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THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 17-2005

Minutes of a meeting of the Corporate and Financial Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Wednesday, November 16, 2005, commencing at 10:20 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

Staff: Mr. Lockyer, Acting Commissioner, Corporate Services; Ms. Gilroy, Regional Clerk

Staff
(Part-time): Mr. Bousfield, Manager, Property and Facility Management; Ms. Hepplewhite, Corporate Records Manager; Mr. Kyne, Director of Legal Services; Mr. Murphy, Manager of Policy and Development, Mr. Gummo, Senior Policy Coordination Planner.

JOINT REPORTS

250. Smarter Niagara Incentives -
Regional Local Alignment
DPD 149-2005/CSD 159-2005

Mr. Lockyer, Acting Commissioner of Corporate Services, provided an overview of Report DPD 149-2005/CSD 159-2005, and he and Mr. Gummo, Senior Policy Coordination Planner, responded to questions. Mr. Lockyer suggested that funds be included in the 2006 budget for these initiatives.

Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

That Report DPD 149-2005/CSD 159-2005, November 16, 2005 respecting Smarter Niagara Incentives – Regional/Local Alignment, be received, **as amended**; and

That where a local CIP has a provision for a TIF grant program, the Region will refer to the principle of matching proportional share in determining the level of grant provided to the local municipality; and

That where a local CIP has a provision for a tax freeze/cancellation program, the Region will refer to the principle of matching proportional share in determining the level of participation with the local municipality; and

That the Region's Residential Loan Program be re-titled as a Residential Grant/Loan Program, and the grant option be capped at \$4,000 per unit to a maximum of 20 units per property, it being understood that in this 'matching funds' program the Region's share would be capped at \$2,000; and

That the Region's Building and Façade Improvement Loan Program be re-titled as a Building and Façade Improvement Loan/Grant Program, and the upset limit on the grant option be \$4,000 per property, it being understood that in this 'matching funds' program the Region's share would be capped at \$2,000; and

That in terms of eligibility criteria for qualifying projects, and eligible costs, the Region's programs be amended to allow for 'consistency with' local municipal program descriptions, subject to the Region's involvement in the preparation of any respective local Community Improvement Plans to ensure access to the Region's programs; and

That flexibility to adjust the funding caps for the respective programs be provided through the budget consultation process beginning for the budget year 2006, and that minimum and maximum dollar limits be set for a two-year period through the Region's Multi-Year Budget process to provide program stability; and

That cost estimates for these programs be included in the 2006 Current Budget; and

That an annual report be prepared showing the disposition of funds through the local and Regional programs; and

That the area municipalities be encouraged to adopt an annual RFP approach to the selection of larger projects warranting larger incentives under the various programs; and

That the local Area CIP/Brownfield Contact Group be requested to investigate options for the provision of low-interest loans to not-for profit housing agencies; and

That this report be circulated to the area municipalities for information.

Carried.

CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

251. Bethlehem Projects Request for Loan Guarantee
CSD 146-2005

Mr. Lockyer requested that Report CSD 146-2005 be deferred to provide an opportunity for Niagara Region Housing to fully review the report and submit comments.

Moved by Councillor Leavens
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

That Report CSD 146-2005, October 26, 2005, respecting Bethlehem Place Request for Funding, be deferred to the Corporate and Financial Services Committee meeting on December 7, 2005, to permit Bethlehem Place representatives to continue discussions with Niagara Region Housing (NRH).

Carried.

252. Summary of Quotations, Tenders and Authorizations
Third Quarter 2005
CSD 152-2005

Moved by Councillor Saracino
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report CSD 152-2005, respecting the Summary of Quotations, Tenders and Authorizations Third Quarter 2005, be received for information.

Carried.

253. 2006 Capital Prioritization Process
for Police Building Expenditures
CSD 153-2005

Mr. Lockyer provided an overview of Report CSD 153-2005, explaining that it was being provided as a result of questions from Niagara Regional Police Chief Southall with respect to the Police facilities.

Moved by Regional Chair Partington
Seconded by Councillor Leavens

That Report CSD 153-2005, respecting the 2006 Capital Prioritization Process for Police Building Expenditures be received for information, and that a copy be forwarded to the Public Works and Utilities Committee for information.

Carried.

254. Forecast of Year-End Results and Budget to Actual Comparison for the Month Ended September 30, 2005
CSD 154-2005

Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Saracino

That Report CSD 154-2005, November 16, 2005, respecting the Forecast of Year-End Results and Budget to Actual Comparison for the Month Ended September 30, 2005, be received for information.

Carried.

255. Communication Antennas on Regional Property and Facilities
CSD 155-2005

Moved by Councillor Leavens
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report CSD 155-2005, November 16, 2005, respecting Communication Antennas on Regional Property and Facilities be received for information.

Carried.

256. Ridgeway Ambulance Station
Contract RN 05-41
Town of Fort Erie
PHD 69-2005/PWA 193-2005/CSD 156-2005

Moved by Councillor Saracino
Seconded by Regional Chair Partington

That Report PHD 69-2005 / PWA 193-2005 / CSD 156-2005, November 14, 15, and 16, 2005, respecting Ridgeway Ambulance Station, Contract RN 05-41, Town of Fort Erie be received; and

That Contract RN 05-41 for the construction of the Ridgeway Ambulance Station be awarded to the lowest bidder, Aldor Builders Ltd., at their total bid price of \$537,900.00; and

That \$100,000.00 be approved and initiated for ZGR0101/GR0303, Ridgeway Land Ambulance Building with Capital Levy Reserve Financing as included in the 2004 Public Health Capital Budget; and

That \$34,500.00 of long-term financing be transferred from ZGR0503/GR0504, Smithville Ambulance Stations to ZGR0101/GR0303, Ridgeway Land Ambulance Building; and

That all project costs be charged to ZGR0101/GR0303, Ridgeway Land Ambulance Building; and

That the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute the Site Plan Agreement with the Town of Fort Erie.

Carried.

257. Records Management Program Status Report
and Records Retention By-law
CSD 158-2005

Ms. Hepplewhite, Corporate Records Manager, provided an overview of Report CSD 158-2005, highlighting salient points. She advised that the archival space planned in the new addition will provide a climate controlled environment which will better preserve our permanent records. This area will also include viewing space for the public to access these records. Ms. Hepplewhite further advised that the Archives of Ontario have indicated that they will repatriate records from the former County of Lincoln and Welland to Niagara once this climate controlled space is completed. A meeting is planned for January with the area municipalities to determine their expectations of a shared facility.

Moved by Councillor Leavens
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

That Report CSD 158-2005, November 16, 2005, respecting the Records Management Program Status Report and Records Retention By-law, be received for information, and

That Committee recommends to Regional Council that the revision proposed to the Regional Records Retention By-law be accepted and referred to the Region's auditor for approval.

Carried.

258. Federal Gas Tax Funding Agreement
CSD 162-2005

Mr. Lockyer provided an overview of Report CSD 162-2005, outlining the main features of the transfer of federal gas tax revenues to Ontario municipalities, and responded to questions from Committee members.

Moved by Regional Chair Partington
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report CSD 162-2005, November 16, 2005, respecting the Federal Gas Tax Funding Agreement, be received; and

That the Regional Chairman and Clerk be authorized to execute the Municipal Funding Agreement (MFA) on behalf of the Regional Municipality of Niagara with the Association of Municipalities on Ontario (AMO); and

That staff be given the authority to create a Federal Gas Tax Reserve Fund if staff deems it necessary to do so; and

That the Regional Clerk ensure that the necessary by-law(s) be prepared to provide the authority for signing the MFA with AMO and that the by-law(s) be presented to Regional Council for approval.

Carried.

(Please refer to Staff Directions.)

CORRESPONDENCE

259. That the following communications be received:

Moved by Regional Chair Partington
Seconded by Councillor Eke

CFS 81-2005 Nancy Bozzato, 2006 Conference Chair, Ontario Association of Committees of Adjustment and Consent Authorities, extending an invitation to Regional Niagara to become a sponsor or donor for the OACA Annual Conference to be held June 4th to June 7th.

CFS 84-2005 Deb Morton, Executive Director, Niagara Regional Police Services Board (November 1, 2005) respecting the purchase of two servers.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Regional Chair Partington

That the following communications be received and referred to staff for report:

CFS 82-2005 Holly Dowd, Town Clerk, (October 28, 2005) respecting the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's Report CS-05-050, Town's Share of Regional Levy.

CFS 87-2005 L.J. Holloway, CAO (November 7, 2005), respecting the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's approval of a resolution with respect to the cost of Regional Services.

Carried.

Moved by Regional Chair Partington
Seconded by Councillor Leavens

That the following communication be received and referred to the Public Health Committee for consideration:

CFS 83-2005 Deb Morton, Executive Director, Niagara Regional Police Services Board (November 1, 2005) respecting the Traffic Safety – Regional Niagara Road Safety Committee (RNRSC).
Carried.

Moved by Councillor Saracino
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That the following communication be received and referred to the Public Works Committee for consideration:

CFS 85-2005 Deb Morton, Executive Director, Niagara Regional Police Services Board (November 1, 2005) respecting the red light cameras.
Carried.

Moved by Councillor Hildreth
Seconded by Regional Chair Partington

That Communication CFS 86-2005, being a “Made in Niagara” resolution with respect to Minimum Capital Program Funding, as requested at the Corporate and Financial Services Committee meeting of October 26, 2005, and which reads as follows, be approved:

WHEREAS Ontario Municipalities face a \$3.2 billion funding gap between the cost of programs and services the province requires municipalities to deliver and the amount the province ends up paying for those services; and

WHEREAS THE Regional Municipality of Niagara’s share of that gap amounts to \$98 million; and

WHEREAS Niagara’s \$98 million net expenditure represents 39% of the Regional property taxes; and

WHEREAS the Regional Municipality of Niagara has considered a resolution from the Township of North Frontenac in respect to minimum capital funding; and

WHEREAS the Regional Municipality of Niagara supports the request from the Township of North Frontenac that the Government of the Province of Ontario remove the obligation of funding the many social programs through the municipal property tax base; and

WHEREAS the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has a mechanism for dealing with the Provincial Municipal Fiscal Relationship.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of the Province of Ontario remove the obligation of funding the many social programs through the municipal property tax base; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the resoluion be referred to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario for consideration and support.

Carried.

MINUTES

260. Report BRC 1-2006

Moved by Regional Chair Partington
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

That Report BRC 1-2006, being the minutes of the Budget Review Committee Meeting of Thursday, November 3, 2005, be received, with the addition of Councillor Hildreth's name in the attendance..

Carried.

CLOSED SESSION

261. Moved by Councillor Leavens
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

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

Carried.

262. Per Diem License Agreement with Her Majesty the Queen
POA Court – 4635 Queen Street, City of Niagara Falls
CSD 157-2005/PWA 194-2005

Moved by Councillor Hildreth
Seconded by Councillor Leavens

That Report CSD 157-2005/PWA 194, November 16, 2005, respecting Per Diem License Agreement with Her Majesty the Queen POA Court – 4635 Queen Street, City of Niagara Falls, be received.

Carried.

263. Funk Decision – Assessment of Winery Lands
CSD 160-2005

Moved by Councillor Hildreth
Seconded by Regional Chair Partington

That Report CSD 160-2005, November 16, 2005, respecting Funk Decision – Assessment of Winery Lands, be received.

Carried.

264. Claims Against Niagara Region – Status Report
CSD 161-2005/PWA 195-2005

Moved by Councillor Hildreth
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report CSD 161-2005/PWA 195-2005, November 16, 2005, respecting Claims Against Niagara Region – Status Report, be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Carried.

265. Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Regional Chair Partington

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

STAFF DIRECTIONS

Staff was asked to:

- provide a report on federal gas tax funding with respect to specialized transit (Minute Item 258.)

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 11:10 to meet again on Wednesday, December 7, 2005, at 10:00 a.m. in Committee Room 4, Regional Headquarters.

Doug Martin
Chair

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk