporary Payroll Advance to
Support Bi-weekly Pay

Moved by Councillor Leavens
Seconded by Councillor Zimmerman

That Report CSD 74-2005, June 22, 2005 (HR 27-2005, June 21, 2005) respecting Temporary Payroll Advance to Support Bi-weekly Pay, be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Carried.

159. Proposed Sharing of Facility by
EMS Ambulance Staff of New Fire Station
Townline Road, South of York Road
Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake

Moved by Regional Chair Partington
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report CSD 85-2005, June 22, 2005 (PHD 36-2005, June 20, 2005/PWA 105-2005, June 21, 2005) respecting Proposed Sharing of Facility by EMS Ambulance Staff of New Fire Station Townline Road, South of York Road, Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Carried.

160. Communication CFS 60-2005
Agricultural Food Rural Affairs Appeal Tribunal Decision

Councillor Zimmerman declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to Communication CFS 60-2005, Agricultural Food Rural Affairs Appeal Tribunal Decision as she is Chair of the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation

and employed by the Grape Growers Association and she therefore vacated the Committee Room and took no part in the discussion of, or voting on, this matter.

161. Moved by Councillor Leavens
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Communication CFS 60-2005 respecting Agricultural Food Rural Affairs Appeal Tribunal Decision be received and that staff proceed as directed with a further report to Committee on this matter.

Carried.

162. Moved by Councillor Saracino
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 11:20 a.m. to meet again on Wednesday, July 13, 2005, at 10:00 a.m. in Committee Room 4, Regional Headquarters.

Doug Martin
Chair

Gail Reilly
Acting Deputy Clerk

Anne Hepplewhite
Acting Regional Clerk