

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT 2-2005

The Municipal Council of the Regional Municipality of Niagara met in the Council Chamber, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Thursday, June 30, 2005, commencing at 4:08 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Council: Regional Chair Partington; Councillors Almas; Angelone; Bailey; Baty; Bentley; Bodner; Brock; Collins; Eke; Gabriel; Harry; Heit; Hildreth; Hodgson; Leavens; Marshall; Martin; Mastroianni; Rigby; Saracino; Smeaton; Timms.

Staff: Mr. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Ms. Hepplewhite, Acting Regional Clerk; Messrs. Lockyer, Treasurer/Director, Financial Management & Planning; Neville, Commissioner, Public Works; Ms. Reilly, Acting Deputy Clerk.

Staff
(Part-time): Mr. Bowles, Executive Assistant; Mr. Kyne, Director, Legal Services; Mr. Mucciarelli, Associate Director, Waste Disposal Services; Mr. Sidawi, Director, Operation Support Services.

Others: Mr. V. Kerrio (Appointed Councillor for Councillor Salci, Niagara Falls) Ms. Ouellette, KPMG.

CALL TO ORDER

20. Regional Chair Partington called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

RESOLVE INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

21. Moved by Councillor Bodner
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That this Council do now resolve into Committee of the Whole.

Carried.

WIND ENERGY NIAGARA PARTNERSHIP

22. Wind Energy Niagara Partnership
PWA 93-2005, May 31, 2005
/CSD 73-2005, June 1, 2005

Mr. Neville, Commissioner, Public Works Department, advised that the purpose of Report PWA 93-2005, May 31, 2005 (CSD 73-2005, June 1, 2005) is to provide the results of a review by the firm KPMG in respect to the accounting treatment in the Region's financial statements should the corporate entity Wind Energy Niagara be established for the provision of wind energy in Niagara. The Commissioner introduced Ms. Ouellette, from KPMG, who was in attendance to address any questions.

Mr. Sidawi, Director, Operational Support Services, provided a slide presentation on the Wind Monitoring Program and staff's investigation of the feasibility of constructing windmills to generate green energy in the Region. The Director outlined the benefits for this initiative, commenting that the program is in keeping with Council's vision of a sustainable healthy living environment and supports the Kyoto protocol and the deregulation of the electricity market. Mr. Sidawi provided background information on the proposal for establishing a corporate entity for the purpose of providing wind energy in Niagara.

23. Moved by Councillor Bodner
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

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

Carried.

24. Moved by Councillor Leavens
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That this Committee do now rise without report.

Carried.

25. Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report PWA 93-2005, May 31, 2005 (CSD 73-2005, June 1, 2005) respecting Wind Energy Niagara Partnership, be received; and

That staff be authorized to negotiate a partnership agreement with Rankin Construction Inc. to establish a corporate entity which satisfies the criteria of a government business partnership for the provision of wind energy in Niagara.

Carried.

26. Modifications to Niagara's Organic Waste Collection
And Composting Program
PWA 89-2005, Revision 2, June 21, 2005

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Saracino

That Report PWA 89-2005, Revision 2, June 21, 2005, respecting Modifications to Niagara's Organic Waste Collection and Composting Program, be received as amended;

That the Commissioner of Public Works prepare and issue an R.F.P. for a long term alternative composting operations contract that reflects improved composting technology which is consistent with the current direction of the Province (MOE) in setting a goal of diverting 60% of Ontario's waste from disposal by 2008, is cost effective, affordable, addresses the issue of grass clippings and the use of compostable bags/paper bags;

That staff continue to restrict the volume of organics at the Elm Street compost facility during peak periods to mitigate the potential of an odour event similar to the one that occurred in 2004 from re-occurring, with the balance diverted to alternate locations, including but not necessarily limited to the Region's other private sector composting facility or waste sites; and

That staff continue to monitor, respond and record all odour complaints, and that such data be provided monthly to the Public Works and Utilities Committee, the Elm Street Public Liaison Committee and through newspaper notices to residents in Port Colborne and Welland.

Carried.

Committee expressed the importance of ensuring a communications plan is developed to keep residents in Port Colborne and Dain City aware of the initiatives being implemented regarding Niagara's Organic Waste Collection and Composting Program. Mr. Mucciarelli advised that a letter will be sent out immediately to residents explaining the initiatives that the Niagara Region is implementing with respect to the program.

STAFF DIRECTIONS

That staff be directed to:

- (i) Develop a communications plan to ensure residents in Port Colborne and Dain City are aware of the initiatives being implemented regarding Niagara's Organic Waste Collection and Composting Program.

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee of the Whole adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Peter Partington
Regional Chairman

Gail Reilly
Acting Deputy Clerk

Anne Hepplewhite
Acting Regional Clerk