

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 15-2005

Minutes of a meeting of the Corporate and Financial Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Wednesday, October 5, 2005, commencing at 10:00 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Martin, Chair; Partington, Regional Chair; Burroughs; Heit; Hildreth; Leavens; Zimmerman.

Staff: Mr. Kyne, Acting Commissioner, Corporate Services; Mr. Lockyer, Treasurer/Director of Financial Management and Planning; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

JOINT REPORT

225. Award of Contract RN 05-46, Niagara Parkway Sanitary Trunk Sewer Replacement and Battery Street Road Construction in the Town of Fort Erie

Moved by Councillor Heit
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

That Report CSD 136-2005, October 5, 2005 (PWA 167-2005, October 4, 2005) respecting Award of contract RN 05-46, Niagara Parkway Sanitary Trunk Sewer Replacement and Battery Street Road Reconstruction in the Town of Fort Erie, be received and that the financing be approved.

Carried.

CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

226. Forecast of Year-End Results and Budget to Actual Comparison for the Month Ended August 31, 2005

Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

That Report CSD 137-2005, October 5, 2005, respecting Forecast of Year-End Results and Budget to Actual Comparison for the Month Ended August 31, 2005, be received for information.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

A discussion ensued regarding the ongoing issues related to property assessment and the Province's lack of response to these matters. Councillor Zimmerman apprised Committee of the challenges facing the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) regarding MPAC's need to follow Provincial policies as set down by the Ministry of Finance. Councillor Zimmerman commented that while Niagara requires a new assessment system to address its assessment problems, the Province of Ontario's assessment system is being looked to as a model by others. Committee concurred that the Provincial downloading of services over the last ten years, most specifically Community Services, and lack of appropriate funding levels by the Province, has increased the burden on the property taxpayer.

227. Moved by Councillor Hildreth
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That Communication CFS 72-2005 from Penny Christie, Municipal Relations Representative, Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (September 1, 2005) providing updated information on Property Assessment Notices and the Market Change Profile (MCP), be received.

Carried.

228. In reviewing the following correspondence item, Councillor Burroughs advised that he would request that this matter be considered at his Council's meeting next Monday and supported. The Clerk is to write a letter to the Mayor of the City of Niagara Falls and request his Council's support for this matter as soon as possible.

Moved by Councillor Heit
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

That Communication CFS 73-2005, Memo to Doug Martin, Chair, Corporate and Financial Services Committee (October 4, 2005) regarding responses from area municipalities with respect to the Region's resolution seeking support for the elimination of all tax capping programs for the year 2006, be received.

Carried.

TILE DRAINAGE

29. Moved by Councillor Zimmerman
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

WHEREAS By-law No. 5988-90 authorizes the Regional Municipality of Niagara to borrow an amount not exceeding \$4,657,000 and to issue debentures therefore, payable to the Treasurer of Ontario pursuant to The Tile Drainage Act, 1971, as may be directed by resolution of the Regional Council upon application of an area municipality from time to time;

BE IT RESOLVED THEREFORE THAT the Regional Chair and the Treasurer be and they are hereby authorized to issue a debenture of The Regional Municipality of Niagara payable to the Treasurer of the Province of Ontario to borrow on behalf of the area municipalities listed below the amounts specified for such area municipalities respectively, for the purpose of The Tile Drainage Act.

Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake	\$50,000.00	Carried.
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OTHER BUSINESS

230. Audit Committee Meeting – October 5, 2005

Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

That the actions of the Audit Committee, at its meeting of October 5, 2005, be approved.

Carried.

231. Township of Frontenac
Minimum Capital Program Funding

Councillor Hildreth inquired as to the status of the Township of Frontenac Minimum Capital Program Funding resolution that was referred to staff. Mr. Lockyer advised that this resolution will be discussed at the Area Treasurers meeting next week and that a report on this matter will be presented to Corporate and Financial Services Committee after comments of Area Treasurers have been incorporated.

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 10:35 a.m. to meet again on Wednesday, October 26, 2005, at 10:00 a.m. in Committee Room 4, Regional Headquarters.

Doug Martin
Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk